

Ark Vol 4 Chapter 1

Giran Magic Institute

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Find the Heartsoul Bead!

Difficulty: ??

Quest Restriction: Within the top 50 for contribution in the Hero Assembly quest. At least 50 Friendship with the Magic Institute.

'The rest are the sword and helmet... Dammit, this is as hard as choosing between black bean noodles and spicy seafood ramen. But even if they both have magic effects on them, it's way harder and more expensive to acquire a weapon than armor. My ultimate objective is to sell it in the auction anyways, so if I had to choose between the two, it'd have to be the sword. Alright, I've decided. Huhuhu, now, how awesome an item will it be...'

[T/N: Black bean noodles and spicy seafood ramen are very common Chinese-style foods in Korea.]

Deadly Poison Preparation Tome (Rare)

The quest 'Magic Institute's Reward' has been completed.

- The tome 'Deadly Poison Preparation' has been digested within Alamone Larvae.

Alamone Larvae's metamorphosis has been completed successfully.

Poison Alamone

The Poison Alamone has the special ability of producing deadly poison inside its body by refining poisonous plants. However, the Alamone cannot use the deadly poison itself. In exchange, it will temporarily add a deadly poison effect if applied to any kind of weapon belonging to the summoner.

The number of uses and additional effects of the deadly poison will differ depending on the kind of poisonous plant. In addition, it will be able to refine poisonous plants of higher grades as the skill grows, and deadly poison of a higher grade will have an increased number of uses and greater effects.

However, Alamone currently only has one skill slot. Only one skill can be loaded. In order to use the item storage function, the deadly poison skill must be removed and the item storage function must be reloaded. Skill swapping is possible at any time if there were no items being stored inside the Alamone's

body.

Race

Creature of the Netherworld

Alignment

Dark

Class

—

Health

Loyalty

—

Strength

—

Agility

—

Stamina

—

Wisdom

—

Intelligence

—

Luck

—

* Usable Skills: Item Storage, Deadly Poison Preparation

*Currently Loaded Skill: Deadly Poison (Beginner, Passive)

'Huh?'

Ark read the message with a dazed expression. It felt like he had been hit in the back of the head with a hammer. Come to think of it, why hadn't he thought of that? The easiest way to learn a skill was obviously a tome. But he had just thought there would be some kind of special method at the words "metamorphosis"— he hadn't been able to think of tomes, the most sensible option.

"You... you knew that tome was Deadly Poison?"

Snake nodded with uneasy eyes.

'So that's how it was. That's why Snake was being so annoying in the repository.'

Only then did Ark grasp the gist of the situation. Well yeah, there was no way Snake would have disobeyed him without a reason when Snake considered him its parent. He was certain that Snake had known instinctively that the tome was an item it needed as soon as it discovered it. If he thought about the actions Snake had shown him thus far, what happened afterwards was obvious. It had probably thought that it could be useful even in battle if it swallowed the tome. That's why it had prepared to be cursed and had gulped down the tome. Because it was Snake. Ark could guess that because it was Snake.

'Goodness gracious. I can't even thoughtlessly scold it since its intention is way too obvious...'

Ark stood up with a severe expression. "Alright. I said I would forgive you, so let's just say this didn't happen. It seems to all appearances like a useful skill, but next time you can't eat anything without my permission again. Understood?"

After saying it, it really seemed like something a parent would tell their child.

Hiss hiss, hiss hiss hiss!

Snake nodded in quick succession as it wrapped itself around Ark's waist and charmingly rubbed itself on him.

In the end, Ark dropped the charges on Snake. He was particularly weak towards Snake.

'I can't hate it because its like this.'

At that, the Dedric who had been on the verge of tears when Snake had become strange soon burst out in complaint. "Che! What's with the discrimination! When I did something bad, you beat me up like crazy for several days and nights..."

"So that's why I'm telling you to behave properly at all times."

"What did I do?! Is there a Familiar as nice as me?"

"Are you going to keep talking back? You're starting to feel hungry, I see?"

"Ah, Master. Who said anything? Skull, was it you? Did you defy Master?"

Clack clack, cla-cla-clack!

Skull stared at Dedric with pitying eyes, as if saying 'why did you act up if you were going to just dig your own grave like that.'

At any rate, he had paid a big price and Snake's metamorphosis had ended with this.

'Let's hurry and get out of here. I feel like there's just going to be more foolishness if we stay here. I'll know how useful the Deadly Poison skill is after I check it, but what's done is done, so let's just cleanly forget it.'

Ark recalled Skull and Dedric and left the Magic Institute.

"Selling level 40-60 items cheaply! Buying accessories!"

"I'm seriously quitting the game today. I'm taking care of my items so use this chance to get your equipment."

"Recruiting party members who will stay up all night with us. Two spots left. Cleric wanted!"

"Seeking level 70 merc! Payment will be determined later!"

As soon as Ark left the Magic Institute, he was greeted by the sounds of the main street. Hundreds of players were using Shout to do business or look for parties, so it was a complete uproar. But for Ark, who had no interest in shopping for items or parties, it didn't matter.

'Alright, now what?'

Ark summed up the situation as he went through the market. The quests Ark currently had were « Find New Settlers » and « Find the Heartsoul Bead ». And although it didn't have anything to do with the quests, he had to find the Three Marvels. But he still had too little information to seek the Three Marvels, and he'd have to spend a lot of time finding settlers for the quest. In that case, there was only one thing he could do right now.

Hunt down the thief gang around Giran to solve the Magic Institute's quest.

'The problem is where to start...'

Having opened up the map, he couldn't tell where to go. Simply put, it would be in Giran's vicinity. Giran was 3-4 times larger than Jackson. Naturally, the area that could be called Giran's vicinity was just as big.

From the Brandt Mountains in the North and all the way to the Argus Mountains in the South, all of it was within Giran's vicinity. It was near impossible to find the thief gang in such a large area. Even so, he couldn't just grab an NPC and ask them, either...

'Might there not be a way to easily find out the location of the thief gang?'

He was able to find that method surprisingly easily.

The answer was the message board placed in one side of the square. Information about the nearby villages or events were posted on the message board. However, it played another role besides that. Information about Chaotic players or thief NPCs with bounties on their heads! He had just passed by that information until now because of his lack of interest. Perhaps because Giran was a large city, the message board was 3-4 times larger than normal. Also, the information was managed separately in categories like Trade, Regional, and Event.

Ark searched the board where the WANTED bounty posters were put up.

'Are these all the WANTED bounty criminals?'

Dozens of wanted posters with bounties were filling up the large board.

'Eh? This guy is...?'

Ark was able to find an unexpected face among the wanted.

Leo (Foreigner)

Area last seen : Grey Ridge

Difficulty: ???

Bounty: 40 Gold

Bounty payer : Bambino (Foreigner)

The Grey Axe Gang (Group)

Place last seen: Near Rodellin Village in northwestern Giran.

Difficulty: E

Bounty: 15 Gold.

Bounty payer: Giran Guard.

The Silver Arrow (Group)

Difficulty: F

Bounty: 10 Gold

Bounty payer: Giran Guard.

- A new bountied criminal has been registered in your information window.

You have participated in bounty hunting for the first time.

Ark's current Hunter Rank is —.

Ark's life in Giran began.