An uncharged uninterrupted flight to Hallowfort would still take her about a full day of travel time. Possibly more with monster or storm interruptions that she couldn't ignore. Her charged flight was several times faster though, meaning she could carry a group through the night. Ilea wasn't sure if a single night was enough to reach Tremor but she would simply have to find another spot for the creatures to shelter through the day.

There was a chance for them to meet dangerous monsters but Ilea knew they weren't quite helpless either. The Marks she used would make sure she'd find them, even if they were forced to relocate.

It only took a few hours for them to find a small cavern, only populated by a few Burrow Dragoons.

Ilea simply displaced the monsters outside before she collapsed the entrance, teleporting her allies inside. She deemed them capable of breaking out in the case of an emergency. A quick check made sure there was air coming into the small cavern.

The various creatures remained close to her, not necessarily because they liked her but because the cavern simply didn't allow for a lot of privacy. The thought of them seeking her proximity for safety seemed somewhat absurd to her. In reality, it might very well have been the case.

The Dragoons had understood that Ilea was too much of a monster to challenge but even the Dark Ones could take care of a few of them. In case they decided to return. She hadn't found a nest or eggs, likely indicating that the creatures had simply rested here for a while.

"I'll be out for a while," she said, pointing at herself and towards the rubble. The survivors had been briefed about the northern day and night cycle. They knew about the plan and had agreed.

Ilea blinked outside and moved away a few hundred meters, finding a broader crevice where she built a small fire and sat down.

First to Tremor and if Catelyn allows it, from there to Hallowfort, she thought and summoned a meal.

The plan had worked out so far. It wasn't hugely complicated and mostly relied on the resistance the Dark Ones showed against the lower mana density. Her main fear had been if they still had issues in the north.

If she had to babysit a bunch of nearly dying Dark Ones, the journey would have taken significantly longer. She had decided to help them and she wouldn't just leave them stranded in this unknown and dangerous place.

Ilea took a deep breath, relaxing as the dark storms moved past overhead. *I missed this place*, she thought, enjoying the dish as she once more looked through all the level ups from the past six weeks.

```
'ding' 'Blink reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 30'
'ding' 'Sentinel Sphere reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 30'
'ding' 'Sentinel Huntress reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 10'
'ding' 'Sentinel Huntress reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 11'
```

```
'ding' 'Azarinth Perception reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 29' 'ding' 'Azarinth Perception reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 30' 'ding' 'Azarinth Reversal reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 24' 'ding' 'Ash and Ember Unity reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 29' 'ding' 'Ash and Ember Unity reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 30' 'ding' 'Ashen Wings reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 28' 'ding' 'Ashen Wings reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 29' 'ding' 'Eyes of Ash reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 22' ... 'ding' 'Eyes of Ash reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 24'
```

The first three weeks Ilea hadn't used most of her offensive abilities, focusing on defense and mobility.

With a few open spots for Sentinel Huntress marks, she used them freely on the various spirits, trying to find them again amidst the hordes or after switching between groups.

Each level added another mark, the high level of the creatures or perhaps the distant marks on her allies helping with the skill. Sometimes it even allowed her to damage them without a danger of killing the creatures, having a feel for their remaining health. Amidst the many creatures, this tactic was however difficult to apply.

Every waking hour she spent among the spirit hordes or training with Meadow. The results showed, especially in her third Class.

```
'ding' 'Phaseshift reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> lvl 2'
...
'ding' 'Phaseshift reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> lvl 9'
'ding' 'Flare of Creation reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 2'
'ding' 'Displacement reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 3'
...
'ding' 'Displacement reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 5'
'ding' 'Space Shift reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> lvl 18'
...
'ding' 'Space Shift reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> lvl 20'
```

Ilea had advanced Space Shift as soon as the third tier had become available.

```
'ding' 'Space Shift reaches 3^{rd} lvl 1'

Passive – Space Shift – 3^{rd} lvl 1

Space wields easier for you, allowing you to unravel its mysteries. Teleportation abilities can be
```

used again 70.5% faster [141%] and you can travel 40.5% farther [81%].

2nd stage: Interrupt or stop an enemy teleportation spell within a distance of 20.5m. Cooldown and efficiency is affected by available teleportation spells. You cannot teleport while this skill is active.

3rd stage: Your understanding of space magic grows. You learn to latch on to ongoing teleportation spells with your own teleportation abilities. Long range and channeled teleportation spells have their range doubled and their cooldown as well as cost reduced by half. Category: Space magic

The bonuses to her long range abilities were quite helpful. Both her third tier of Displacement as well as her third tier Blink were affected.

