

## Brand New 951

Chapter 951: Second Scenario Complete!

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As the demon's entire body slowly dissolved into ashes, I swiftly moved forwards, leaving behind my draconic body and releasing a wave of powerful healing magic. The body of the elf man that had turned into the demon remained still alive, though he had his limbs cut off due to all the battles, I had managed to not target his more important body parts!

"I have to heal him, quickly!"

I quickly grasped him with my vines, healing him constantly and feeding him with my sap. His limbs regrew and he was barely saved from dying out of blood loss. As we descended together below the rain of ashes, I noticed the presences of the researchers flying closer.

"That's the elf!" Hermes said.

"Kill it, Planta!" Elbedo said.

"Yeah, if you don't, he'll go insane again! Now!" Hermes cried.

"Stop! Don't kill him! What's wrong with you two?!" Cecilia cried, quickly putting herself in front of me.

"That man... Now I can finally see him, he's my brother! Don't you remember him? Arafunn!"

"Arafunn?! It's him!" Mercedes gasped. "Right, stop! If he's already unconscious, there's no point in killing him. The demon or whatever was controlling him is gone."

"T-That's but if he endangers the city again...!" Elbedo groaned. "If it wasn't for everyone here, half the city would have been consumed by the fire!"

"That's right, we can't just spare him because he's your brother, Cecilia!" Hermes said.

"Stop it!" I said, hitting the floor, as a tremor was unleashed. "Nobody is going to kill him. And whoever dares, will have to go through me first."

I stared at the dragon and the elf man, who quickly calmed down the moment they sensed my presence. Clicking their tongues. It was really weird how they wanted him dead so much! There's definitely something suspicious out of it. And also, I knew it was related to Cecilia somehow! That reaction she had couldn't be just ignored either.

"So you rescued him, huh?" Mark slowly went back to his normal, humanoid shape. "Is the scenario completed even if we didn't kill him?"

"I don't know, there isn't any message yet, for some reason..." Rita said.

"Something should pop up eventually, right?" Lily smiled, as the Divine Ward slowly dissipated.

"Whatever was possessing him was our foe, without a doubt, and we slain that demon." I said. "So this is just an innocent man. Don't you remember how confused he was? Whatever happened to Cecilia's brother, he wasn't in the right place. He was being controlled by something else, by someone else..."

"T-That's..." Hermes muttered. "But who could do such a thing? So this is not the end yet?"

"Hmmm..." Elbedo groaned. "I suppose I have to admit I went overboard, perhaps due to the amount of destruction it caused, I had grown panicked. My apologies."

"It's fine, I understand." Mercedes sighed. "Hermes, where's your apology?"

"Yeah, yeah, sorry." Hermes nodded. "So what do we do now? Where do we bring it?"

"IT?! He's my brother, jerk!" Cecilia barked angrily. "Planta, can I carry him? I might be weak, but I should be strong enough to carry him. Let's bring him back home. We'll explain to the elders what happened here later.

I think he needs to rest over a bed first."

"O-Okay, you can have him." I nodded, as Cecilia carried her brother, barely.

I left behind a special barrier ward on him, which I conjured using the help of the Great Spirit. With that, he should be able to protect himself from at least a single attack. If he's ever attacked, I'll quickly learn about it too. I don't know if this might work across scenarios, but it was worth giving it a try.

As we moved back house, a system message finally popped up in front of us, startling us for a second. But it told us that everything was completed accordingly. For a moment, it felt as if the Dungeon was trying to determine if our actions were correct or acceptable, and they indeed were!

Ding!

[Congratulations! You have completed the First Scenario: {Defeat the [Abyssal Dark Hell Knight: Lv300+] while protecting the four researchers from death and the citizens of the city!}]

[Congratulations! You've managed to save the city and also save the lives of the four researchers from death once more.]

[Although you were intended to slay the elf that became a demon, you only destroyed the demon possessing him and saved his life instead, excellently done!]

[A new Scenario Hidden Requirement has been unlocked due to your incredible deduction abilities.]

[Scenario Requirements]: [Protect the four Researchers, kill the Boss, protect at least 30 civilians from death: Complete]

[Scenario Hidden Requirement]: [Incomplete.]

[New Scenario Hidden Requirement]: [Save Arafunn: Complete]

[Scenario Additional Score]: [+500.000]

[You have qualified to get the highest rewards of this Scenario. However, the rewards will be accumulated and administrated once all Scenarios are completed.]

[Current Score]: [1.300.000]

It was finally done! And it made us feel quite relieved. The scenery around us quickly shifted after the system windows popped up, quickly showing the passage of time. How Cecilia brought Arafunn to their house, left him sleeping, and then continued talking.

"What happened to your brother, Cecilia?" Asked Mercedes. "How could he have gotten himself into this situation to begin with? Do you know anything?"

"I am just as clueless as you are... Arafunn was always a good brother, caring and gentle. I doubt he would have ever become corrupted by demons so easily, even less work with them!" Said Cecilia. "I fear he might have become the victim of something else, a pawn used by someone."

"When was the last time you saw him anyways?" Hermes wondered, crossing his arms. He didn't seem that happy about the whole situation. He was honestly the most suspicious.

"It has been a few weeks. He's been working over the Merchant Guild so he's always busy." Sighed Cecilia. "But I was never reported he disappeared though."

"This is weird, so until now he's been hiding what happened to him, huh?" Elbedo wondered. "Could it have been some brainwashing spell?"

"If it was that ugly demon, for sure it was something like that." Mercedes said. "But Demons won't get into your body out of nowhere, someone put it inside of him."

"And the real question is who..." I said, as the rest of my team seemed to nod.

Chapter 952: Is There A Traitor?

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[After having rescued Arafunn from sure death, the team of researchers took care of him through the night, until they were finally called by the Elders of the city once the morning arrived.]

[In there, they had to explain what had happened, and everything regarding Arafunn. They testified that he didn't seem well in his head, even though he had yet to wake up.]

[The Elders, decided to leave the responsibility of Arafunn's wellbeing to Cecilia, his sister, until he could fully recover and wake up.]

[However, although this brought to them the origin of the Darkness that was left behind, and the existence of demons plotting to end them, there were still many questions.]

"If what happened to Arafunn is the truth, then could this mean that there is someone else, with enough power to not only control demons, but imbue them into people?" Wondered one of the elder divine dragons.

"First of all, I would recommend you investigating the area where Arafunn was working." Said the Elder Elven woman. "Also, a few of you should also move to the ruins left behind by your research center and look for more clues. So we can track down whoever destroyed the seal."

"You have yet to solve any of the problems and have only brought us more questions than answers." Sighed the Elder Majin. "Nonetheless, these materials, the ashes of the demon. They will be useful to track down whatever origins they might be. Use them with the relic you used to track the man, you might find something as well."

"T-Thank you..." Mercedes sighed, as the group of four walked back to their house. This time, Arafunn had finally woken up.

