

## O Summoner 101

### Chapter 101 - Asterion

Asterion did not know why it was born as his mother was horrified when she saw him. His father also did not even acknowledge him when he came out of his mother's wound. At a young age, he was trapped in a labyrinth made by his own father as normal swords could not pierce him and he did not have the courage to kill the young Asterion.

When he was trapped in the labyrinth, he cursed the world for his misfortune but he knew deep inside that there was an entity that wants him to rampage. He detected this entity when he wallowed in great anguish due to being unable to escape the labyrinth. Due to being born as a minotaur, he outlived his parents and grew to like the isolation he has experienced.

Asterion did not blame his parents for abandoning him because he knew that if they did not then he would be killed eventually by "people blinded by justice". He would also bring the downfall of his parents and siblings as they could wage war with the fact that their kingdom was harboring a monster. At the very least he was given a name which he held dear. His name also means "starry" which he liked as he gazed upon the night sky full of stars.

Years passed and Asterion got visited by one of his injured siblings due to the sudden invasion of a neighboring kingdom. His sibling managed to reach Asterion but still died due to his injuries. Asterion filled with rage as this was the sibling that once wandered into the labyrinth and talked to Asterion even though that sibling was scared at first. He became Asterion's first friend and would visit him from time to time.

He held his brother in his dying arms before seeing the soldiers of the invading nation that chased his brother to this destination. Filled with rage, Asterion pulverized the soldiers into paste and tore them limb from limb. When his blind rage ended, he saw what he did and cried. He then saw his brother's dead body and buried it in the garden that he tended himself. This was Asterion's most painful memory and deepest regret as he was not even able to help his family as he could not get out of the labyrinth.

Years has passed once again and adventurers started flooding Asterion's labyrinth because of the rumor that the fallen kingdom's treasure was hidden there. There are those who tried to enter through flight but was instead met with a barrier and failed in their efforts. All those who entered deep into labyrinth though had one thing in common and that is they all died.

The adventurers who entered and saw Asterion immediately attacked him because they mistook him for a monster and a monster he became. Asterion killed all those who dare trespass his labyrinth and those who attack him. He became a monster and the labyrinth was designated as a danger zone by the adventurers.

Asterion once again in isolation and without company wallowed in his sorrow. Until one day, a certain mage visited him and started a conversation with him. This was a refreshing feeling to Asterion who always get attacked immediately. The man introduced himself as Cristobal and told Asterion that he could free him from this labyrinth if Asterion wanted.

Asterion first rejected the offer because he did not want to leave the place that his parents have given him. Cristobal was not disheartened and repeatedly visited Asterion and even brought him gifts to 'tame the wild beast' according to him. Until one day, Asterion grew to like Cristobal's company but he made Cristobal make a spell to that will preserve his labyrinth garden.

Cristobal accepted the offer and made sure that the garden will never die and will always bloom beautifully. It was then Asterion left the labyrinth with Cristobal in a smiling face. Never did thought that the smile he saw that day was more poisonous than a hydra's venom.

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The Free Wraith-kun party tried their best to apply damage to Asterion and try to redirect the aggro towards them but it did not work. The good news is that due to Adrian's consistent dodging with the newly summoned sword Psyche Armament second skill Twin Fang Form, they managed to bring down Asterion's health to 70%.

Another piece of good news is that Asterion had been afflicted with the bleeding status thanks to Sirius continuously attacking him. Asterion was losing percentage health points per second even though it was only 0.1% health per second. With Adrian using the Twin Fang form of the sword Psyche Armament, he could easily dodge the axe swings and charge attacks.

Asterion was swinging his giant axe in a disorderly manner due to being not in the right mind as his mind was broken by Cristobal. Asterion is just another overpowered boss due to him not having the right sanity. He could still use skills but his axe technique was sloppy and he only swung it using brute force and no battle techniques.

Adrian and Vayu were weaving through the battle field and striking the lower body of Asterion as minotaurs are notorious for their weakness in their lower body. They have great upper body strength but could be easily brought down by weakening their lower body. Adrian was continuously ramping up the damage he dealt by dodging with only a slight margin and striking back.