The bonuses applied after all the other multipliers, meaning her third tier Blink could now be used every fifteen or so hours.

'Active: Blink -3^{rd} lvl 30:

Immediately appear at a distant place. Distance based on the level of the skill. 2nd stage: The time between blinks is reduced greatly. No ground contact needed between blinks. 3rd stage: You may set one destination you touch. You may change it every six months [37.34 days]. You may travel to said destination once every three days [14.93h]. Category: Teleportation Magic'

The reduced cost changed her channeling time of the spell from six minutes to three.

Her third tier of Displacement now had a range of about one point eight kilometers and could be used again after just about two minutes. The main benefit were the reduced costs, slashing it from 450 mana per second to 225. The spell actually provided a reasonable breather against several Astral Spirits too stupid to understand what was happening when their spells suddenly vanished right in front of her, just to appear somewhere else.

Ilea had thought the bonuses from her third tier space shift good but not incredible.

The first part of the new third tier had taken her some testing to understand but essentially she could connect either blink or displacement to an ongoing teleportation spell that activated within the range of either of her own abilities.

It meant that if someone used a teleportation ability, she could use either blink or displacement at the same time to be moved alongside whoever cast the spell she latched onto.

Ilea would be moved the same distance as her target. She wouldn't have to guess where they went, nor did she have to watch the lines in space. As long as she attached herself to whoever used a teleportation spell and had one of her abilities ready, she would appear close to where they moved.

The distance and relation to her target would remain the same. If she would have appeared inside of an object, the spell behaved the same way as when she tried to blink into solid matter. She would simply appear outside of whatever solid object was in the way.

Ilea's double teleportation coupled with her reduced cooldowns already made it difficult for anything to get away but now even a longer range wouldn't be enough to flee from her or regroup.

^{&#}x27;ding' 'Body of the Valkyrie reaches 2nd lvl 19' 'ding' 'Body of the Valkyrie reaches 2nd lvl 20'

Passive – Body of the Valkyrie – 3rd lvl 1

The flame of creation flows through your veins, increasing your resilience by 35.5% [319.5%]. Increases your physical damage resistance by 9.1% [81.9%]. Increases your magic damage resistance by 9.1% [81.9%]. You won't be fazed anymore by heavy damage or powerful sources of light and sound.

2nd stage: Your body has withstood incredible damage, endured the hardships of battle. The fires flowing through you have hardened your bones and muscles. Your health is increased by 7.1% [63.9%].

3rd stage: Your ability to adapt to your enemy grows. Continued battle against the same foe increases damage reduction against its attacks by 0.5% [4.5%] per minute to a maximum of a static 50%.

Category: Body enhancement – Space Magic

A minute was long but coupled with her second tier Phaseshift, the new bonuses allowed for much longer battles against the spirits before she had to retreat. The only downside to the newfound defensive power was that it only applied for each foe separately.

If a new Astral Spirit arrived, she took full damage from its attacks until a minute had passed.

Ilea learned that the bonuses applied in a similar way as the second tier of Aspect of Ash. As long as she considered the battle to be ongoing, it would count. Well there were some plain range and time limitations too but they never came into play when she blinked away for a short breather.

The spirits didn't make it easy to test how much of a difference the bonus made practically speaking, due to the continued arrival of more enemies. Ilea knew however that the simple addition would have made it quite a bit harder for Queen Zaiked to pressure her during their battle.

'ding' 'Space Awareness reaches 2nd lvl 9' ...

'ding' 'Space Awareness reaches 2nd lvl 13'

Ilea benefited from the theory taught to her by both Meadow and Michael, the various examples the former could conjure up helping greatly with her increasing awareness.

Contrary to the other spells, Space Awareness leveled more in the third week than in the previous two.

Ilea moved the notifications about her general skills down to the very bottom and read through the second three weeks worth of advancements.

'ding' 'You have defeated [Spirit of Death – Ivl 530] ...