"Arafunn?!"

"S-Sister?"

Cecilia quickly went to hug him tightly, feeling really happy that he had finally woken up. The demonic powers he had were now completely gone as well, after numerous checks from the rest of the researchers.

"Just what happened there, can you remember?" Asked Cecilia. "And who did this to you?!"

"Ugh... Too many questions, sis..." Arafunn sighed. "I-I only know that... Someone. It was back... some days ago? Someone came, I can't remember their face. They were covering it with a black mask. They came and told me that... I was a good potential vessel."

"Potential vessel?!" Mercedes asked. "W-What...?! Was this person a man or a woman?"

"Their voice was disrupted with magic, I couldn't tell." Arafunn said. "But they were wearing the same clothes as us..."

"What happened after that?!" Hermes asked him desperately. "What did they do to you?"

"They... Stabbed me in the chest. With a weird knife, one made of... black metal, with a red jewel on top." Said Arafunn. "Ugh... That's all I can remember. After that I passed out, and I've been having fevers and hallucinations..."

"Do you remember what happened? That you attacked us?" Asked Mercedes.



"I-I..." Arafunn started breathing heavily. "I'm so sorry... I-I wasn't right in the head. A voice kept talking to me, it was driving me insane... It forced me to leave some weird dark dust, and I couldn't stop obeying it either... I was... I'm so sorry..." He kept crying, as Cecilia hugged him and patted his back.

"It's fine... Don't worry, we are here for you now." Sighed the elf girl.

"The lie detection divine relic says he's saying the truth." Elbedo sighed. "It seems this... Is indeed what he knows."

"Dammit! With just this we can't figure out anything either! For fuck's sake! Do we really need to track everything again?!" Hermes was losing his temper.

"Why are you getting so heated up out of nowhere?! Calm the fuck down, Hermes!" Cecilia cried. "What's wrong with you? You seem way too agitated out of nowhere..."

"I-It's just that... If this keeps going on forever, then things are only going to get worse! I am worried, you know? Worried about everything..." Hermes sighed. "I have a bad hunch, that something terrible is going to happen. We have to stop it, before it just takes everything we love away from us."

"Hermes..." Mercedes sighed. "I suppose you're not wrong, but we are all worried here. Calm down, take it easy." She tried to comfort him.

"I can't take it easy Mercedes! Elbedo, accompany me to look for the things left behind in the ruins of our former research center." Said Hermes. "You three should quickly start tracking where the demon ashes could lead you to. We'll get back quickly."

"Wait, Hermes! We haven't even eaten breakfast yet!" Elbedo protested.

"HAH?! Do we need to- Ugh, fine." Hermes sighed.

"See? Maybe you're just really hungry, let's eat something." Cecilia smiled gently. "Brother, do you feel like you can eat?"

"I-I think so? I feel completely relieved now, anything I had inside of me is gone completely." Arafunn sighed in relief.

"Then let's go." Mercedes smiled. "I invited our friends to come help us today as well, they're on their way here by now."

"Bleh, again them? why are you relying on them so much?" Hermes sighed.

"Why not? They're so helpful!" Cecilia protested. "And Planta saved Arafunn too!"

"Yeah, yeah, I guess!" Hermes walked downstairs, terrible grumpy.

As the scenarios slowly changed and shifted from scene to scene, our group was constantly commenting about the scenes we were looking at. Honestly, it was a bit fun to see everything unfold, it was like an interactive movie in a way.

"That guy Hermes, he's really sus, mom." Elena crossed her arms. "It feels like he's angry his plans aren't going right..."

"I bet he's the bad guy, right?" Anna wondered. "We just have to dig deeper and find some evidence..."

"Come on, we shouldn't just blame him yet." I sighed. "We need to investigate more for now. And even Hermes is not the only suspicious one, what about Elbedo too? He had acted strange when I saved Arafunn as well, and he's supposed to be a wise old dragon..."

"Right... Not a bad deduction either." Said Mark while nodding. "But what if those two are just red herrings though? We always have to consider the least likely candidate."

"The least likely candidate?" Asked Rita.

"Cecilia, isn't it?" I asked Mark.

"Bingo." Mark nodded.

Chapter 953: Trying To Find Clues

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FLASH!

As things progressed, the scenario changed and we found ourselves in the middle of the city, right within the Commerce District. There were Majin, Ancient Elves, and Divine Dragons wandering about, and the atmosphere of the city was the same as before. A system message popped up in front of us right as we landed here.

[After realizing that there were still many things they had no answers for, the researchers have only grown warier and concerned about one another. Doubt have started rising within their hearts. And because of how Hermes has been acting lately, some of them have become suspicious of him.]

[Despite that, they try to get along, their friendship having been forged for decades. Trying to relax, they decided to invite your party for breakfast. So they can discuss with all of you what has happened and get a better insight from your perspective.]

[Break Time Intermission between Scenario 2 and Scenario 3 has started! The Third Scenario will begin in 4 hours. For now, you're allowed to freely walk through the area outside and inside of the house of the four researchers, freely speak and interact with them, and more.]

[Just like before, a completely different outcome can be generated if you can find enough clues about what has happened and unlock unique Auxiliary Quests to gain Extra Score Points. The higher your Score at the end of the Dungeon's last scenario, the higher the rewards will be.]

[Note 1: Time inside of this Dungeon goes by ten times slower than the outside world.]

[Note 2: By fulfilling certain conditions, you can also trigger special Auxiliary Mini Quests within the Scenario's Break Time itself! Completing these Mini Quests will grant you higher Score and additionally, might reveal clues about the next Scenario.]

"And we're here." I sighed in relief. "Looks like we got four hours now... Does anybody feel tired right now?"

"Not really, it doesn't feel like time really happens for some reason, even though we spent three hours before." Angelina said. "I guess it is the effect of time dilation? My mind doesn't feel tired."

"Yeah, we've been definitely at least six hours in here, yet it barely has felt like less than an hour in terms of the exhaustion it would give to me. And I get mentally tired pretty quickly usually!" Gandalf noticed.

"Time perception alteration technology is really impressive~ I haven't even seen news about this in my country yet, not even Japan has shared this." Said Anikitty. "I bet the devs are play testing these mechanics on this dungeon only! And it happens to be a World Quest that'll shape the future of BNLO's story so far too."

"It is quite interesting, yeah. Though I doubt they're testing it with us, it feels already very perfect." Said Erdrich. "They're simply letting us be the first ones to enjoy it. I wonder if we could add this to our normal gameplay later. Can you imagine? We could spend several days inside the game when it was only a few hours outside!"

"But wouldn't that make other players get unfair advantages though?" Wondered Angelina.

"I don't think it really matters that much." Anikitty shrugged.

It truly felt like they were very old friends based in all the banter that came out of them almost completely naturally. Anyways, we couldn't really talk too much about that with them. If we told them that this was most likely real actual magic powers that manipulated time, they simply wouldn't believe it.