Enemies or any player in general that wields a large axe has a fatal flaw and that is the huge backswing. Although, the upside is that axe users deal tremendous amount of damage due to it being a heavy weapon. Adrian and Vayu used the huge backswing as a timeframe to attack. Vayu now had wind coating his body like an aura due to it as his attacks becomes faster, the more he hits Vayu.

Whenever Adrian or Vayu would almost get hit, Kanlaon and Soleil will attack Asterion on the head with concentrated fire attacks which would cancel the upcoming attack from the minotaur. Little by Little, the party was now having great team play. Adrian and Vayu was moving so elegantly that it would seem they are performing a sword dance.

If Asterion would almost hit Adrian, Vayu would release a small twister to knock him back a little. If Asterion would strike at Vayu, Adrian would launch a Soul Searing Crescent Wave to disorient the minotaur. Of course, Asterion would manage to get a hit sometimes and that is where Saena would heal whoever is low in health to acceptable levels.

The party was getting their momentum going and finally they manage to drop Asterion's health to 50%. A shock wave was then released with Asterion in the epicenter and blew the party by a few

meters. Asterion's body then glowed in a dark violet and white light and another Asterion appeared beside him. The other Asterion was not a carbon copy of the minotaur but was like an astral body.

The astral body looked like it was a constellation that came down from the sky. It had Asterion's form but not his weapon which means it would have another function. The astral body then charged towards the nearest party member which was Vayu. Vayu was about to strike at it when he just passed through at it and then the astral body did a stomp at the ground.

[Party Member Vayu has been put to deep sleep.]

[Asterion is about to use Seismic Slam.]

Adrian was horrified by the notification because deep sleep was different than regular sleep as it would take a great deal of effort to wake up and he only had one potion to cleanse it. But more importantly, if the system was warning them of the attack then it would deal devastating damage that could probably one shot somebody. Adrian immediately used his Blink skill to get close to Vayu. Adrian grabbed Vayu and was about to use another Blink when he saw a red shock wave coming towards them.

Adrian immediately used his Blink in panic because the shock wave was going towards them in fast motion. The two managed to get away but the wall that the shock wave hit was damaged. The wall made of muscle became blue in color and stopped pulsating as if it died.

Adrian then told Kanlaon to carry Vayu for the moment as he was unable to battle due to the status. Adrian was sure it would be dispelled in a few minutes but he and Sirius would have to distract the boss for that duration. Adrian looked at the shroud buff and saw that there were only thirty minutes left before it ends and if that happens it could mean the worst case scenario.

Adrian then decided to use his domain skill as there was no other way to win the fight if he did not use it despite not knowing its full effects.

"Nether Domain" Adrian said and when he said that it was as if three more of Adrian's voice said it with him.

Chapter 102 - Nether Domain

"Nether Domain"

When Adrian said those words, the surrounding temperature became very cold as if it was below zero. White mist started enveloping the area and then gray smoke followed as if it would devour the mist but it did not. Adrian's core glowed brighter as it was exposed due to the huge V that his armor's style has. The flame that was burning on his horns was getting brighter that it formed a crown of fire on top of Adrian's head'

The aura around Adrian also change as he became even more powerful and he could feel it (It's over 9,000! LoL!). System notifications popped out in his vision to say that he has powered up.

[You have summoned a part of the Nether World unto the mortal realm.]

[Your stats would be doubled during the duration of the skill Nether Domain]

[The dungeon boss 'Asterion' has been afflicted by Paranoia. All his skill shots will be miss its targets by 50%.]

[The Astral Body of Asterion has been recalled due to it not being protected from the effects of Nether Domain.]

[The elementals are afraid of your domain and cannot use their power due to this.]

Adrian's body also exuded a sort of shadowy or smoky black aura that made him look as more demonic. Asterion even became slightly afraid but it was only for a second before he became feral. Asterion charged towards Adrian with even greater force as its body was coated by a red aura like it did before. Adrian combined the two blades once again and activated Geoforce to enlarge his double-edge sword.

