

Brand New 851

Chapter 851 Demonic Transformation

"I don't care about the words of some ignorant fools! With the power they've given me... I will NEVER be humiliated ever again!" Laughed Lord Magica, suddenly ripping apart his shirt to reveal a black and red jewel glowing beneath. "Hahahahah! Demonic Crystal! Give me your power!"

FLAAAAASSHH!!!

The moment he revealed us that crystal, a tremendous shockwave of demonic energies, which burned through several layers of spirit barriers erupted from his body.

TRUUUM!

We were all forced to step back before this energy, as I desperately harnessed the power of my Mana, Spirit Energy, and countless Spirits being born from my Domain into a giant wooden and crystal shield.

"[Verdant Green Domain Magic]: [Yggdrasil's Divine Shield]!"

To make it even slightly stronger, I added the Essence of the Fey Wilds, even if a little! With that, the enormous shield barely managed to fend off the demonic energy, flames constantly erupting in front of it, tearing small chunks with each passing second.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"This bastard had Demonic Powers too?!" Achlys cried. "I thought that wasn't something they were trying yet!"

"Looks like we were wrong in that regard, that Chimera we fought with the same powers was mostly an old test subject!" Mark said. "This bastard...! UGH!"

Mark tried to step out and confront him, but his arms were quickly burned and turned into ashes, I grabbed him by the shoulders and dragged him back.

"Don't risk it! He's releasing this power because he's mostly likely activating it." I said. "Once he's done, there'll be a chance."

"You're oddly calm about this whole situation!" Jenny cried. "Is this because of all the shit you've gone through, Elayne?"

"...More or less." I gave her a slightly bitter smile.

"Hahahaha! Admire my ascended power!" Laughed Lord Magica, as he slowly started to float in midair. "Did you think that my son and my wife were victims on this? No! They have been given the privilege of becoming new beings as well! At my side, within me!"

"This bastard... What is he doing?!" Rita cried. "Ugh, the energy is too strong- Agh!"

"Unlike Miasma and Nether, we can't properly cleanse this demonic energy!" Cried Jenny. "Fuck, just the scent itself of sulfur is horrendous, can't even bear with it properly! My head's all fuzzy!"

As the two complained, Lord Magica lifted his son and his wife who were like puppets, his mana controlling them like threads.

He had long ago killed them and turned them into chimeric undead of some sort, their clothes were ripped apart to reveal many small red and black crystals.

These were the same "crystalized demonic essence" that Hellberos had gifted to me, and which also the Chimera that had tried opening a Gate to Hell produced!

He had filled their entire bodies with them... This is horrible!

"YOU MONSTER!"

I couldn't help but feel utter rage as I saw what he had truly done.

"Monster?" He smiled. "You call me a monster?! I've been working hard my whole life as a magician! Aiming to one day become a Court Magician, aiming to improve this Kingdom! However, I was always rejected due to my low magic ability, among my entire family, I was the most miserable, born with the least Mana and Magic Proficiency..."

"Society turned their back against me, and my family never recognized my efforts, even if small, I was doing my best! My wife was always mocking me... My son was a worthless good for nothing with even less talent than me! Now, I've finally given them an opportunity, to become better, with ME!"

"You gave them no opportunity! You fucking murdered them!" Rita cried angrily, her shadows harnessing within her body, preparing to attack once the opportunity arose.

"I didn't murder them though?!" Laughed Magica. "I simply improved their bodies! They resisted at first... They cried and all, but oh well... After that gruesome process, we finally became a happy family, together! And I owe it all to them, the Cult that gave me this opportunity! I sent some of my servants to that Banquet Hall, but to think they would get caught and killed so easily... Oh well, I had plenty of them to experiment on before I did this to my family, don't worry!"

As he rambled on about his madness, his son and wife's entire bodies distorted into masses of flesh and bones, fusing into his hands, and then getting devoured by two jaws opening from his palms.

"But now... We can be together again! I'll show you and every other damn noble here, that I am just as WORTHY of carrying this Title as all of them- No, I am even MORE WORTHY!!!"

TRUUUUMMMM!!!

All the Demonic Energy was then absorbed back into his body, his son and wife completely disappearing, devoured by himself.

His entire body transformed his appearance, no longer resembling a human at all, but a Demon, slightly similar to the one I had slain when I rescued little Gabriel.

Crimson red skin, as red as blood, black tattoos covering his red skin, looking like fearsome eyes and demonic jaws, two muscular arms, with sharp black claws.

A long tail, covered on black and red scales, with a sharp spear-like end, a big and muscular frame, unlike his skinny human appearance.

Black horns growing from his forehead and shoulders, spiraling upwards... And long, silver-white colored hair waving down...

The jewel on his chest grew even larger, covering a good part of his entire chest, glowing with a strong, poisonous demonic aura that protected him like a barrier.

And then, a huge pair of wings, resembling hands, sprouting out of his body, each one had the head of his son and wife, and their distorted limbs made up the fingers of each hand-shaped wing...

"We are one now... Hahah... Such a perfect form! Do you think the same, foolish ones?"

While laughing due to the power he had acquired, Lord Magica's presence started burning it all with Demonic Flames.

So this was the monster hiding in the noble district... Good thing we came here as soon as possible, or things might have only gotten worse.

"Are you done rambling about your madness?" I asked, the shield slowly dissipated into ashes as my Gaia's All Purpose Creation Tool slowly transformed into a giant metallic club, with the head of a lion at the end. "Because it's time for you to learn the consequences of your actions."

Chapter 852 Evolve Past Your Limits

Ding!

[Lord Magica] has harnessed the power of the [Demonic Energy Crystal Heart] to transform his body, utilizing his Wife and Son as sacrifices!]

[The [Eternal Lord of Hell] has granted him the privilege of carrying his [Demonic Curse]!]

[His body has undergone a complete transformation, becoming a [Abhorrent Lesser Demon Of Selfishness: Magicus: Lv270]!]

[The [Abhorrent Lesser Demon Of Selfishness: Magicus: Lv270] very presence exudes an endless wave of Infernal Demonic Energy, decreasing the Stats of all foes by -30% and draining 0.1% of their HP and MP every second.]

[This Infernal Demonic Energy creates the [Terrain of Demonic Inferno], burning anything it comes into contact that is not a Demon and decreasing their Stats by -20%, while being in this Terrain, any Demon gains a boost of +200% to All Stats.]

[Warning! Your Terrain Domain is being slowly consumed by the [Terrain of Demonic Inferno]! As your Terrain and Demon decrease in size, so does your Stat Bonuses and Regeneration Bonuses.]

"W-What is this powerful presence?!" Heshmerie stepped back, gasping for air.

"T-That's uncle?!" Joustin panicked, his glasses have gained a few cracks due to the pressure of the demonic aura.

"He had this power...?"

"Ugh, my head..."

Emerette and Juliette were getting tired, because of how perceptive they seemed to be, the girls felt especially exhausted by the demon's pressure.