And the reason they don't feel tired is because I've healed both their bodies and souls using my spiritual healing magic. Which has actual effects and can heal mental exhaustion from using your Avatar in the world of Arcadia.

But we better keep that a secret for now, yeah.

"They really talk like this is really a game, huh..." Jenny groaned.

"Keep it low, it's better to not talk about this for now." Rita sighed.

"Yeah, I agree. We've defeated two really strong bosses now though; shall we take a small break?" Asked Mark. "At the very least, the food ingredients we use and eat here seem to have some grade of realness, so we could start with that. I am growing a bit hungry myself."

"Me too, let's buy some things while looking for clues." I said. "It's really useful we got these personal money pouches with their currency. Which is like these Blue Coins thingies."

"Yeah, back then currency doesn't seem to be just Gold, but it was these blue coins, concentrations of rich, high quality Mana people used to both recover their own magic power and grow stronger a bit." Said Mark. "Judging by what we've learned so far, that's it."

"How do we look for clues or things that could trigger Mini Quests, Elayne?" Lily asked me curiously.

"Ah, don't worry about it! Leave this to me." I winked at her. "Spirits, please search for anything weird in the entire city!" I summoned several Spirits out of my own plant body, which I was now able to also transform into a Terrain and Domain.

Countless colorful flowers popped out of my skin, giving birth to hundreds of small, Lesser Spirits. Some were also Lesser Dragon Spirits. They all flew towards every direction, searching for what I had asked them to do.

"The Spirits will find the things for us; it is much easier, and we won't need to waste much time either." I said, picking some of the many ingredients here and buying them, storing them inside a white leather bag.

"That feels almost like cheating again..." Elena said. "But I guess that's how mom's whole gameplay works."

"Gameplay? Players use such weird words sometimes." Ambil groaned, snacking on a steamed sweet potato. "Anyways, Planta, what do we do now? This weird Trial, it said something about looking for clues? So those researchers, are they going to do that in the next scenario?"

"Yes, they were going to look for clues within the designated areas, and also use the same eye-shaped relic to look for the origin of the demon through its demon ashes." I explained.

"I see, then why don't you send your spirits to those ruins?" Ambil asked.

"Right, good idea! Let's do that, maybe we can skip that whole job if I let my Spirits do it." I nodded.

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Amidst the pile of rubble and ruins, three figures appeared, like ghosts, out of nowhere, and only leaving small traces of shadows which slowly disappeared.

"This is the place, right?"



"Yes, this is the place our master said we must quickly clean of evidence."

"They said they almost got caught, and now that they're coming here, we must quickly clean everything."

"Hurry, before they come here!"

"Yes."

Chapter 954: Suspicious Individuals

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I decided to send not only my Lesser Spirits, which only can remain here for at most an hour, but also some of my permanent ones, including my Dragon Spirits resting within my Dragon Heart. They were all the Souls of the Dragons we defeated in the dwarf mountain, which allied me after I gave them a second chance as Dragon Spirits. Their eggs still being incubated within the Fairy Queendom.

I don't know when they'll hatch though, but whenever they do, I might tame these dragons with my new Divine Skill and add them to my Divine Beast Familiar List.

While we made our way back to the house of the four researchers, and well, the fifth addition that was resting there, my spirits approached the ruins, led by the Dragon Spirits. I told them to use their special Spirit Senses to look for any anomaly, such as Miasma, Nether, or Demonic Energies, which were very easy to detect by Spirits most of the time.

In the meantime, I checked some other System Notifications I had been ignoring.

Ding!

[The Magic Skills: [Verdant Green Domain Magic: Lv10/30] and [Yggdrasil's Spirit Magic: Lv10/30 (Evolved Skill)] have Leveled Up!]

After a lot of using them, my two Magic Skills finally Leveled Up, I think that should have unlocked some new Spells, I'll check them later.

[The Skills: [Divine Draconic Heart: Lv3] [Dragon Spirit Summon: Lv2] [Draconification: Lv2] are ready to Level Up! You have exchanged 220 Skill Points; the Skills have gained 2 Levels!]

Oh right, there are also these Skills that require Skill Points AND Skill EXP to level up, mostly these ones. I think I got two more Skills to learn out of my Skill Tree, I should learn them soon I guess.

[The Divine Beast Skill: [Divine Lightning Horn: Lv6/100 (Divine Beast Skill)] has Leveled Up to Level 48!]

[The Divine Beast Skill: [Black Vines of Steel: Lv6/100 (Divine Beast Skill)] has Leveled Up to Level 43!]

[The Divine Beast Skill: [Colony Mind: Lv8/100 (Divine Beast Skill)] has Leveled Up to Level 45!]

[The Divine Beast Skill: [Space-Traversing Eldritch Body: Lv1/100 (Divine Beast Skill)] has Leveled Up to Level 33!]

[The Divine Beast Skill: [Divine Domain Of The Holy Golden Koi Spring Palace: Lv1/100 (Divine Beast Skill)] has Leveled Up to Level 31!]

And the Divine Beast Skills had gained a bunch of Levels already. I might be able to get them to Max Level once we finish this Dungeon. Once that happens, I'll have the emotion to either Evolve them into even stronger versions of themselves or combine them to create something completely different.

[The Skill: [Heroic Legendary Sword Arts: Lv4] has Leveled Up! New Techniques have been unlocked.]

[The Skill: [Fairy Queen's Protection: Lv7] has Leveled Up! The Protection has been strengthened, and new Effects have been added.]

Looks like I also leveled these two old Skills! Well, not so old I guess. The Heroic Legendary Sword Arts is my main attacking techniques when using my weapons, and they're exceptionally strong. Then there's Fairy Queen's Protection, offering some extra defense and other effects. Which has apparently gained another effect? Let's see.

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[Fairy Queen's Protection: Lv8]

A Special Skill that can only be acquired through the Blessing of the Fairy Queen. This Skill can be equipped in any Skill Slot. Due to your affinity with nature and spirits, the Fairy Queen has taken a liking on you and has seen through your kind heart.

You have gained her Protection, which enhances your Physical and Magical Defense by +90%. Additionally, in a pinch, you have a small chance (90%, can increase based in LUK) to be able to block a lethal attack against you or any of your registered [Party Members] once every hour.

Alongside that, you can also enhance Barrier-type and Ward-type Magic to gain greater effects, by using Spiritual Essence, you can further enhance their Defensive Power, Healing Effects, and Special Effects by +90%.

When enhancing already existing Barrier or Ward-type Magic, you can also shape it and control its form much better, using it to either encompass your body or as a temporary, emergency weapon.

Lastly, enhances the Total Stats, Power, Duration, and Insight of all Summoned Spirits by +90%.

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Oh wow, it really changed! There are a few new effects, enhancement and also the ability to transform the shape of barrier and ward magic? I think I couldn't do that before. Did this appear because of my Barrier Master Title and my usage of Wards? It's interesting how Skills can adapt to a Player's abilities and new powers like this.