'ding' 'You have defeated [Spirit of Death - Ivl 681]

There were thousands upon thousands of kill notifications. At first it was quite welcome to her that there was an apparently endless number of Death Spirits in Erendar but as time went on, she grew more apprehensive, the gate's closure rising in importance. The fact that she hadn't managed to kill an Astral Spirit so far didn't exactly add to her confidence.

```
'ding' 'The Azarinth Sentinel has reached lyl 368 – Five stat points awarded'
'ding' 'The Azarinth Sentinel has reached lyl 370 – Five stat points awarded – One Core skill
point awarded'
'ding' 'The Azarinth Sentinel has reached lyl 380 – Five stat points awarded – One Core skill
point awarded'
'ding' 'The Azarinth Sentinel has reached lyl 390 – Five stat points awarded – One Core skill
point awarded'
'ding' 'The Azarinth Sentinel has reached lyl 391 – Five stat points awarded'
'ding' 'The Azarinth Sentinel has reached lyl 392 – Five stat points awarded'
'ding' 'The Azarinth Sentinel has reached lyl 393 – Five stat points awarded'
'ding' 'Kin of Ash has reached lvl 368 – Five stat points awarded'
'ding' 'Kin of Ash has reached lyl 370 – Five stat points awarded – One Core skill point awarded'
'ding' 'Kin of Ash has reached lvl 380 – Five stat points awarded – One Core skill point awarded'
'ding' 'Kin of Ash has reached lyl 390 – Five stat points awarded – One Core skill point awarded'
'ding' 'Kin of Ash has reached lvl 391 – Five stat points awarded'
'ding' 'Kin of Ash has reached lvl 392 – Five stat points awarded'
Ilea was pretty sure that her kills awarded more experience the more Astral Spirits were present in
the fray. As time went on, the rewards gradually slowed.
In the last few days, she only managed to level her main Classes once despite an even higher
number of overall kills. Her own rising levels added to the gradually lower rewards.
Her decision to start fighting back in the first place was two fold. In one part, she really did trust
Meadow's information on her leveling. Especially her third Class seemed unlikely to gain another
evolution for quite some time. The second part was her growing familiarity with the Spirits and
their attacks.
The longer she fought without killing any of them, the fewer overall levels she would gain once she
decided to finally fight back.
'ding' 'The Faen Valkyrie has reached lvl 191 – One stat point awarded'
'ding' 'The Faen Valkyrie has reached lyl 200 – One stat point awarded – One Core skill point
awarded'
'ding' 'The Faen Valkyrie has reached lyl 201 – One stat point awarded'
```

'ding' 'The Faen Valkyrie has reached lvl 220 – One stat point awarded – One Core skill point

awarded'

• • •

'ding' 'The Faen Valkyrie has reached lvl 238 – One stat point awarded'

Ilea hoped to get all her third Class skills to the third tier before reaching three hundred in the Class. It turned out that her concerns wouldn't exactly be met by her leveling speed.

```
'ding' 'Absolute Destruction reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 30' 'ding' 'Sentinel Huntress reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 12' 'ding' 'Azarinth Reversal reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 25' 'ding' 'Azarinth Reversal reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 26' 'ding' 'Heart of Cinder reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 29' 'ding' 'Heart of Cinder reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 30' 'ding' 'Storm of Cinders reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 24' ... 'ding' 'Storm of Cinders reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 26' 'ding' 'Ashen Wings reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 30' 'ding' 'Eyes of Ash reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 25' 'ding' 'Eyes of Ash reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 26'
```

Ilea now only had four skills in her main two Classes left to top off.

```
'ding' 'Phaseshift reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> lvl 10'
...
'ding' 'Phaseshift reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> lvl 17'
'ding' 'Flare of Creation reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 3'
...
'ding' 'Flare of Creation reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 5'
'ding' 'Displacement reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 6'
'ding' 'Displacement reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 7'
'ding' 'Space Shift reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 2'
'ding' 'Body of the Valkyrie reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 2'
'ding' 'Body of the Valkyrie reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 3'
'ding' 'Space Awareness reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> lvl 14'
...
'ding' 'Space Awareness reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> lvl 20'
```

Ilea found most of her third Class skills somewhat simple to level, the spells widely and constantly usable against the enemy hordes and their spells. Phaseshift got close but would need to see some more use to reach the end of the second tier.

Space Awareness was the obvious outlier. She doubted it would have been possible to get to the end of the second tier even with a year of training on her own. And still, she found it the only skill in her third Class that she couldn't immediately advance to tier three once it hit the previous cap.

It was a little frustrating but hardly an issue, knowing that the overall growth from the one and a half months surpassed most of her previous training endeavors.