Adrian's main worry was the astral body but due to him summoning the domain, he managed to expel it and return it back to Asterion. Adrian charged towards Asterion and he was shocked because he was twice as fast as he was before. He crashed towards Asterion instead of attacking him using his enlarged sword since he still has not adjusted to his current speed.

Adrian was expecting to get damaged by the crash but he manage to use his enlarged sword to absorb the blow. He was expecting to get knocked back but was surprised that it was Asterion who was knocked away.

[You have dealt 5,758 damage to the Distorted Labyrinth dungeon boss Asterion.]

Adrian was smiling because the damage he dealt was massive even if it was just a half-baked attack. Asterion got up and roared as it once again charged recklessly towards Adrian as if it was in a crazed state. Adrian used the Soul Searing Crescent Wave to hit Asterion and the latter just charged right through it eating the damage.

Adrian managed to deal 5% of Asterion's health points by himself in under three seconds. Soleil who was watching this was dumbfounded and amazed but also quite ashamed. She was getting carried by the kind big brother that they had just met. She could not be blamed as when she tried formulating skills the elementals would not listen to her because they were afraid of what big brother Equinox did.

Although the elementals could not be damaged by normal means since they are a force of nature themselves that did not mean they could not be deterred. Take the corrupted elementals for example as they could be seen as elementals that fell from grace since they now had a health bar. Soleil could only keep her father safe as the deep sleep status effect was still affecting him.

Adrian the started becoming more and more aggressive as he would charge towards Asterion. He would bombard him with slashing attacks that would always knock Asterion back by a few feet. Adrian then decided to finish it early as he ordered Sirius and Kanlaon to join the battle and just spam their skills on Asterion until he wears out or dies.

Adrian rammed towards Asterion and even manage to knock him down. When Asterion was knocked down, Adrian did not relent as he would continue the onslaught of attacks towards the dungeon boss. In about a few seconds, Asterion's roars turned into cries as he could not bear with the attacks that he was receiving.

Soleil who watched this was a bit scared but still amazed at what this awesome big brother was doing. She would have been just amazed if she did not see the grin that big brother Equinox had

plastered on his face. She thought to herself, "Maybe big brother was destined to become a demon or something. If normal kids saw this they would think that big brother was the villain instead of being the hero."

Asterion's body that would be rarely seen cut became battered with bruises and sword cuts as he was even struggling to stand back up. Every time that Asterion would stand back up, Adrian would kick him in the chin to force him back down and he would due to Adrian's doubled strength. To make matters worse, Adrian would use his Nether Energy to empower his attacks because of a certain notification.

[You have unlimited Nether Energy when inside the Nether Domain.]

This was the real reason this skill was busted as Adrian empowered during the duration of the Nether Domain but there was also a backlash.

[Your body cannot handle using too much Nether Energy. You receive 20% health as damage every time you get a backlash.]

It would seem that the game still needed to balance him out as a precaution because if Adrian who had double stats and could empower himself by 100% then he would be unbeatable. There would probably a riot the next day at Atlas Inc.'s headquarters the next day. Adrian was ok with this as he has a reliable healer called Saena that could not heal 0.5% health points every second due to her "Breath of the Magpie" that is considered her basic attack.

In conclusion, Adrian was extremely broken when he summons the Nether Domain. He would probably get a penalty after the duration which is why he was using risky plays just to deal with Asterion. There was only three seconds left and Asterion still had 10% health points left. Adrian then used the third skill of his sword Psyche Armament 'Soul Avenger'.

A giant sword the same as the one Adrian is carrying materialized on top of Asterion and it plunged down towards his body. A mixture of blue, black and white lights flooded the area and blinded those inside the room.

[You have successfully defeated the dungeon boss of the Distorted Labyrinth "Asterion".]