With this, I could imitate Brisingra a little bit, and use my powerful Divine Wards to create weapons or also to encompass myself on armor, or also friends! And the Lethal Attack blocking at 90% chance is really amazing, although it is limited to once per Hour, it's a lifesaver, and I've already seen its effects a couple of times through these last battles.

And lastly, that amazing effect at the end! With that enhancement, my spirits became much stronger. Is this why even the Lesser Spirits didn't look any longer like small masses of colorful light, but like more formed creatures? Similar to tiny animals made of the elements, or fairies.

Even the Dragon Spirits looked even larger and more "alive", resembling their previous forms much better than before.

Well, this is certainly a lot of gains!

"Master, I think we've found something!"

"Why are there so many of them here?!"

"Who are they?"

Suddenly, I heard a telepathic message from the Dragon Spirits, apparently, the Dragon Spirits reached the ruins to find something rather shocking, concerning, and alarming.

"Yes, what is it?!"

I quickly connected my eyesight with their eyes, as I saw what they were seeing.

Above the ruins, there were four figures wearing black robes, searching for things left behind, while using cleaning magic to leave no evidence behind!

"S-Stop them! Don't let them escape! I'm on my way there!" I told them.

"Roger that!"

The Four Dragon Spirits immediately went to stop them and capture them, as I quickly decided to leap into the skies and fly there.

"There are some suspicious people over the ruins! Half of you come with me! The other half go see the researchers, tell them about this!"

Chapter 955: New Auxiliary Mini Quest

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Without thinking it twice, I quickly leaped into the skies, rushing towards the ruins myself. After my message, some of my friends accompany me. Mark, Rita, Elena, Jenny, and Lily decided to stick around,

while everyone else was left behind, as I told them to quickly run towards the researchers to check if they were alright.

"There they are!"

I saw above the skies the Four Dragon Spirits fighting the figures wearing black robes, they were three figures, yet they were overflowing with power. Miasma, Nether, and Demonic Energy again. They reminded me of the chimeras we've fought back in the Luminous Kingdom's capital.

Most of the Lesser Spirits were already dead, their power was considerable. The four Dragon Spirits were barely holding them back, but I could already notice their Spiritual Bodies beginning to weaken and fade away.

Soul-bound Spirits like them go back to their master once they fade away, slowly regenerating inside of my Draconic Heart, but if possible, I would prefer if they didn't go through any of such pain.

"Familiars! Surround them, quickly!"

My Familiars leaped into action, all of them appeared around the robbed men and attacked, unleashing a bombardment of explosions of magic of most elements.

At the same time, my vision was slightly blurred by a new system notification.

Ding!

[You've triggered a new Auxiliary Mini Quest: {Capture Or Defeat The Mysterious Figures!}]

[You've found out that there are three mysteriously robbed men trying to clean the ruins from any evidence left! You must quickly hurry up and either capture them or defeat them before they escape!]

[Completing this Mini Quest might greatly change the outcome of the next Scenario!]

[Quest Conditions]: [Defeat or Capture the targets.]

[Completion Rewards]: [Large Quantity of Score Points.]

[Time Limit]: [Same Time Limit as the Break Time Limit.]

I suppose this was to be expected.

BAAAM!



I landed on the floor with a thunderous sound, putting all my strength to shake the entire area and shook the mysterious people. Their eyes shone bright red to greet me, the wind released from my arrival quickly lifting their hoods to reveal their true appearances.

Two of them were Ancient Elves, with dry-looking silver hair and red eyes. One of them was a Divine Dragon, covered on silver scales and with short black hair. The moment they saw me and the Aura I released, they quickly seemed to recognize who I was.

"That's the woman that has been ruining everything so far!"

"Our master said she was a tremendous nuisance!"

"Should we kill her?"

The three started chatting with one another, without even paying attention to me or my familiars. I quickly called back my Dragon Spirits, who were too exhausted, as I sprinted towards them. Each of my steps released shockwaves of divine spiritual energy, covering the area with plants and spiritual essence, a Domain and a Terrain were formed within seconds.

"Don't you think you should be worrying about surviving instead of considering killing me?!" I roared, wielding Gram and Gaia's All-Purpose-Tool, which I shaped into a sword. "{Holy Blade Dance}! {Consecutive Dashing Strikes}!"

I activated two of the Sword techniques I had unlocked after the Skill reached Level 4, my swords and my body being quickly encompassed by a Heroic Aura of Holy Light. With a swift spin, I leaped towards

them, swinging both of my blades while dancing within my domain. My speed and my dexterity increasing exponentially as each of my attacks released waves of light.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

The trio was unable to defend in time, the elves were immediately pushed back, as I noticed black armor protecting their bodies below their black robes. The divine dragon, however, stepped forwards instead, swinging his sharp metallic claws against me with a mighty roar.

"Do you think I am afraid of you?! We'll complete our mission no matter what!"

His claws clashed against my swords, but that's where my second technique came into use, the moment he stopped my dancing attacks, my swords shone with the accumulated energy of the previous hits that landed on my targets. A barrage of piercing and stabbing strikes were unleashed, as I moved my arms so fast I could barely see them, only resembling explosions of flashing light.

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

"Uuuuaggh! W-What the...?!"

The Divine Dragon was pushed back, revealing that he was not wearing armor, confident on the scales covering his body. A terrible decision! He glared at me with fury, his power rising as it surged like an endless wave of darkness from within his body.

"You damn...! You two, escape while you can!" He roared. "I will take care of her now and return to you once I'm done!"

As he said that, the other two ancient elves started running, conjuring powerful Magic from rings and accessories they were wearing, pushing back even my Familiars. Despite this being a mere intermission, these guys weren't weak at all!

However, thankfully, Mark, Rita, and Lily stopped them, quickly pushing them back, while my Familiars surrounded them. Yeah, you are not going anywhere!

"Who are you taking care of?! Stop looking down on me!" I lost my patience, appearing right above him. My horns discharged all the power I had, a lightning strike engulfed the divine dragon, his body was once more thrown away, landing on the floor and collapsing the ground, leaving behind a huge crater.

"Ugh...! Ha... KAHAHA!" However, the Divine Dragon laughed as he vomited blood. "Foolish woman, do you truly believe a Divine Dragon's strength is based in their weakest form, their Dragonoid appearance?!"

FLAAASH!

His body was engulfed on silver and black light, as his appearance quickly changed. He became an over seventy-meter-tall black and silver dragon. His original appearance having been corrupted by the new powers he had been granted. He was becoming something else, a Demonic Dragon of sorts.

"Hahahaha! Do you see?! Can you even match my true form, you little elf?" He laughed.

"Elf?" I wondered, as his claws descended towards me, releasing an explosion of black and silver flames once they impacted.

BOOOM!