"This can't be... A man of noble birth such as you, stepping so low as to become a monstrous demon?!" Patricia gasped. "T-This..." She could barely process everything.

"Stay behind me, kids!" David said. "I'll make sure to protect you while Planta and the rest take care of Lord Magica. Sadly, we can no longer detain him, he has become a monster that must be put down no matter what! Not only it seems he killed his wife and son, which is a crime worth execution, but he has used them as sacrifices for whatever he has become... Noble or not, his sins cannot be forgiven!"

His shining sword and his shield emanated auras of light, creating a barrier that protected him and his students from the strong pressure.

"It looks like there was really a terrible threat in this damn town... Granny was right."

"You should have never doubted the words of your grandma."

Nieve and Johanna were right by their side, their Auras barely able to resist the pressure, which even after having disappeared almost completely, lingered in the air.

The Nature Domain I had created slowly started dying, the Demonic Energy was deadlier than Miasma and Nether, consuming everything and absorbing their power to grow stronger.

It was already getting very hard to maintain my Domain, no matter how many times I activated it! My Terrain and Domain were constantly clashing against a Demonic Flames Inferno, a Terrain of his own.

I can't imagine normal players fighting against foes that abuse Domains or Terrains without a Farmer or a Druid on the team, it would be suicide!

This guy was Level 270, and with all the buffs, he was on par if not slightly stronger than the Hidden Bosses we've fought so far.

The Failed Copy of the Origin of Darkness was weakened due to being a test subject, the Demon Gate Chimera was only designated to summon things, not to properly fight.

The cultist we confronted at the beginning could transform and was extremely versatile, but he only possessed Miasma and Nether too.

But this was a man that had harnessed Demonic Power itself.

"We are one now... Hahah... Such a perfect form! Do you think the same, foolish ones?" He asked with a mad smile.

"Are you done rambling about your madness?" I asked, the shield slowly dissipated into ashes as my Gaia's All Purpose Creation Tool slowly transformed into a giant metallic club, with the head of a lion at the end. "Because it's time for you to learn the consequences of your actions."

"Hahahaha! You're so funny... Just sit down and admire the power I have acquired! After many months of research...!" He continued laughing. "This is the result of perfection! I have channeled the power of the Great Demons of Hell and the Demon Kings and have become a Divine Being!"

"You're nothing but a bad replica." Rita said. "True Demons are at least ten times as terrifying as you!"

"You look lame as fuck! And those wings look terrible!" Jenny said. "You're just a poser."

"Divine Being? More like Demonic, didn't you heard what you just said?" Mark sighed. "You used Demons... So you're a Demon, not divine."

"SHUT UP!!!"

Magicus, his new name granted by who I assume must be some of the Demon Lords within the depths of Hell, roared in utter fury.

He pointed his right hand at us and harnessed crimson red and black demonic energy, firing a red beam of tremendous power.

"Die, you cockroaches!"

TRUUUMMM...!!

The beam moved at almost lightning speed, about to land on Mark in a split of a second! However, I swiftly imbued Mana into my Gaia's-All-Purpose Creation Tool and smashed the Demonic Beam with the power of the Nemean Lion and hundreds of Lesser Holy Light Spirits fused into it.

"[Holy Light Spirit Smite]!"

BOOOOOMMMM!!!

An explosion of holy light and demonic energy erupted, blowing away the entire house's ceiling, the explosion was so huge it made the entire noble district tremble!

However, although slightly burnt, the weapon was fine, and the beam was successfully sent back into the skies.

"What?!" Magicus muttered, looking at me in disbelief.

A pair of angelic wings emerged from my back, as I smiled back at him, at the same time as a halo glowed with divine light atop my head.

"Turns out you're not the only one who has evolved past their limits..."

"T-This...! An Angelic Halo?!"

Magicus almost vomited blood on disbelief, only for his face to quickly twist into a furious smile, his eyes glowing with crimson red!

"I knew it... You're not normal either, aren't you?" He laughed. "Good! I did hear somewhere that killing Angels is how Demons can become stronger... I thank you for being the one that'll allow me to ascend further!"

While moving his wings rapidly, Magicus descended towards me at an incredible speed.

FLAAASH!

Chapter 853 Gang On Him!

Magicus descended rapidly towards me, I imbued Mana into both of my weapons at once, swinging Gram with all my force to release a powerful Heroic Swordsmanship Technique combined with my Angelic Runes Power, while using the Nemean Lion Club form of my Gaia's All-Purpose Creation Tool to smash his head.

CRAAAASSHH!!

However, he blocked both attacks easily with his bare hands, overflowing with Demonic Energy, which slowly started to consume and weaken my Aura!

"Your attack is strong, but my body has ascended! You can't possibly-"

"ROOOAAR!"

Before he could muster another word, the roar of a mighty lion echoed from my club, as a gigantic claw made of golden light descended upon his head.

Ding!

[The [Claws of the Nemean Lion] Ability has been activated. A powerful Claw attack will deal 300% Damage to a foe!]

CLAAASSHH!!

"W-Wha... URGH...!"

Magicus quickly stepped back as he sensed his Demonic Barrier gain a few cracks, only for another Claw attack to hit him from behind!

CRAAASH!

"So annoying!"

He quickly materialized a huge axe made of infernal flames, blocking a third claw attack. These were randomly triggered based on Luck, up to a maximum of three.

Turns out my Luck stat was really high.

"Now!"

As the claws distracted him for a split of a second, we all attacked him at the same time while he remained near the ground.

I repeatedly used [Rudra's Demon-Slaying Blazing Holy Cross] in combination with [Holy Ascent] using Gram's flexible and lightweight attacks with only one of my arms.

Meanwhile, I constantly triggered the Nemean Lion Skill while I swung the club against his barrier, imbued with Spiritual Holy Light and Angelic Runes Power. He wasn't as fast in terms of reaction speed, perhaps because he had little time to get used to his new form.

We had to gang on this bastard with everything we had!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLAAASH!

"Dammit! This damned body... I can't control it well yet- URGH!"

With a monstrous roar, the five-meter-tall demon kicked me away with all his strength, an explosion of demonic flames engulfed me with his kick, which I fended off by exuding holy light.

BAAAMM!!

As I was pushed away temporarily, Mark attacked him in this small frame of time where he was defenseless, his body size growing to match the Demon, as his Berserk Sword harnessed his powerful Magic.

"[Spiritual Phoenix Sword Arts]: [Volcanic Blazing Slash]!"

His flames harnessed to a level his Aura resembled molten volcanic lava, slashing through his barrier and cutting a huge chunk of it!

SLAAAASSHH!!

"YOUU!"

The Demon attacked Mark with a barrage of punches, followed by a blazing breath from his own mouth... However, Mark retaliated just as quickly.

"[Mountain-Splitting Eruption]!"

His massive sword intercepted the Demon's breath attack, an eruption of flames surging from below, right where he landed his sword.

TRUUUMMM!!

"Tch!"

The Demon's entire body was burned slightly, as he stepped back and waved his hand, a huge blade made of red crystals surged.