Adrian panted as his stamina gauge dropped to danger levels and the Nether Domain disappeared when the giant sword came down. Vayu also woke up and saw the mess that was in front of him. Vayu asked his daughter on what happened and the words she spoke was, "Big Brother happened".

Sirius and Kanlaon could also be seen as incredibly fatigued and could no longer stand up due to continuous attacks that rapidly drains stamina. Sirius even used his 'Ragnarok' skill but it was somehow diffused by the amulet that Asterion was wearing which is why Asterion was not beaten faster.

[You have gained experience points.]

[Player Equinox has leveled up.]

[Party member Soleil has leveled up.]

[Party member Vayu has leveled up.]

[Sirius has leveled up]

[Kanlaon has leveled up.]

[Saena has leveled up.]

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Adrian leveled up three times due to the massive experience points he received as well as his soulbounds. Soleil and Vayu also successfully leveled up but only once. Adrian sealed Sirius and Kanlaon as they could no longer maintain standing as they pushed themselves too hard. A few seconds after defeating Asterion, an altar or shrine began to emerge beneath them.

The muscle floor sort of burst it out as if defeating Asterion was the pre-requisite to make it show itself. Adrian instructed the two to pick up the loot as he still has to finish his quest. There was still also twenty minutes left before shroud wears off so he was happy. He then examined the item located at the middle of the shrine or podium.

Item: Orb of Torture

Tier: Legendary

Function: An orb created using forbidden alchemy and parts of deceased dark gods. It can be used to trap spirits of any kind be it elemental, beast or human. A higher tier of the Orb of Torture can even seal demi-god entities for at least a whole day. The trapped individual would feel as if their soul is torn to pieces a thousand time a second.

The apparition of the wraith once again and told Adrian, "I am currently trapped in that orb. I managed to weaken it a bit but it can only be broken through external force. It might be difficult to escape from the inside but it is fragile on the outside which is why he kept it locked inside a shock resistant place."

Adrian was about to break the ball but he suddenly heard a creepy sounding voice from behind him.

"I did not know we were expecting guests."

Chapter 103 - The Mad Warlock Appears

"I did not know we were expecting guests" a voice that had a chilling tone was heard by the party members.

They all looked towards the source of the voice that behind them and saw a man. The man was wearing a black hood that had raven feathers attached to the robes' shoulder area. He wore trinkets made of different bones and body parts on his waist area. When Vayu and Soleil looked at the man's face they saw a handsome face of someone who was in his thirties or forties but when Adrian looked at him he saw the man's true face.

The man's true face was that of an old man with deep eye sockets and his hair looked like it was falling off as he was almost bald because his head had only strands on it. He looked like the old man you see in horror movies that warns you of danger because he himself has survived it. His lips were also pale that it almost blended in with the skin in his head area.

The man also had a scepter on hand with a red gem that is grasped by claws. What Adrian was thinking deeply about is that the soul of the man in front was burning brightly despite his old age but his soul was blacker than sooth. His soul felt like it was corrupted and when Adrian looked at his surrounding, he could see the same black aura.

"Did he devour the heart of a Dark God?" Adrian paled when he thought about it as there was a less likely chance that they could escape.

Name: Cristobal Graedig (Legendary NPC)

Titles: Mad Warlock, Devourer of a Dead God, Madman, Torturer....

Level: 250

HP: ?, ???,???/ ?, ???,???

MP: ?, ???,???/ ?, ???,???

Description: A man who used to be a royal mage of a glorious kingdom but was driven mad by his thirst for the knowledge to cast the ultimate magic. He betrayed his kingdom for some forbidden tomes and the information on past magical cities. He stumbled upon the heart of a dark god and proceeded to use for experiments and even consumed some of it himself.

Adrian paled when he saw Cristobal's status as one of his titles included Torturer. Adrian did not want to find out what would happen if they were captured as it brings shivers just imagining it. He then got a message in the party chat.

"Young lad, can you see the status of that mage in front of us?" Vayu asked.