However, what greeted his claws instead of a corpse was something else, another dragon claw, made of wood, stone, earth, and golden scales.

"Let me tell you, I am not an elf."

"What?!"

Chapter 956: Planta Might Be Too Strong

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I didn't had time to wrestle against this man and take my sweet time beating him. I decided to go all-out from the beginning, combining the effects of several skills together at once. Gram and Gaia's All-Purpose-Tool fused into my hands as my entire body grew hundreds of times larger than before, both weapons becoming incredibly long, golden-colored metallic claws.

My Divinity erupted from my body and spreading across the surroundings, making the entire area encompassed not a perpetual domain of spiritual energy, nature, and holy light. All the hundreds of

Spirits I had summoned merged with my body, and so the still-weakened Dragon Spirits resting within my Draconic Heart.

Ding!

[You have activated several skills, spells, and abilities and combined them together alongside Hundreds of Lesser Dragon Spirits, Holy Light Spirits, and your tamed Dragon Spirits!]

[Your developing Divinity has reacted; the correct conditions have been met! You have temporarily transformed into the {Three-Headed Holy Yggdragon Goddess} form!]

[All your Stats have further increased by +500%, all of your Spirit and Dragon-type Skills and Spells Power has increased by +300%, your HP and MP Regeneration Speed has increased by +1000%, and you have gained the ability to activate the Divine Skills: {Holy Yggdragon Domain}, {Divine Dragon Spirit Army}, and {Celestial Draconic Weapon Creation}!]

[An Aura of {Holy Yggdragon's Domain} has spread everywhere, your Domain and Terrain has gained the {Immunity} status, becoming incapable of being destroyed as long as your transformation remains.]

[Duration: 5 Minutes.]

Not only did I match the Divine Dragon's size, but I surpassed it by far, looking down on him from above. I was back on my previous form once more. Although I needed a bit of rest after transforming each time, I've already had plenty of that, and the only backlash aside from the short transformation time was that my energies were being drained constantly.

But I was able to make up for that "weakness" thanks to all the Skills that hastened their regeneration, coupled with my Domain and Terrain further regenerating my energies and further boosting them.

"Y-You're a Divine Dragon too?!" The Silver and Black-scaled Divine Dragon stepped back several steps, as my metallic claws descended towards his body.

"Yes, I am!" With a mighty roar, I activated my heroic swordsmanship techniques with my claws, which also counted as swords now. "{Holy Ascent}!"

I swung my gigantic claws upwards with all my titanic size and strength, a surge of holy light emerged from my attack, as my claws slashed through his tough scales with ease, blood and flesh splattering everywhere.

SLAAASH!

"AARGGH! YOU BASTARD!"

With a furious and enraged roar, the Divine Dragon attacked back, his gigantic claws unleashing a barrage of slashing and piercing blows, but my scales had been reinforced greatly, not only with my Skills, but also with my equipment, which much like my weapons, could temporarily merge with my body through the [Divine Spiritual Fusion Synthesis] Skill.

"That won't be enough, not at all!"

As I tanked all of his pathetic hits, which were still from a Level 300 Divine Dragon, I stepped forwards, my entire body engulfed on divine golden flames. I swung my long tail, reinforcing it with Spirits and enchanting it into a mobile and long, golden spear. A barrage of piercing blows overwhelmed him, his chest covered on a dozen bloody holes.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"RAARGH! DAMMIT!"

The Divine Dragon kept fighting back, kicking, slashing, and bombarding me with his dragon breath attacks, which were quite deadly. But I was able to tank every hit. And even with deadly Demonic miasmic Flames trying to consume my body, my divine essence spread across my body, protecting me from having my body corroded. However, his body was incredibly tough, and he had amazingly good regeneration.

I needed more than just this.

"Come give me a hand!"

Ding!

[You have activated the Divine Skill: {Divine Dragon Spirit Army}! Your Powers and Energies have summoned the Divine Dragon Spirit Realm Portal, summoning Divine Dragon Spirits to battle!]

[For the duration of the portal's existence, these Divine Dragon Spirits will fight for you and protect you as well as heal you and even die for you! However, once the Portal's duration is over, they will return to their Realm.]

[Duration: 5 Minutes.]

A rainbow-colored spiritual portal appeared above us, as dozens of gigantic Divine Dragon Spirits appeared one after another, connecting their powers with me.

"Now! {Dragon Spirit's Elemental Claws}! {Dragon Spirit's Elemental Breath}!"

I activated the Divine Dragon Spirit Skill's Spells, as the Divine Dragon Spirits I summoned were immediately enhanced by their effects, giving them the power to unleash new techniques. Half of them attacked the Evil Divine Dragon with deadly elemental claws attacks, covering his wounds with flames, slicing wounds, burning light, and deadly stone spears.

The other half bombarded him with explosive draconic breaths of their respective elements as well.

"J-Just what are you?!" He screamed. "S-Such almighty power! Are you somehow related to the Yggdragon?! To our Ancient Divine Mother?!"

"I am the Yggdragon."



"E-Eh?!"

As he was left completely flabbergasted, his eyes shone bright red a second later. He thought I was fucking with him, only making him even more furious. A shockwave of fiery red and black flames erupted from his body, as if he were a volcano.

"DON'T MESS WITH MEEEE!"

RUMBLE!

An endless blast of these flames reached me, as I quickly transformed my claws and parts of my body, alongside the Divine Dragon Spirits in my surroundings into a single Spiritual Formation, activating the effects of my other Divine Skill.

[You have activated the Divine Skill: {Celestial Draconic Weapon Creation}! Your two weapons have been used as the base, while the rest of the summoned Divine Dragon Spirits have been fused into them, further materializing into the {Celestial Draconic Spirit Blade}!]

[The {Celestial Draconic Spirit Blade} combines the stats of both weapon bases, plus a +300% boost to all of their stats and ability effects! Additionally, each consecutive blow will release {Draconic Spirit Flame Explosions} that will deal +100% additional damage with each blow, for a maximum of +1000%!]

"I am not messing with you!"

SLAAASH!

With a single, mighty slash, a wave of rainbow-colored divine light pierced through his deadly flames, hitting his body and then slashing him into two halves, blood and guts splattered everywhere, as his corpse fell over the floor, covered on rainbow flames.

Ah, I ended killing him by accident...

Oopsie?

Chapter 957: Merciless

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"You won't ever get to us!"

"We will even die for our cause!"

The Ancient Elves that tried to escape were now surrounded, covered on many wounds, and desperately fighting to either escape, or deal as much damage against their foes as they could. Mark, Rita, Elena, and Lily were constantly unleashing their strongest techniques against them without going completely overboard.

However, the duo of "weak looking" Ancient Elves possessed incredibly strong Miasmic Demonic Magic. Conjuring walls of demonic flames, claws of miasmic chaos, swords of phantasmal nether, and all kinds of defensive barriers, stretching the fight for much longer than it should have lasted.