"[Demonic Sword]!"

With a furious slash, he slashed Mark's entire body into two halves!

SLAAAAASSHH!!!

"GRRRAAAA!"

However, Mark resisted the agonizing damage and stitched himself back together a second later, surprising the demon only to blow him away with a barrage of consecutive attacks.

"[Lightning-Speed Blazing Feather Slashes]!"

His wings spread out, firing countless feather projectiles, combined with his sword attacks, countless slashing attacks imbued with lightning left hundreds of small wounds over the demon's tough body!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH SLASH! SLASH!

"ENOUGH! [Demon's Fist]!"

His Demonic Aura erupted from his body fiercely, shaping into a titanic crimson fist and punching Mark several meters away.

BAAAAMMM!!!

But they weren't done, as Magicus quickly felt countless tentacles wrapping around his legs and tail, stopping his movements momentarily!

"A slime?! Lowly creature! You dare go against a Demon?!"

Magicus laughed his flames quickly engulfing Jenny's entire body. However, she simply opened a black hole from her entire body and absorbed it all!

"Screw it! I'll use my new Skill! [Slime's Insatiable Gluttony]!"

FLUOOOOSH!

She syphoned all the flames and swallowed them, consuming them and slowly turning red, flames surging from her entire body.

This ability... This is new!

Ding!

[Jenny] has activated the [Slime's Insatiable Gluttony] Skill!]

[She has temporarily absorbed the [Infernal Demonic Flames] of [Magicus]!]

[For 5 Minutes, her entire body has transformed to adapt to these flames and absorb them.]

[Cooldown: 30 Minutes.]

So that's how it works... It can temporarily make her immune to a certain attribute for five minutes. It is a short duration, but that's insane.

"What?! You can absorb the demonic flames?!"

"Hehehe, you're not going to free yourself from my annoyance, fucker!"

Jenny's tentacle started weakening him with her deadly poison, his stats slowly dropping at the same time as his HP, beginning to take little chunks every second.

"Tch, so annoying!"

The Demons started hitting her and tearing apart chunks out of her, but she kept regenerating thanks to all the buffs I applied to her.

"Hey, forgot about someone?"

"Huh?!"

Rita's voice echoed right from above him, as her Darkness and Malice Aura surged from her body, fusing with her magic and taking the form of a gigantic dragon head, made of Darkness Spirit Magic.

"[Malice Abyssal Darkness Magic]: [Shadow Void Dragon Breath]"

"ROOOAARR!"

The ferocious dragon made out of her own magic roared, releasing a blast of darkness into the demon's face, a huge explosion blew whatever was left of the entire manor.

BOOOOOMMM!!!

"GRAAAAH!"

The Demon agonized, as Jenny was forced to retreat due to the damage Rita's attack could deal to her, leaping to my side so I could heal her alongside Mark.

"Drink my blood and you'll heal in no time."

I cut my wrists and let the two of them drink my Yggdragon's Sap Blood, swiftly healing their Health, which had both pummeled to below 80%!

"Hahh, thank you!" Jenny sighed.

"That bastard's not done yet though!" Mark quickly stood up.

The smoke dissipated to reveal a furious Magicus, his body's wounds slowly trying to regenerate...

"To think I would be pushed this hard...!" He roared in frustration. "No, this is just because I haven't learned all my power yet! Yes... Just watch as I evolve!"

His hands pointed at us, forming a huge demonic magic circle, a pentagram.

"[Infernal Demonic Beasts Jaws]!"

Chapter 854 Go All-Out!

"[Infernal Demonic Beasts Jaws]!"

Magicus conjured a crimson pentagram, which swiftly harnessed Demonic Energy and Mana, combining it and using it to summon something else.

"GROARR!"

A monstrous and demonic roar echoed from the crimson pentagram, we tried to stop him by attacking him with long ranged magic, but his activation was too fast. Countless demonic jaws surged from the pentagram, resembling an amorphous mass of demonic creatures fused together into an aberrant lump of flesh. Dozens of jaws combined into a single one, floating in midair and moving at lightning speed towards the nearest target, while blocking all magic spells thrown at it!

"RITA!"

I ran towards Rita before she was to get eaten completely, grabbing her by extending one of my arms and then throwing her away before the giant jaws redirected towards me!

CRUNCH!!

It felt like countless jaws tore apart my whole body, spirit barriers and holy barriers were both crushed, the laughter of the demon echoed in the background. The pain was so agonizing it seemed to have targeted my very soul!

"I know that you Players can revive, but I know a trick to get rid of you forever... Someone the cultists have been working on. We'll crush your very souls!"

As he laughed, the mass of countless jaws attempted to devour my soul piece by piece...

However.

CLANK!

The moment they tore through most of my wood and reached my Gaia's Armor, their teeth could no longer pierce through my body.

And a second after...

"[Draconification]!"

FLASH!

My entire body swiftly underwent a full transformation, golden scales, white feathers, and gigantic wings, enormous claws, legs, and the head of a dragon all popped out of my body one after another.

"ROOOAARR!"

I opened my jaws and devoured the entire mass of demonic beasts in a single bite, burning them into ashes as they entered my stomach, full of Yggdragon's Holy Flames.

"WHAT?!"

Magicus was left speechless over my transformation into an Yggdragon, a much smaller and not as destructive form that only reached seven meters of height.

But that was enough to even things out! In the moment Magicus was distracted on his own disbelief, Mark, Rita, and Jenny attacked him at the same time.

Mark released a rampage of blazing slashes, while his Totems were summoned and then fused into his body, making him grow burlier and stronger, with giant animal totems decorating his body.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

Rita summoned countless spheres of blazing black flames, containing Void Energy within them, their explosions quickly tearing through the Demon's barrier.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"D-Dammit! FUCK OFF!"

Magicus was losing his patience, swinging his arms and releasing shockwaves of demonic flames, which Jenny absorbed into her body and then released as acidic poison.

"[Blazing Acidic Poison Bullets]!"

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Countless tiny holes pierced Magicus arms, the demon screamed in agony, swinging his wings and desperately escaping the onslaught of attacks.

FLAAASH!

"Where do you think you're going?!"

However, I greeted him with my Yggdragon's body on their small form, as I could reach heights of hundreds of meters if I wanted, and fused Gram and the Nemean Lion's Club into my claws through [Divine Spiritual Fusion Synthesis]!

FLUOSH!

Ding!

[You have fused your Weapons with your Yggdragon Claws and hundreds of Lesser Elemental Spirits and Lesser Dragon Spirits to create the [Holy Nemean Lion's Beast Claws: Lionel] Divine Weapon Spirit!]

Both swords harmonized with my spirits, willingly combining into a gigantic pair of golden claws, which I swiftly utilized to swipe through Magicus and push him into the ground.

CRAAAASSHH!!!

His body was covered on tremendous wounds, covered on golden flames constantly burning his skin and flesh, his face distorted into anger.

"YOU MONSTERRR!"