Compared to her times in Iztacalum, Tremor or the Descent, it didn't quite feel like she was a lower leveled human hunting powerful monsters. She was more a misclassified creature punching well above her supposed weight, obviously more than strong enough to face the spirits. The levels would equalize in time as she continued to kill beings that were supposed to be far beyond her own power.

Her main benefits came not from her level gains or evolutions but simply from skill advancements both in her main Classes and in her third and additional one.

Meadow categorized her at the raw power of a level five to six hundred monster, with added sapience and an incredible variety of abilities that let her face creatures at seven to eight hundred.

She finished the break by checking the accumulated General skill levels from her time in Erendar.

'ding' 'Deviant of Humanity reaches lvl 17'

. . .

'ding' 'Deviant of Humanity reaches lvl 20'

'ding' 'Deviant of Humanity reaches 2nd lvl 1'

Deviant of Humanity – 2nd lvl 1

You face creatures most other humans have nightmares about, call beings your friends that occupy the pages of legends told by your kind. You have reached a level of power that few humans will ever call their own. And yet you push onward, knowing of the dangers that wait in the dark. You anticipate them. Welcome them. Those who would dismiss you may now take notice, should you wish for them to do so.

 2^{nd} stage: You remain human at your core but your actions have pushed you beyond the limitations of your species. Inspire terror in the hearts of your own kind or those who would dismiss humanity, should you wish to do so. The status of a predator among its prey will be evident by your very presence.

The new ability felt a little like a more subdued Monster Hunter that was however active at all times.

Ilea couldn't freeze lower leveled people with this power but they wouldn't mistake her for something she wasn't. Not even the densest motherfucker out there.

She left it off most of the time, her reputation and ashen looks making quite enough of an impression already.

'ding' 'Gourmet reaches lvl 3'

'ding' 'Identify reaches lyl 17'

```
'ding' 'Meditation reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 10'
'ding' 'Monster Hunter reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 6'
'ding' 'Oxygen Repository reaches lvl 15'
...
'ding' 'Oxygen Repository reaches lvl 18'
'ding' 'Sage of Torment reaches lvl 19'
'ding' 'Sage of Torment reaches lvl 20'
'ding' 'Sage of Torment reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> lvl 1'
```

Sage of Torment – 2^{nd} lvl 1

You have reached strength through pain and struggle. With time they have become companions on your way to power. As long as you train those willing, they shall find comfort and resilience in your presence. You are an example of what is possible, through sheer tenacity. Also, you inflict a lot of pain.

2nd stage: You neither care for the species nor the home realm of your pupils, pushing them beyond what they imagined possible, or bearable. You gain insight into the development of your pupils' resistances, allowing you to mercilessly abuse any weaknesses and blockades. To better their abilities of course. Definitely that. No joy involved at all.

Ilea didn't actually gain the ability to see resistance levels but she gained a better idea of how to apply damage for the best result. The effects were much higher when she was the one actually dealing said damage. She could still offer some pointers to Meadow on how much it should push certain individuals but it wasn't quite as efficient.

```
'ding' 'Veteran reaches 3<sup>rd</sup> lvl 9'
```

```
'ding' 'Astral Magic Resistance reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> lvl 2'
...
'ding' 'Astral Magic Resistance reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> lvl 20'
'ding' 'Death Magic Resistance reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> lvl 15'
...
'ding' 'Death Magic Resistance reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> lvl 20'
'ding' 'Space Magic Resistance reaches 3<sup>nd</sup> lvl 3'
'ding' 'Space Magic Resistance reaches 3<sup>nd</sup> lvl 4'
'ding' 'Wood Magic Resistance reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> lvl 4'
...
'ding' 'Wood Magic Resistance reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> lvl 14'
```

Ilea managed to convince Meadow to add a little bit of Resistance training, the only schools she could currently level with the alien being were Wood and Space.

She checked her full status, summoning some ale when the storm had moved past, sunlight shining down on her once again.