Mark kept destroying their barriers using his Sword Techniques in conjunction with his explosive, fiery strength. Elena kept chipping away at their life by dealing explosive, lightning-speed damage with her katana techniques. And Rita and Lily attacked from afar and kept them trapped within a large domain of stone and shadow chains.

However, the Ancient Elves kept relentlessly fighting, even as they received many wounds, instead of bleeding normally, black and oozy miasmic liquid came out from their bodies. They were perhaps even more modified than Arafunn, who, after having the demon inside of him "exorcized" went back to normal.

"These guys are regrowing limbs now!" Elena complained. "Have you fought guys this annoying before?"

"Yeah, we've fought a few too many, they're usually the Cult Members, or maybe the Chimeras they make!" Mark said. "This feels oddly way too similar! Is this Trial somehow connected to the Cult? But how?"

"It might not be connected directly, but I think these guys are of a similar organization, a cult of sorts!" Rita said. "A cult that is also seeking something similar to the ones we're battling in the present day."

"Hey, don't you dare escape!" Lily roared, summoning a huge arm made of stone and stopping the elves from leaping off the huge walls again, smacking them down like flies.

BAAAM!

"ARGH! Dammit!"

"Is there no way out?!"

As they complained and started to think about their choices, Mark and the rest began to talk to them.

"It's useless, you can't escape from us. Give up and surrender!" Mark said.

"We won't kill you if you surrender nicely, we'll even treat you really well!" Said Rita. "We swear!"

"Just give up!" Elena said. "Or do you want us to actually kill you?"

"Hah... Haahahah!" The two Ancient Elves, however, laughed.

"Our purpose here is already done, we've cleared all evidence anyways!"

"Even if you kill us, we will be granted eternal salvation by our Ancient, Forgotten Lord!"

Suddenly, their chests started to glow with black and red flames, their bodies unifying together into a mass of flesh, miasma, and demonic flames! Mark attempted to stop them, but it was too late, a powerful shockwave sent him flying away, as something else now stood where the two elves once were.

Their bodies merged into a single entity made of fleshy tendrils, bony plates, three eyes on their humanoid face, which was skinless, and three pointy black horns coming from atop their head. The rest of their seemingly humanoid, twenty-meter-tall body was covered on a robe of swirling miasma and demonic red flames.

"What the heck?! Were they also a demon?!" Rita panicked.

"No, that's not a demon." Mark said. "I can't sense any entity within them, they have simply merged in some sort of sacrificial ritualistic technique, becoming a demonic beast instead, some sort of monster."

"So like the cultists you guys have been fighting, huh?" Elena said, her sword overflowing with her Phantasmal Flames Aura and her Darkness Aura.

"If it has come to this, we better deal with it quickly!" Lily said.

"GAAAAAH!"

The Demonic Beast gave a loud roar, leaping off the ground at almost lightning speed, although not as fast as the other demonic entity they fought back on Earth. It appeared above them in a few seconds, its

long arms stretching towards them, shapeshifting into gigantic fleshy hands covered on miasma and demonic flames.

CRAAASH!

A demolishing attack that could have easily taken away most of their health points landed over all of them at once, only for a giant made of black steel, or well, black steel-like wooden bark to stop it! Mark continuously grew larger, matching the monster's size, and growing even a bigger, but not too big as to destroy his surroundings.

He quickly took the same mighty shape he had taken before, his new Divine Transformation Skill allowed him, a Treant, to overcome his greatest weakness, being made of wood, which as tough as it could be, would always easily be torn apart by stronger physical attacks.

His bark strengthened itself so much it gained a metallic sheen, becoming completely black. His giant form looking almost robotic and mech-like in appearance, the Spirit Beast Totems fusing into his body, constantly reinforcing his stats and powers!

"Why don't you mess with someone your size, big guy?!"

His giant sword slashed through the gigantic demonic beast, slicing through its left shoulder and cutting away one of its long, bulky and stretched arms, blood splattered everywhere. The beast tried to escape, but black chains wrapped its legs down, and phantasmal Yokai conjured by Elena wrapped around his torso, weakening him and also paralyzing him.

"We are not letting you go, fucker!" Rita said.

"RAAAAGGH!"

The Demonic Beast gave a loud roar, a blast of demonic and chaotic flames erupted from its open, massive jaws, firing it at Mark at point blank! A huge explosion engulfed his entire body, as the chains and the phantasmal Yokai were vaporized.

BOOOM!

"GRRKKHH?!"

However, as the beast attempted to escape, it quickly realized it couldn't. Mark's black steel-like wood had grown into countless tentacle-like roots, wrapping around its legs and torso, and giving him a deadly hug! Alongside that, he seemed almost completely unscathed after taking that devastating attack from a Level 300 foe.

"Did you thought I would let you go?!"

As Mark kept the monster in check while the beast kept hitting him, Elena unsheathed her katana, attacking the demonic beast from behind with a myriad of blurry slashing attacks.

"{Abyssal Void Blade Fourth Form}: {Thousand-fold Void Blade}!"

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

Without even being able to deal any significant damage, the demonic beast was completely sliced into thousands of tiny pieces.

Chapter 958: Quest Complete

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At the end, we were unable to keep none of them alive! I went a bit too overboard there myself. For some reason I got really angry when he looked down on me. Is this some sort of dragon pride inside of me or whatever? Ah, but yeah, I guess what I did is bad. Thankfully this is just a Dungeon at the end.

And the quest, well... It still completed. It said "either defeat or capture" but I am sure that I would have gotten something better out of it if I captured them, dammit!

Ding!

[You have Completed Auxiliary Mini Quest: {Capture Or Defeat The Mysterious Figures!}]

[Although you've been unable to capture them, you were able to slay them for good, well done!]



[However, now that they've been slain, you won't ever know where they came from, and what were they doing here! What a pity.]

[Quest Conditions]: [Defeat or Capture the targets: Complete]

[Completion Rewards]: [+500.000 Score Points]

[Current Score]: [1.800.000]

[There are currently two more Mini Quests waiting to be found.]

I knew it, if we had captured them, then we could have perhaps learned something else out of them, dammit! Now there's nothing we can do about it. And they also said they cleared the evidence already! I guess the bonus Score is nice, but this won't give us the best ending I wanted.

Unless I do something within this break time? Can I do something?

"Looks like you dealt with it pretty well, mom." Elena greeted me. "We're done on our side, the Mini Quest's done too, shall we go back now?"

"I guess so." I sighed. "We were unable to capture them though, they were way too stubborn on either escaping or dying."

"This level of fanaticism is utterly insane, they're really like those cultists, if not a bit worse." Said Mark.  
"But at the same time, it only makes it feel much more similar to what we're dealing with at Luminous Kingdom's capital."

"Yeah..." Rita nodded. "Huh? Hey, Elayne, look, the elves left this behind, the rest of the body disappeared except for this."