A split of a second after being thrown down, he quickly fought against my claws, swinging his enormous arms against me as fast as he could.

"[Demonic Fists]!"

His Aura erupted into countless Demonic Fists of Crimson Light, puncturing through my body and leaving countless blazing holes.

However, I held on as I channeled the power of my Skills, new scales grew across my body, and I opened my jaws to greet him with a surprise.

A blazing breath right into his face!

His body was blown away once more, landing on the backyard of his house, his body burning and covered on wounds, he quickly stood back up, his wounds regenerating as he was gasping for air. He quickly grew desperate, his Inferno gathering around him as he started to transform, perhaps trying to match my size that surpassed him by a few meters.

"RAAAAHHH!"

He became a giant made of infernal flames, countless demonic jaws surged from within him, which attacked all of us at once! The Demonic Jaws extended like small demonic creatures, opening their jaws before engulfing us on countless explosions.

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

Jenny was trying her best to take on all the flames, but she couldn't do all the work herself. A surge of holy oceanic water emerged right from behind us.

SPLAAASH!

Nieve had appeared, commanding waves after waves of holy water against the endlessly expanding flames.

The people of the noble district were quickly beginning to retreat, screaming in horror over the chaotic scene around them.

"This damned Holy Water...!" Magicus spread out his wings, as the heads on them opened their eyes. "My family, why don't you give your father a hand?!"

Both heads started screaming in anguish and pain, as crimson pentagrams emerged in front of their faces, conjuring a myriad of weapon-shaped projectiles made of demonic flames. We were quickly bombarded by countless attacks, all while Magicus himself kept expanding his body.

"Hahahaha! I'll burn this entire noble district, all of you damned, selfish bastards! You'll see now! That I've gained the power of a TRUE NOBLE, if not even more! You will ALL burn to ashes!"

As the nobles screamed in horror, I quickly left my burning draconic body, undergoing Draconification to gain partial dragon forms and leaping into midair.

"Not if I stop you." I roared, as the claws, which I was still wearing, channeled all my Mana and Spirit Energy. "[Nemean Lion's Rampage]!"

"ROOAARR!"

With the mighty roar of the Nemean Lion, and the sacrifice of half my HP, a powerful attack struck him down.

BAAAMMM...!!

Chapter 855 Nemean Lion's Rampage! Magicus' Defeat.

I sacrificed half of my HP to activate the Special Ability that was born within Gaia's All-Purpose Creation Tool, an ability so powerful it can only be activated once every 24 hours, born from the fusion of several abilities together. I activated it while fusing it with my Spiritual Aura, the boost to all my Stats with each Spirit summoned further enhanced the power, all while I fused the gigantic Nemean Lion-shaped manifestation with hundreds of Lesser Dragon Spirits that had already been summoned.

The result? More catastrophic than I imagined. The gigantic manifestation now resembled a half-dragon half-lion monstrous entity, made completely out of Spiritual Energy of many converged elements together. With a mighty roar, the titanic lion's jaws caught Magicus on a powerful bite, dealing tremendous damage against his body and soul.

"ROOOAAAR!"

CRAAASH!

The bite was strong enough to make Magicus scream in agony, his flames slowly dissipated, completely overpowered by the Nemean Lion's Manifestation, which was further enhanced because I made sure to imbue the Angelic Magic Powers I had gained from my Halo.

His body quickly fell from the skies, landing on the floor. The Nemean Lion was still biting and tearing him apart, before beginning to glow brighter than ever before. I quickly descended and created a powerful barrier using my Green Magic, Spirit Magic, and Divine Ward Ability together.

"[Divine Ward]: [Yggdrasil's Castle]"

FLASH!

I touched the ground before an explosion of light and demonic flames were to engulf us completely, light and wood combined together as they emerged endlessly from the underground, forming a huge castle made of living wood, covered on barriers of light.

BOOOOOMMM!!

The explosion happened a split of a second afterwards, I was barely able to make it in time. The light and the demonic flames engulfed it all, leaving the entire residence of the Magica Family completely set ablaze.

The smoke slowly dissipated, the attack alone would have easily one-shotted most Bosses below Level 180, and deal immense damage to anything below Level 250, I believe. So without a doubt, now that his HP was so low, it should had done good enough damage.

"Is he still alive?" Rita wondered, the smoke slowly disappeared, revealing the body of Magicus on the floor. "Oh?! He's done for?!"

"Impo... ssible..."

Magicus body was completely destroyed, all his bones seemed broken, his skin was so burnt that it had become as black as charcoal, his hair was half-burnt, both of his eyes exploded, leaving behind empty eye sockets. And a few patches of infernal flames were spread around him.

Checking his status, it showed his HP was already below 1%, and it was reducing with every second, the combination of all my magic through the Nemean Lion's Rampage ended becoming an incredible technique, newly upgrade Gaia's All-Purpose Creation Tool was insanely overpowered.

"He looks like he's about to croak." Johanna commented. "Is everyone else okay?" Unbefitting of her personality, she quickly took a look behind her, finding the young knights that David brought being safe and sound.

"We're fine..." Sighed Patricia. "But that thing... Was that truly Lord Magica? I can't believe... He would go this far only because he was slightly ostracized by his lack of magical talent."

"Perhaps it was much worse than we imagined, Patricia..." Heshmerie seemed slightly pissed off that the noble turned himself into a demonic being. "It's a Noble Family that has specialized on magic for generations after all. But... Yeah, even then, that wouldn't justify what he did to his son and wife, that bastard."

"Enough." David said, stopping the red-haired and slightly reckless young man from speaking another word. "What happened is already in the past. They were already made into Undead long ago, we were unable to protect them, and this is all... My fault, I wasn't careful enough, I should have deployed knights here, I should have deployed detectives earlier, if only..."

"There's no point on blaming yourself..." Nieve said. "I suggest talking to him and extract him any information we can, so we can further learn about the Cult." Her body transformed back to her original appearance, scattering azure colored light around her.

"..." David clenched his fists, he seemed to feel really guilty.

"At the very least, no more innocent people died now." Jenny sighed. "If we hadn't come at all, can you imagine how many would have died? Try to look things through the brighter side of life, handsome." Jenny transformed into her humanoid form, patting David's shoulders.

"Jenny... I guess you're not wrong in that." Sighed David, giving a faint smile. "Thank you."

"H-Hey! Who are you acting so closely with?!" Asked Patricia angrily, quickly pushing Jenny away from David. "Don't act so casual in front of the captain!"

"Do you own him or something?" Asked Jenny. "Why do you care?"

"I-I... That's... Well..." Patricia started to act awkward, blushing a bit.

Leaving them on their own devices, with Mark and Rita at my side, we moved to greet the dying Magicus, his demonic body was beginning to disappear into ashes. I could still see the bright angelic light shining below his burnt skin.

"Y-You..."

Although he no longer had eyes, he sensed my presence, his Aura slightly growing stronger, only to fall and become weaker again. He couldn't seem to regenerate like before, the Angelic Light, the Spirit Energy, and the damage he sustained all inhibited his regeneration.