Adrian quickly replied using a screenshot and when Vayu saw the status he paled. He then asked if Adrian had a way to escape but Adrian said that only he could use the teleportation scroll as it was only for single use. When Vayu heard that, he made his resolve and said.

"Go and escape this place. We will manage just fine on our own" Vayu said but Adrian did not believe it.

"It seems we have an interesting assortment of people here. A demon and two individuals blessed by different Elemental Kings. It seems it is a good trade for the life of that worthless minotaur." Cristobal said with a grin.

Cristobal then saw the apparition of the wraith and his grin even became wider, "I see. So you led them here. It seems that the orb cannot fully seal an Elemental King even if it was weakened."

When Cristobal said that, the rest of the party was shocked. They never imagined that the wraith that appeared before them was actually a pinnacle existence that guaranteed the stability of the world. After Cristobal revealed that information, the quest that was given by the wraith was updated.

[The quest 'Free Me from Bondage' has been changed to 'Escape from Cristobal'.]

\*Escape from Cristobal\*

Cristobal who was away from his nefarious labyrinth managed to learn that intruders have invaded his playground. The signal was released when the trinket to protect Asterion from deadly damage was broken.

Clear Conditions:

a.) Break the orb and release the Elemental King to escape with your whole party.

b.) Escape by yourself and find a way to free the Elemental king. (Will generate another quest to free your captive party members.)

Failure:

a.) Be trapped inside the Distorted Labyrinth until you get rescued. Cristobal will gain knowledge on worldly energies and ascend to becoming a Sorcerer Supreme. (Cannot access game if you are trapped.)

b.) Your party members will lose a level each week that they are not rescued.

Reward: Unknown

Adrian then tried clutching the orb as it was said to be fragile but no matter what strength he used, the orb did not even generate a crack. Adrian even used his remaining essences to empower his strength stat but the result was still the same. Cristobal who saw what Adrian was doing laughed as he had guessed what the little demon was doing.

"It is futile! That orb might be fragile but it is only fragile to people that are ranked the same as it." Cristobal said as if he was enjoying teasing his new toys.

Adrian who heard that was not dismayed but rather thankful as now he has an idea on how to destroy the orb. He was now planning on how he will get Cristobal to attack the orb because just throwing it at him would not work at all since he was a Legendary named NPC.

"As you may see, I am Cristobal Graedig. That is enough for an introduction then let us begin the experiments." Cristobal said as he tapped his scepter on the ground and some muscle fiber started binding the three party members and even Saena.

[You are being trapped by the Distorted Labyrinth.]

They were now in a predicament so Adrian told them in the party chat to create a diversion and annoy Cristobal. Due to the Nether Domain not being active anymore, Soleil could now form spells as the fire elementals near her are no longer scared. She then poured all her remaining mana into her stuffed toy. The red lion started becoming bigger and bigger until it became the size of a real lion.

"Go Regu-chan! Fight that bully!" Soleil ordered.

Adrian was amazed on what Soleil did and peeked at the red lion with a flaming mane.

Name: Regulus

Race: Elemental

Species: Medium Fire Elemental

Description: Medium Fire Elementals are stronger elementals with higher persona than lesser fire elementals. They could control their respective element more in depth compared to their lesser counterpart and have their weaknesses decreased. They would not be easily countered even by their elemental counterpart with the same persona.



Vayu then activated the hidden skill that he received from the Elemental King. His sword sheath started glowing and sucked all of the air in the room and even from the outside as the hole was still present but not the stairway. When the sheath finally glowed in green light, he held his sword and uttered, "Typhoon Iaijutsu".

A massive swirling vortex of air was released and headed towards Cristobal. Regulus' mane lit up more vigorously and he started spewing fire towards Cristobal. The one receiving the attacks, Cristobal, was not even fazed and he even had an annoyed look painted on his face.

"A mere waste of effort." Cristobal said as tendrils made of muscle sprouted from the ground and cancelled the attacks incoming towards it by whacking the elements as if they were solid objects.

"You thought you could buy sometime with petty little tricks like those." Cristobal said as he laughed maniacally.