Suddenly, Rita handed me an item whose description I couldn't see, but I could see their name. It was a pitch-black marble, with a red eye painted over it.

The item name was [Black Marble Of The Recessed One].

"A Magic Marble of sorts? But it has no description..." Mark said.

"Yeah, does it work by absorbing Malice like my Orbs?" Rita wondered.

"I don't think it would be that simple, if those guys dropped this, it might be some source of their power. Something that contains it, maybe?" Elena wondered.

"I dunno what it is, but we should return with everyone else!" Lily said.

"Yeah, let's go for now." I nodded, looking at the marble in silence. "Hey, Great Spirit, can you analyze it?"

"On it..."

She quickly started looking into the item's interior and its structure.

"Ah, this thing is not just a simple magic channeling device! It is a special Dimensional Item?! It absorbs and summons the energy from a different Plane into our own." The Great Spirit explained. "Only powerful Spatial Magicians could ever create such a thing! And it seems it might be the source of power for these cultists, I think."

"So that's what it was!" Mark said. "But this is problematic, if they got more, it'll only bring more chaos, we got to tell the researchers about this so they can report it back to the Elders."

"Yeah, I agree!" Lily nodded.

"I suppose." I said. "But... Thinking about it, maybe we should ask them to look for those with Space Attribute Affinity, maybe we could get some clues out of that."

And also, if this is a real item, I could probably use it for myself as well! If I can modify it and use it to channel Power and Energy from my Domain growing back on Earth and also the Verdant Green Domain, I could get a lot of extra strength. However, I would first need to modify it quite a bit.

But for the successor of Hephaestus, that shouldn't be TOO hard, right?

"We're here."

We knocked the door of the researcher's houses, as Mercedes with Brisingra greeted us. They seemed to be alright. I felt relieved nobody attacked them while we were away.

"Oh, welcome you guys! Come in please."

We walked inside, and quickly talked to them about what happened. It was necessary to inform them about everything, even if they were only "recreations" they had minds of their own and seemed as real as anybody else.

"Dammit! Such a thing happened?!" Hermes groaned. "No! But... So you say they were two Ancient Elves and a Divine Dragon? How did they look like?"

"Calm down Hermes, don't pressure them like this out of nowhere!" Cecilia reprimanded him. "They just came out of a huge fight, relax for a bit dude."

"Hahh..." Hermes sighed. "This is getting into my nerves. But Cecilia, you have to take this more seriously. If this is real, then this means there's a whole cult working in the shadows here! And they said they were trying to find salvation from their lord? What kind of bullshit is that?"

"I don't know, but in this world, there's all kind of people. Even if we are long descendants of Gods, that doesn't mean our minds are not prone to be corrupted." Said Elbedo. "There have been plenty of criminals within our society through history. But a cult like this... I suppose this is new. But not like completely impossible and inconceivable.

People that are lost, that try to find salvation in the opposite of what protects us. Trying to perhaps revel against our established society."

"That's... insanity, what's wrong with our society anyways?" Hermes sighed, drinking tea while being really pissed off.

"A lot I would say... But it's not like it really matters in this conversation." Cecilia said. "Though, I have heard many people not being content with the Gods controlling us and always watching over us. Perhaps by allying their greatest enemy, the Demon King, they're trying to somehow change this society?"

"It's strange how they're approaching everything, only through terroristic attacks." Said Mercedes. "I am beginning to think that this might all just be a distraction, just to keep us busy from what they're truly doing in the shadows."

Chapter 959: Exploring The Boundaries Of The Dungeon's World

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This Scenario Dungeon is supposed to not go the way it truly happened in history. We are supposed to change history, to change the ending, in a way. Yet despite what we've done, it feels like things might still progress towards the bad ending. I doubt we'll die or something for getting there, but we might fail the dungeon by itself, and that might frustrate me.

We are already being very active in everything, but we must be even more assertive, and look even more, faster, and much better.

Sadly, after talking with him, Arafunn said he had no memories of what happened aside from a few things, so we were unable to extract much information from him. I attempted to use Dream Magic to see through his soul and memories, but I was unable to do so, as he wasn't real, but a creation, a projection of someone long gone.

So, in other words, we have to somehow look for clues and where everything originates within the restrictions of the Scenario itself, but that only makes me wonder, how far does the scenario go to? Can I, for example, move to the surface below Cloudia?

It feels that, although this Dungeon is telling us to do things according to the scenarios, it is secretly incentivizing us to do things outside the box, more than once too. So, while we were eating breakfast, I used one of my Yggdrasil Avatars and sent it away, very far away.

Using the Skill I inherited from Mimy called [Space-Traversing Eldritch Body], I was able to trespass the magic barrier surrounding the city and then skip through most space, doing short teleports one after another.

Eventually, I was able to cross the endless grasslands, reaching a forest full of Level 300 Monsters, which I had to ignore for now. Then, I kept moving and moving, while I talked with my friends, party, and the researchers about the mysterious marble, I kept moving to Cloudia's end.

I realized just how massive was the Scenario recreation of Cloudia, it was almost insane how accurate, detailed, and immense it was! Did the Scenario recreate a whole world inside a Dungeon?

This only makes me think that this is truly something similar to a Dream Realm, which would then make sense that the World inside the Scenario is so insanely huge.

But at the same time, I couldn't completely feel it that way. It felt like something else, much higher. Probably this Dungeon was fueled by a powerful Divine Relic.

"I've already reached the edge of the continent...?" I felt shocked when I was already by the edge, and there wasn't anything stopping me from moving further. "Alright, here goes nothing, I guess?"

I jumped off without thinking it twice, I wanted to explore the limitations, so I leaped into the surface below Cloudia. The beautiful world of Arcadia opened up to my eyes, the clouds waved rapidly, the wind encompassed my entire body as I fell.

The young Continent of Verdant could be seen from above, the original Yggdrasil Tree was growing strong, spreading its roots everywhere, life flourished beautifully. From afar, I could see a mass of black stone, the Demon King Continent, most likely.

And then to the other side, to the East, I saw a larger continent, even bigger than Verdant! Was this the Eastern Continent?! I wanted to explore it so badly, but I knew it probably had little relevance.

However, I felt something odd from the Demon King Continent, I saw a huge black spiracle growing from the center of it. There was something happening, something big. Yet the people above Cloudia simply had no idea.

But also in the Continent of Verdant there might be something important happening there. And if the young Titania was truly living there, perhaps asking for her help wouldn't be out of this world, right?

"Alright, let's go."

I divided that Yggdrasil Avatar into two smaller ones, one flew towards the Demon King Continent using her dragon wings, and the other kept descending into the Verdant Continent.

Knowing it would take a long time to get there, I simply decided to resume what was happening in Cloudia with the researchers. After what we told them, they started to analyze the marble we found.

If it was some sort of Quest Item, we were sure it would net something, right?