"Lord Magica..." I sighed, sitting next to him. "Why did you go so far? Was the bullying from the other families too much for you to bear? Was it enough to justify killing your wife and your son? Was it enough to justify turning into a demon?"

"..." He remained in silence. "You wouldn't get it... Years, after years, after years of mocking, of abuse... My wife never loved me either, she was someone forced to marry me... my son, when he was born... I... I was happy but he... contaminated by his mother, grew to hate me. I just wanted them to love me, to stay... by my side."

Chapter 856 A Shocking Revelation

"The things you've done are unforgivable." I said with a serious tone of voice. "But there might be even worse things that might happen to this Kingdom in the future. And what you say right now, could help us stop them from happening, Lord Magica. Could you please, perhaps to redeem yourself a bit, tell us about the Cult? Anything you know?"

"Urgh..." Magica groaned, half his body was already turned into ashes. "I joined the cult in my darkest times, when there was nobody else for me. They appeared, amidst the shadows, while I studied in the Magician Guild's Tower... They said that no matter my talent... I could grow stronger by harnessing Miasma and Nether, the Dark Arts of Corruption and Necromancy."

"I felt overjoyed with such power, but it came with great pain and suffering. My body deteriorated." He muttered. "And before I knew it... To extend my lifespan, I allowed them to experiment on me, it was... part of the contract. I was never... a true member of them, but a lab rat they picked up... This crystal granted me enormous powers but... my mind... since I acquired it that... I've felt so dizzy, it hurts. I've done many things and I- Ugh...!"

As he tried to speak further, the jewel on his chest started gaining cracks, and shattering down into pieces, making him scream in agony and pain. His body convulsed, burning with holy flames coming from below his skin.

"Wait!"

I tried to keep him alive even for a bit, he still had yet to tell us something that we could learn aside from them existing in the Magician Tower, as we feared.

"Please, have you meet their leader? Or anybody important enough within their ranks?! Anything would do!" I cried.

"T-The... The Cult Leader... I have not seen him but- Ugh! I know who him is right below... Someone, another Noble, someone unlike me... ARGH! Someone gifted with power from birth... A-An even worse monster than myself!" Lord Magica screamed, vomiting blood. "That bastard of Herbellstein Luminary...! The previous Knights Captain! Him! He... ARGH! Aaaaggggh!"

Before he could muster another word, he quickly disappeared, turned into ashes, and flying away by the wind. The only thing left behind were several dropped items, that materialized where he had been, glowing with ethereal lights.

"Herbellstein...?" Mark wondered. "Another guy we don't know anything about, but if he was the one on David's position before, he's probably a big shot."

"Did you say...?" David muttered; his face filled with disbelief. "Herbellstein? Did he truly mean it?! But that's... No, it can't be..."

"David?" I asked, noticing how the young paladin seemed disturbed. "You know him?"

"Wait, wasn't David's family name Luminary too?" Mark pointed out. "David, you know this man?"

"I-I..." David sighed. "I can't believe it, did he really? But that's... no, it can't be, right? Magica was lying, isn't it?"

"Calm down first." Rita sighed. "What's gotten into you?"

"We don't know if he said the truth or not." I said. "But I would like to check for myself if he did so... Blaming someone else as he died, I don't think it would work. I believe that he perhaps was trying to redeem himself, even if a bit."

"..." David clenched his fists. "Herbellstein Luminary is my stepfather... I inherited his family name after he chose my mother as a concubine, and had a child with her, my younger sister, Annabelle."

"Seriously?!"

Everyone had a similar reaction of disbelief, Patricia didn't do so much, she was quite knowledgeable about nobles, so she knew a bit about David's stepfather, even though David didn't count as a Noble, he had gained the honorary noble title after becoming a Paladin and also the new Luminous Knights Captain of the Kingdom.

"David, he's related to you?" Rita raised an eyebrow. "Well, that's quite something... I didn't know it would be so connected, everything I mean."

"But that makes little sense though..." The green-haired young knight, Joustin interrupted Rita's words. "Lord Herbellstein is the previous Luminous Knights Captain, a man of conviction and strength, someone that is completely loyal to the Kingdom! He would never... He would never betray it, right? Why would he join the Cult?"

"He taught me the way of the sword, the many techniques I learned, the footwork. He even helped me grow stronger, so I could one day become recognized." David clenched his fists. "He was like the father I never had the experience of meeting... This is hard to believe, I'll have to think about this. Perhaps an investigation... I will tell the detectives. But we cannot act rashly either."

"Of course." I nodded. "We weren't going to do anything rashly either. Only a name was dropped, for now, we should quickly settle down and rest. The battle was long, and a lot happened."

I gazed at the destruction left behind, the entire residence was in ruins, every single plant inside of the garden was destroyed, the whole manor collapsed at the end, and there were a few burnt corpses of the chimeras we had to fight.

When I was fighting just monsters, it didn't make me feel this way, but now that we've been fighting people that simply fell into darkness, it made me reconsider my actions. I know that what I did is right, but I couldn't help but feel slightly bad.

No matter how much I steel my heart, I can't shake this feeling of uneasiness when I am forced to take the life of another person, even if they're vile, even if they are more monsters than people.

It makes me think that perhaps, if things would have been different, Magica might have continued living the life of a normal person. He might have even found a woman that loved him, and he would have a child that appreciated their father.

But maybe this is just my wishful thinking... Though, I will at least make sure his soul rests in peace, at the very least.

"[Divine Ward]: [Purifying Garden]"

I combined Divine Ward with my Verdant Green Domain Magic, as a garden of golden flowers materialized around us, spreading across the entire residence, and purifying everything.

FLAAASH!

Chapter 857 Purifying Garden

Ding!

[You have created the [Divine Ward]: [Purifying Garden]!]

[Within the area of effect, wandering souls will be quickly absorbed, purified, and released. Surrounding area will be purified of all malign energies that could be contaminating the area.]

[Duration: 1 Hour]

FLAAASH!

Light illuminated our surroundings, the entire residence of Lord Magica was quickly purified, as I combined the power of [Divine Ward] with my Verdant Green Domain Magic to create a pseudo domain through a barrier.

Thanks to the Barrier Master Title, I can now transform Barriers and add more effects to them, it seemed rather simple at first, but it is quite clear it has little to not limits to what I can make with them, as long as I have the magic for the added effects.

The golden flowers of light glowed brightly, releasing their petals, illuminating the already dark night like small stars. The petals absorbed invisible essence floating around, while also purifying the area from Miasma, Nether, or Demonic Energy.

If these energies were left behind, more monsters could be born, so it was necessary to clean the place before something dangerous were to happen again. And well, the other reason why I conjured this was because of this.

"Are those souls?" Patricia asked.

"T-They look like ghosts..." Joustin muttered.

The phantasmal figures of many people started floating away, slowly being purified by the light. They looked dark and sickly before, I could tell. It seemed as if a deadly curse had been inflicted upon them, making them much weaker.