Name: Ilea Spears

Unspent statpoints: 303

Unspent Core skill points: 30

Unspent 3rd tier General skill points [1862 Total skill levels]: 2

Class 1: The Azarinth Sentinel – lvl 393

- Active: Absolute Destruction 3rd lvl 30
- Active: Sentinel Reconstruction 3rd lvl 30
- Active: Azarinth Awakening 3rd lvl 30
- Active: Blink 3rd lvl 30
- Active: Sentinel Sphere 3rd lvl 30
- Passive: Sentinel Core 3rd lvl 30
- Passive: Azarinth Fighting 3rd lvl 30
- Passive: Sentinel Huntress 3rd lvl 12
- Passive: Azarinth Perception 3rd lvl 30
- Passive: Azarinth Reversal 3rd lvl 26

Class 2: Kin of Ash – lvl 392

- Active: Armor of Ash 3rd lvl 30
- Active: Aspect of Ash 3rd lvl 30
- Active: True Ash Creation 3rd lvl 30
- Active: Heart of Cinder 3rd lvl 30
- Active: Storm of Cinders 3rd lvl 26
- Passive: Ash and Ember Unity 3rd lvl 30
- Passive: Ashen Wings 3rd lvl 30
- Passive: Eyes of Ash 3rd lvl 26
- Passive: Avatar of Ash 3rd lvl 30
- Passive: Keeper of Ash 3rd lvl 30

Class 3: The Faen Valkyrie – lvl 238

- Active: Phaseshift 2nd lvl 17
- Active: Flare of Creation 3rd lvl 5
- Active: Displacement 3rd lvl 7
- Passive: Space Shift 3rd lvl 2
- Passive: Body of the Valkyrie 3rd lvl 3
- Passive: Space Awareness 2nd lvl 20

General Skills:

- Dancing Ivl 3
- Deviant of Humanity 2nd lvl 1
- Elos Standard language lvl 6
- English Language lvl 15
- Gourmet Ivl 3
- Harmony of the Drowned lvl 9
- Heavy Archery lvl 11
- Identify lvl 17

- Meditation 3rd lvl 10
- Monster Hunter 3rd lvl 6
- Oxygen Repository lvl 18
- Sage of Torment 2nd lvl 1
- Soul Perception lvl 5
- Teaching Ivl 3
- Veteran 3rd lvl 9
- Warhammer Mastery Ivl 9
- Arcane Magic Resistance 3rd lvl 17
- Ash Magic Resistance lvl 1
- Astral Magic Resistance 2nd lvl 20
- Blast Resistance 3rd lvl 1
- Blight Resistance 2nd lvl 1
- Blood Magic Resistance 3rd lvl 9
- Blood Manipulation Resistance 2nd lvl 20
- Bone Magic Resistance 2nd lvl 6
- Corrosion Resistance 2nd lvl 20
- Crystal Resistance 2nd lvl 14
- Curse Resistance 2nd lvl 20
- Dark Magic Resistance 2nd lvl 6
- Death Magic Resistance 2nd lvl 20
- Devour Resistance 2nd lvl 6
- Diamond Magic Resistance 2nd lvl 3
- Divination Magic Resistance Ivl 7
- Dust Magic Resistance lvl 6
- Earth Magic Resistance 2nd lvl 20
- Emerald Magic Resistance 2nd lvl 1
- Fear Resistance lvl 11
- Flesh Magic Resistance lvl 8
- Gravity Magic Resistance 2nd lvl 20
- Health Drain Resistance 2nd lvl 20
- Heat Resistance 3rd lvl 7
- Ice Resistance 2nd lvl 20
- Lava Magic Resistance 3rd lvl 1
- Light Magic Resistance 3rd lvl 1
- Lightning Resistance 3rd lvl 5
- Mana Drain Resistance 2nd lvl 20
- Mental Resistance 3rd lvl 5
- Mist Magic Resistance 2nd lvl 20
- Obsidian Magic Resistance lvl 3
- Pain Tolerance 3rd lvl 3
- Poison Resistance 3rd lvl 2
- Rot Resistance 2nd lvl 5
- Ruby Magic Resistance lvl 14
- Sand Magic Resistance 2nd lvl 20
- Sapphire Magic Resistance lvl 13
- Silver Magic Resistance lvl 1
- Smoke Magic Resistance 2nd lvl 3

- Soul Magic Resistance 2nd lvl 3
- Sound Magic Resistance lvl 18
- Space Magic Resistance 3rd lvl 4
- Stamina Drain Resistance 2nd lvl 20
- Time Magic Resistance 2nd lvl 20
- Topaz Magic Resistance lvl 18
- Vine Magic Resistance lvl 14
- Void Magic Resistance 3rd lvl 2
- Water Resistance 3rd lvl 1
- Wind Resistance 3rd lvl 2
- Wood Magic Resistance 2nd lvl 14

Status:

Vitality: 995
Endurance: 420
Strength: 515
Dexterity: 425
Intelligence: 900
Wisdom: 1000

Health:16487/16487Stamina:3992/4200Mana:19837/20000