"This Marble's composition is odd, it seems to have been forged with Divine Space Magic and special materials, which none can be found inside of Cloudia." Said Mercedes while using an artifact to analyze it.

"So you're suggesting this came from outside of the damn continent?" Rita asked. "But then, how did it get here?"

"They brought it in here! Somehow... But the security of our city is top-notch, isn't that impossible?" Cecilia wondered.



"It might be possible somehow, maybe if the people in charge of the security are somewhat colluding with these cultists." Said Elbedo. "We'll have to investigate that place then, the area connected to the walls which open to every road of this continent."

"Wait, how about we use the relic to detect where it goes first?" Asked Mark, I nodded at his words.

"Yeah, yeah!" I nodded.

"Very well, let me see." Said Mercedes, using the large eye-shaped item.

The marble and the demon ashes, we decided to look for their origins at the same time. And the results were more surprising than we imagined. The marble, indeed, linked outside of the continent. With my Avatar flying to the Demon Continent, I saw a huge black trail leading there!

And then, the ashes, they linked to the walls, apparently to the ones to the northeast. Indeed, it seemed that the clues we had were in fact, correct.

"The marble links to the Demon King Continent?! It's impossible to go there, sadly..." Hermes sighed. "We would never be allowed to get there, and if we tried, and somehow got there, we would get eaten by the monsters."

"I suppose we can only follow the link left behind in the walls, just as I thought." Elbedo said.

"Yeah, let's go there then." I smiled.

I decided to keep it a secret that I was moving to the Demon King Continent for now.

[Remaining Break Time: 3 Hours: 4 Minutes.]

Chapter 960: Exploring The Prehistoric Verdant Continent

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Ding!

[You've triggered a new Auxiliary Mini Quest: {Find the One That Let The Cultist And their Artifacts Inside the City!}]

[After further investigation and the usage of a special artifact, you've detected that the origin of the demonic ashes comes from the walls!]

[Somehow, someone, had let the cultist enter with their strange artifacts, forged using materials taken from the Demon King Continent. Both the marble and the ashes might come from the same source.]

[Quickly find the culprits within this time frame, before the next scenario completely begins!]

[Completing this Mini Quest might greatly change the outcome of the next Scenario!]

[Quest Conditions]: [Defeat or Capture the targets.]

[Completion Rewards]: [Large Quantity of Score Points.]

[Time Limit]: [Same Time Limit as the Break Time Limit.]

As I saw the new system window pop up, my first divided Yggdrasil Avatar already reached the Continent of Verdant, landing in the middle of a faraway savannah. The tree was perhaps thousands of kilometers away, so even with my space-skipping and flying abilities, it'll take some time to get there.

"It is all recreated perfectly here as well..." I looked around in disbelief. "I don't remember this part of the Continent at all, were there Savannahs in prehistoric times?"

RUMBLE!

However, I was quickly greeted by more company. A huge shadow covered my entire body, as something gigantic loomed above me, glaring down at me with its tiny, yet fierce eyes. It resembled an enormous Golden Lion, with a pair of red horns on top of its head. Its size? Perhaps over thirty meters of height.

[You've been detected by the [Savannah Ancient Lion Lord: Lv330] x1!]

[Careful! Its bite is deadly!]

It's bite? This whole thing is deadly!

"ROOAAARR!"

The giant lion gave a mighty roar, its Aura exuding golden flames everywhere. My little Avatar could have stood its ground and fought but... Not like I was going to do that! That would waste too much time, and a Level 330 monster is way too high! Nope, get me out of here.

"Ahaha... bye!"

POOF!

I moved my small Avatar body to the underground, escaping the lion's blazing claw swipe, which ended leaving a huge crater over the floor. I moved underground, absorbing the plants and roots I found along the way to expand my body and further expand my senses around the continent. There was a lot of raw Spiritual Energy around, mostly due to the giant roots of Yggdrasil.

As long as I can find one root and connect to it, I think I could probably move through it and regrow anew in the tree itself, so I can meet the people in the center of the continent much faster than normal.

Meanwhile, my other Avatar was just about to land on the Demon King Continent, gently reaching the black stone floor. Just as I imagined, this area was also completely recreated, amazingly enough.

"Ahh..."

And the moment I touched the ground, Miasma surged almost endlessly, trying to infect me. I quickly flew high into the air, the black goo extended itself like tentacles, trying to catch me!

"Is every place in these times deadly or is this continent like this from the beginning?!" I wondered, as I tried to escape the Miasmic Tentacles, reaching as high as thirty meters above the ground before they gave up on catching me. "Strange, was that a monster, or this whole continent... Somewhat alive? Like Verdant, but instead of Nature, it's Miasma?"

I kept exploring the surroundings, only to get found out by all kinds of flying monsters. The weakest were Level 280, the strongest I've seen so far were Level 350! This was a nightmare to navigate through! I wished my Avatar the best luck, she had barriers and everything, but even now, I felt like I might not completely make it here.

Leaving the mini adventures of Avatar 1 and Avatar 2, I moved through the city once more with my friends, discussing about the possibilities of what we might find while looking at the system window that had popped up.

"So the same quest again, capture or kill..." Mark sighed. "Let's do our best to capture him this time."

"Yeah, even if we have to break every bone out of their body... As long as they don't die." Rita smiled a bit sadistically.

With the help of Mercedes and their authority, we were able to quickly enter the fortress within the wall's interior, and converse with the General there, a bulky Divine Dragon.

"I see, so such a thing has happened? A traitor?" He wondered.

"Yes, we have a relic that could easily lead us to him, but we would first want to quickly gather them together." Said Mercedes.

"Is it possible to do it without telling them this?" Hermes asked.

"Hmm... I suppose I should, yes, if it has come to this." Sighed the Divine Dragon. "Very well, wait here."

In just fifteen minutes, all the guards gathered in single area, a very large underground training ground. Mercedes wasted no time to activate the relic, a thread of darkness leading to someone hiding behind the rest.

"Why we were called here, captain?"

"Hm? What's that relic?"

"Captain, what's going on right now?"

"Hey, shut up for once and stand still!" The Captain roared.

The thread slowly reached its target, a Majin with blue skin and two small red horns popping from his forehead, alongside long, white hair. It was actually a woman of a rather high beauty, wearing heavy black armor and holding into a spear. She seemed slightly calm and honorable.

However, the moment the thread reached and touched her, her crimson eyes opened wide. She quickly realized this wasn't just another check like always.

"W-What?"

"Why is the thread touching you?"

"Oi..."

The other soldiers quickly walked away from her, as she looked confused, and slowly, panicked. Her heart started racing rapidly, and her spear suddenly charged her Mana and unleashed a beam of darkness.

"A-Ah! Dammit! Already?!" As she cried, she fired the attack without thinking it twice. "You won't catch me alive!"

BOOOM!

I summoned a huge shield made of my Barrier and my Wood, blocking the enormous explosion that blew up half of the surroundings. The ceiling suddenly beginning to fall over us!