But thanks to this Pseudo Domain Divine Ward, the souls were swiftly "captured", purified, and then released, where they were finally able to "pass away" wherever they would be brought to. I had no idea if there was even a heaven in here, the gods existed but, was there some place where souls rested?

"Yeah, I've decided to erect this barrier so the people that died could find peace. Most of the souls of the chimeras were trapped in a similar fashion than other beasts we've fought." I sighed. "I think it was fair to use my powers for this."

"I guess you're not wrong..." David nodded. "I hope they can finally find peace."

As we all silently watched the souls disappear one after another, the garden and the residence swiftly purified itself. A group of knights arrived in the scene, alongside some more soldiers, they were told by the King to guard the area so nobody would try to get inside and end up getting infected by remaining Miasma or Nether.

Although our job here was finally done, there was a slightly bitter feeling about the end of this day, and I also felt slightly frustrated too. Perhaps the system window that I was taking a look at after everything ended could potentially make me feel slightly better.

Ding!

[You and your Party have defeated [Abhorrent Lesser Demon Of Selfishness: Magicus: Lv270] x1!]

[You and your Party have defeated [Corrupted Frost Golems: Lv220] x42!]

[You and your Party have defeated [Chimeric Undead Homunculi: Lv200] x71!]

[You earned 877.000.000 EXP!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 175 to Level 179/180!]

[All your Stats have increased. You gained Bonus Stat Points and Skill Points.]

[You acquired the following dropped items: [Abhorrent Lesser Demon Of Selfishness: Magicus Body Parts (SS Grade)] x6 [Demonic Blood of the Abhorrent Lesser Demon of Selfishness (SS Grade)] x10 [Shattered Demonic Heart Crystal Shards (SS Grade)] x3 [Unique Potential Cubes (A Grade)] x30 [Unique Gear Enhancement Scroll (A Grade)] x30 [Greater Spirit Elixir (S Grade)] x3 [Heroic Strength Elixir (S Grade)] x3 [Legendary Potential Cube (S Grade)] x10 [Unique Gear Enhancement Scroll (A Grade)] x10 [Unique Gear Repair Scroll (A Grade)] x10, [Abhorrent Lesser Demon Of Selfishness: Magicus Themed Treasure Chest (SS Grade)] x1, [Nether Coins: 2500]!]

[You gained + 413.000.000 Gold.]

[Because you've defeated a powerful Demon by showcasing the might of a Growing World Boss, you gained +3000 Community Points and World Boss Points.]

I was already one level from reaching the level cap, which meant I was only a few million EXP off evolving and Ranking Up once more. It felt really fast. This entire kingdom is so filled of dangerous threats that the EXP never ends coming.

Though, even with the joy of growth and progression, it still feels a bit sad. But maybe that'll go away once I get back with everyone else in the smithy and we can talk things out and have a nice dinner together or something, right?

Yeah, I need to stay positive and see the bright side of things! Just like Jenny said. I can't believe that someone like me who is usually saying such things, would have to hear it from someone else to finally understand.

The materials I got sound quite gruesome, but they could have their uses, perhaps as catalyzers to find more of the cultists, or maybe as materials to some sort of malevolent potion, perhaps! But what that potion would be for? I don't know.

Maybe I could create Demonic Bombs? But for what? I don't want to spread even more demonic energy around. Maybe making a demonic weapon or armor instead? Wouldn't it hurt to wear them though?

I can't find much use out of them, but I'm sure I'll get some idea, eventually. Good thing I also got a themed treasure chest and even more Nether Coins, it seems like it counted as some sort of Nether Monster? Perhaps because it employed Nether Energies, and the cult is cooperating with the Demon King of Death, so the rewards might include that too, interestingly enough.

"We're here." David said, stopping the carriage.

We all walked outside of the carriage, as David and his apprentice knights waved their hands at us. They seemed to have slightly changed their faces since the moment we first saw them. Although gruesome, I suppose this was an experience they needed to grow stronger, both physically and mentally.

"We'll come back tomorrow to report what the King has to say, Lady Planta. Have a good night and thank you for your help. Your payment should have already been deposited in the Adventurer's Guild." David said.

"Thank you, David!" I waved my hand, as I saw them off.

Looks like it's time to pay a small visit to the guild once more and claim even more rewards! I wonder what face the receptionist is going to make now.

Chapter 858 Great Rewards

"You're here again..." The same receptionist sighed. "S-Sir David brought us the rewards and payment for your work today... T-Thank you for saving the Kingdom from such a big menace. And I... Well, I wanted to apologize, for judging you before. You've helped the entire Kingdom quite a lot."

"Woah this girl really went through a whole progression arc." Said Jenny while laughing, sitting over my head on her smallest purple-colored slime form. "Don't worry girl, you're alright."

"Yeah, I guess it's fine." Mark laughed, suddenly noticing that there were a lot of Adventurers around us. Most of the people we had seen at the beginning of our journey in this beautiful city, who stared at us with judgmental stares, were now all humbly admiring us for some reason.

"Woah, aren't those the super rookies that are working for the King?"

"Y-Yeah... Some of them are Players, others not."

"I heard that fairy is the knight of the queen of fairies in that forest far away?"

"And isn't that Dryad Lady very famous among other Players?"

"I guess it makes sense, they're all super strong."

"To think a party of demi-humans is helping the King the most... I feel ashamed of myself."

There were all kinds of comments, some were ashamed of themselves for not helping enough, and others were simply admiring everything. We ignored their words because we didn't really want to engage if possible, the rewards were swiftly given through system notifications.

The guild receptionist seemed to be able to trigger certain system notifications with their special jobs and skills, something very interesting. There might be many other NPC Classes capable of triggering these interactions.

"I've deposited your rewards inside of your inventories. Also, you've gained plenty of renown, you should be close to reaching A Rank!"

Ding!

[You've completed a special [Criminal Apprehension] and [Evil Cultists Bounty] Adventure Guild Requests!]

[You earned 300.000.000 Gold]

[You earned 80.000.000 EXP]

[You received [Skill Book: Iron Body (B Grade)] x1 [Skill Book: Enhanced Five Senses (B Grade)] x1 [Ki Reinforcing Elixir (A Grade)] x20 [Resilient Warrior's Bracelet (A Grade)] x1]

[You earned +100.000 Adventurer Guild Merit!]

[Your Adventurer License (B+ Rank) will soon reach A- Rank, be prepared!]

[Once you reach A- Rank, you will have to complete special Quests assigned by the Adventurer Guild to continue increasing your Rank.]

[Naturally, they will not come without their great rewards. The higher your Adventurer Guild Rank, the higher the benefits you will receive all across the countries affiliated with it.]

[From discounts to being able to access VIP areas to be able to buy special equipment and materials only sold to nobles or high-ranked adventurers, alongside being able to buy plots of land and more.]

[Once you reach A Rank after successfully completing the A- Rank Trial Quest, you will be able to access the VIP Area of every affiliated guild, where Special Elite Quests will be available, and this also includes many special benefits.]

So becoming an Adventurer is the key to progress in the game- I mean world, huh? The higher your rank, the more accessibility you gain to literally everything. And this VIP Area is picking my interest, especially those Elite Quests! I wonder if they are what let me access some of the bosses' people who usually slay weekly.

I do remember reading somewhere that the minimum to grind most weekly or monthly bosses is to get to Rank A in the Adventurer Guild. This means my daughter and Angelina's party are all A Rank then, seeing how they always grind with these bosses for Gold and Materials.

I feel a bit embarrassed now, seeing how I'm still so far behind them, especially Angelina's Party, who are cooperating with us like equals, yet they still feel stronger than us in many ways. If it wasn't for our special gear, evolutions, and the buffing skills I have, we wouldn't be able to fight on equal footing as much as I would want to.

Maybe I am overthinking things but knowing that there's still a long way to go for all of us makes me more pumped up to continue growing stronger.

"Thank you for everything, we'll be leaving then."

"I should be the one thankful, please, come back whenever you want!"

As we left the adventurer guild, we noticed it was already getting much darker, the sun had already fully settled, and we could only see the last rays of sunlight coming from the horizon. We leisurely made our way back to the Smithy, while everyone seemed to be in a good mood. I utilized this time to check the new rewards I had acquired.

First of all, I got two new Skill Books on [Skill Book: Iron Body (B Grade)] and [Skill Book: Enhanced Five Senses (B Grade)]! These two Skill Books are probably given to every Knight that begins their duty, seeing that David is the one given the task of choosing our rewards, he's most likely trying to help us grow stronger with the standard skills Knights or Paladins get.

Aside from that, he also gifted us twenty [Ki Reinforcing Elixir (A Grade)]! Looks like these are mass-produced somewhere. I've heard about the Alchemy Guild being the third biggest Guild after the Merchant Guild, while the Magician Guild was the first. They probably keep a constant supply of all sorts of Potions and Elixirs for the Kingdom's knights and soldiers. The same way the King asked us for weapons and armor supplies.

And lastly, the one special reward of the night, the [Resilient Warrior's Bracelet (A Grade)]! Similar to the Magician Ring, it looks like it's a special Bracelet that'll help me keep my Mana High by using Satiation, the opposite of the Magician Ring, actually.

[Resilient Warrior's Bracelet]

[Item Type]: [Accessory] [Bracelet]

[Item Rank]: [Unique]

[Item Quality]: [A]

[Item Requirement]: [5.000 STR & VIT]

[Item Durability]: [3500/3500]

[Item Effects]: [HP]: [+5000] [STR]: [+1500] [VIT]: [+1500]

[Bonus Effects]: [Physical Technique Power +30% (A)] [HP +25% (B)] [Physical Technique MP Consumption -15% (B)] [STR +15% (B)]

[Item Abilities]

[Warrior's Companion]: When this Bracelet is equipped, you gain the [Warrior's Resilience] Ability. Every time you spend 25 Satiation; you recover 500 MP.

Yep, it's pretty alright.

Chapter 859 Cultivation?

After taking a brief look to the new piece of equipment, I decided to put it on for now. With this, in combination with the Wizard's Ring, I have a nice way to create some sort of special loop! Every time I spend 1000 MP, I recover 10 Satiation, and every time I spend 25 Satiation, I gain 500 MP. It's not enough of a loop that I can have infinite MP and Satiation though, but it should be able to help me out quite a lot on keeping up.

And another thing I've been thinking about is... Well, the Elixirs. These special Ki Elixirs in specific. I am thinking that maybe I should drink them with my real body so my Physique can advance further. But there's also the dilemma of this world's body, which is still quite frail when I compare it to complete physical fighters. Of course, I can boost the stats with all the amazing equipment I have, and buffs from Skills and Spells.

However, if I put myself on equal footing with other people but that specialize on physical strength and defense, while having the same benefits as myself, then it is quite obvious I would be considered swiftly... frail. I am not even sure if I would have been able to slay Magicus without the help of my entire party.

So maybe strengthening my Avatar's Physical Strength by consuming these elixirs would be better, all while also eating those fruits I got from the Hephaestus Quest. Yeah, let's go with that for now. I also need to figure out how it'll work out with me. Will this body gain a Physique, or will something else happen?

Without hesitating, and while making our way back to the smithy, I started drinking the elixirs, well, I absorbed them. Using my hand as a root, I was able to insert it into the inside of the bottles and drain the liquid right away, just like how trees can drain water using their roots.

The 30 Elixirs I had accumulated were gone in an instant, and the fruits, which were very sweet and at the same time spicy, took me a bit more to consume, but I was able to consume everything at the end.

The Elixirs felt... very strange, and nice at the same time. It felt like rivers of golden light flowed across my entire body. Unlike my real body on Earth, this Avatar is not made of flesh, nor is truly human. It means the physique by itself is very different, I'm a plant after all.

So unlike a human's physique, which I can clearly feel the internal organs, meridians, and so on, it felt much... "freer" the energy flowed everywhere without any clear pathways, which was slightly chaotic, but everything was nourished from it.

Each Elixir made me feel more refreshed than the rest, I could feel my wood and bark becoming tougher with each drink, and the fruits accompanying this "meal" were not bad either, a blazing surge of power surged within the depths of my chest each time I ate one.

Eventually, I felt much, much stronger than I imagined a couple of consumable items would make me feel!

Ding!

[You have consumed the [Ki Reinforcing Elixir (A Grade)] x30!]

[A large quantity of Ki has been absorbed by your entire body.]

[Due to the unique structure of your body, the Ki has been absorbed by your [Yggdrasil's Roots]!]

[Your Wood and Bark have grown much tougher and more resilient than before. Your wood can now imitate the elasticity and strength of flesh muscles with much more ease.]

[The [Yggdrasil Meridians] have begun to be stimulated. To further open the three Divine Yggdrasil Meridians, more Ki is required, alongside the absorption of special Body Tempering, Body Refining, and Body Enhancing Cultivation Techniques.]

[To further continue the path of Cultivating your body, it is also necessary to properly forge a Physique, awakening the Three Divine Yggdrasil's Meridians should be a priority to obtain one.]

[Obtaining a Technique that could help you transform Mana and Spiritual Energy into Ki would be recommended.]

[The Special Stat KI has been unlocked!]

[You gained +1.000 KI!]

[You gained +100 Station!]

[You acquired the [Beginner Disciple Of Cultivation] Title!]

[Beginner Disciple Of Cultivation]

Acquisition Conditions: Unlock the KI Stat and begin your Cultivation Path.

Equip Bonus: +100 KI, +50 Satiation, Cultivation Techniques Growth Speed +20%.

A Unique Skill usually only rewarded to those that have acquire the knowledge to cultivate their bodies' strength through the power of Ki, a millenary essence forged through the Stamina, Vitality, and Strength of the Physical Body, which can boost the Physical Techniques and Martial Arts of the user to a whole new level.

The people of the Eastern Continent discovered the power of Ki hundreds of millennia ago, in the dawn of man before the System was even conceived. Such techniques were later learned by the People of the Western Continent of Verdant, and later implemented into the training regime of the Knights, Soldiers, and Physical Fighting Adventurers.

You're nothing but a small fledging in the path of Cultivation, but there's nothing better than to rely on your own body than in any outside strength. As long as you keep a steady growth of your Physique, the effects of this Title remain indefinitely and without the requirement of equipping it.

[Well done, young disciple! You gained +100 KI and +50 Satiation!]

First of all... Wow. I was completely showered with countless notifications. I don't know if I am the first one to ever unlock this, but it seems to be really BIG. First of all, my body in this world seems to be so vast and complex that my meridians aren't normal at all, they're called Divine Yggdrasil Meridians! And even after drinking 30 Elixirs, I have yet to unlock their power.

I simply stimulated them to generate Ki on their own, most likely... But because this body is so magical in nature, it is rather hard, even less when this power was purposely designed to work mostly on entities of the Animal Kingdom, not the Plant Kingdom.

Nonetheless, it looks like there's an Eastern Continent of... Cultivators?! Has that place even been visited by Players yet?

Chapter 860 Sealed Three Divine Yggdrasil Meridians Realm

The existence of the Eastern Continent and other things made me very curious, but I didn't let that distract me from the other notifications that popped up just seconds after, the fruits power was taking effect, and it was slightly similar to the Elixirs too.

Ding!

[You have consumed [Blazing Spirit Fire Fruit (A Grade)] x10!]

[The power of the Blazing Spirit Fire Fruits has been fully absorbed by your body. Your wooden physique is being nourished by these intense spiritual flames.]

[After absorbing a large quantity of Spiritual Fire and not dying in the process, your body has grown much more resistant to it, having become tempered by the deadly flames.]

[You acquired innate resistance against the element of fire, and your body has been tempered by it.]

[You gained +1000 HP and +500 STR and VIT]

[Your [Cultivation]: [Sealed Three Divine Yggdrasil Meridians Realm (Stage 1)] has progressed the Stage 1 by +10%!]

What's this?

[Cultivation]: [Sealed Three Divine Yggdrasil Meridians Realm (Stage 1)]

A New Tab created for those that have started their path of Cultivation.

Because of your Unique Body and Composition, a new type of Cultivation has been created especially for you. Your three Divine Yggdrasil Meridians are sealed and will only unlock themselves once you harness enough Ki.

As it is at an initial stage of 0, it lacks abilities other than the most basic of ones. Devise new Cultivation Techniques or absorb them to strengthen the foundation of this new cultivation method. Complete all three initial stages to advance further, while also gathering enough Ki for the Meridians to be unlocked.

Current Stage Growth:

Stage 1: Become more Resilient to Fire, Explosions, and Burns (20%/30%)

Stage 2: Become more Resilient to Poison and Miasma (0%/30%)

Stage 3: Enhance your Technique, Basic Weapon Techniques Proficiency and Attack Power (0%/30%)

Okay this is definitely different than in Earth! In Earth I can develop a Physique really easily and it grows stronger not only through exercise but also by absorbing materials and mana. But this one is different, very different! I have Stages I must complete to advance?! It feels like a bunch of tasks though.

But it is also quite interesting, they're not just tasks, they're passive effects! I can become more resistant to fire, explosions, burns, poison, and miasma, my greatest weaknesses! And above all, I can even gain proficiency on all basic weapon techniques and attack power?!

This is amazing! But how long will it take me to get there? Maybe I'll need to purposely burn and poison myself to gain resistance? Well, it is better than just having the weaknesses forever though.

I wonder if my friends will get something similar? They did get the Ki Elixirs as well, right? So I am beginning to wonder what's up with that. Will they get unique thingies like these? Or nothing at all?

"We're back!"

Once we reached the smithy, we opened the door using the key copy that Ambil handled to me, and we were greeted by the rest of our friends looking extremely exhausted.

"Ahhh... Y-You're finally back, Lady Planta..." Acorn sighed in relief. "W-We worked so much, my entire body's sore. I can't feel it..."

"Hahaha, we did beyond our limits, that's for sure." Laughed Lily, who was enjoying some herbal tea from the Forest of Beginnings.

"Those guys down there are still working, they're the real monsters though." Brisingra sighed.

"Are you okay?! You all look half-dead!" Rita panicked. "Elayne, heal them please!"

"S-Sure." I laughed a bit, healing them with all the magic I had available, but magic can't heal tiredness and satiation, they need to eat. "You guys wouldn't believe it, we had a big battle and fought that noble guy- he ended turning into a demon!"

"Wait, what? No way...!" Acorn said innocently.

"I thought he was only a cultist?" Brisingra wondered.

"Looks like it wasn't all that..." Lily wondered. "I would love to continue chatting though, but how about you go stop the rest of the guys down there before they pass out?"

"No matter how hard we told them to take a break, they were all fueled by the desire to help you progress your trial. Your clone down there has been monotonously making weapons like some sort of golem since then..." Brisingra said.

"O-Okay, alright, let's go down then." I nodded, as I looked awkwardly at the rest of my party.

"So your avatar can be made to enter some sort of robotic state?" Mark wondered. "That's really useful."

"Yeah, it is technically my body too, it shares my mind. But I discovered I can also leave "mind orders" deposited on its brain, and it will execute them without me having to pay attention of how I'm moving that body." I explained. "I can't really do it with a body I'm fully controlling though, but it is really useful."

As we entered the Smithy, we were greeted by a searing heat wave of hot winds, making our way inside, we found all the potential alchemist, crafters, from masters to disciples working diligently, by the command of Hammer, the Mushroom Brigade member that was a Blacksmith.

"Hey, master, is this alright? Should I add some more? I feel like something's missing."

"It sure is missing! You've not used enough Mana on this area, you've gotta be more careful! Attention to details is what makes the difference between a run of the mill blacksmith and a professional one!"

"Got it!"

At his side was Ambil, constantly teaching him new ways of doing things, while Hammer also recommended him new things. These two old men didn't seem tired at all and had found some sort of kindred spirit between the two.

"Hello, am I interrupting something?" I wondered. "I think its about time you guys take a break until tomorrow, if possible."

"Oh? Lady Planta's here!" Hammer said. "Alright boys and girls, time to take a rest then! Do as the lady say and leave things as they are."

All the workers sighed in relief, dropping what they were making and celebrating a bit... I think Hammer might have been forcing them to work a bit too much.

As I fused with my second Avatar, I saw rush of new notifications.

Ding!

[You have progressed in your trial!]

[Craft Equipment of the Unique+ Rank and B+ Grade at minimum]: [300/1000] -> [1230/1000]

[Craft Equipment of the Mythic Rank and A+ Grade at minimum]: [0/5] -> [2/5]

[Craft Equipment of the Legendary Rank and S Grade at minimum]: [0/1]

Wait, what?!