Cristobal's laughing was cut off because he saw that the demon was smiling at him. Adrian immediately threw the orb towards Cristobal. Vayu and Soleil who saw that thought Equinox became crazy due to the circumstances. Cristobal thought that it was a lousy attempt as he stretched his hands as if he was ready to catch the orb then Adrian muttered a word.

"Rewind" Adrian chanted.

The area where the muscle tendrils sprouted redid their animation of whacking the elements but instead of the elements getting whacked it was the orb that Adrian threw. Cristobal who saw this happened became enraged to the point that he released a suffocating aura as if gravity was pressing down on the room.

Alas, Cristobal could not stop the inevitable as even he did not calculate for things to happen as people with outstanding willpower should have been broken bit by bit. He did not expect that not only did they have great willpower there was also one cunning member in their group. Cristobal expected cunningness from devils but not from demon's known for their destructive tendencies.

A clear cracking sound was heard and then a blinding light flooded the room. The previous heavy atmosphere of the room started to lighten. When the people inside the room opened their eyes, they saw a beautiful maiden floating mid-air like she was a goddess who descended to the world.

Name: Lauma

Race: Elemental

Species: Elemental King

Chapter 104 - Do The Elements Cry?

Name: Lauma

Race: Elemental

Species: Elemental King of Life

When Adrian saw Lauma's species, he was jumping for joy as he could get a boost in this so called Life energy. Adrian was observing the situation in front of him as he does not know what would happen. Lauma looked like a nature spirit as she had clothes made of vines and flowers. She also floated mid-air giving her an elegant yet mysterious quality to her presence.

"Thank you, Guider of Souls. You have liberated me from my accursed prison. I owe you a debt of gratitude." Lauma said as she looked at Adrian with her amber eyes.

"If you think that you will escape this place then you are gravely mistaken!" Cristobal shouted in anger as he tapped his scepter on the ground twice.

The muscle wall then suddenly started convulsing and moved closer towards them as if it wanted to crush them. The team started panicking especially Adrian as he was sure that they would immediately escape after he set the Elemental King free. Adrian did not want to demand an Elemental King on what they should do but he had to do something.

"Uhm! Miss Lauma can we escape now please?" Adrian asked with an anxious face.

"Do not worry guider. I do not have enough strength to kill that mad man as of yet but I still have enough power to send all of us away from here." Lauma said with a smile.

"Vayu and Soleil. Please come close to us as we are preparing to escape." Adrian said as he also sealed Saena as he did not want it to be trapped here.

The group huddled up together and a green light was made by Lauma's hands. The light then formed a sphere and enveloped every party member. All the party members then started hearing notifications as they get healed and buffed.

[You are inside of the Elemental King of Life's 'Life Saving Grace'.]

[You are recovering 100 health every second.]

[You are recovering 100 mana every second.]

[All your status conditions have been returned to normal.]

[You cannot be affected by status ailments when inside the sphere of influence of the skill 'Life Saving Grace'.]

The party members were astounded by the effects of the skill as the backlash for using their ultimate skills have been washed away. Cristobal on the other hand was fuming with rage as he even casted another spell. Shadow tendrils emerged from his shadow and launched towards the group wanting to pierce them.

The Elemental king of Life, Lauma, just scoffed at the attack. She flicked her hand and the shadow tendrils were swatted like they were mere insects. This however did not deter Cristobal as he started chanting another spell and a summoning circle emerged on the flood which even Lauma could not help but furrow her brows.

"He is summoning an Abomination. It seems we need to quicken the process of our relocation." Lauma said as she looked at Adrian.

"So why are you looking at me for?" Adrian said as he was uncomfortable with the staring.

◆◆◆ You are a demon correct? I will need your assistance for a bit." Lauma said as she proceeded to hold Adrian's hand in which he blushed.

Adrian could feel that he was being transferred immense power. He could feel as if time and space itself stopped for him. He felt like with just a push of his hands, he could push the space in front of him. Lauma then sent a mental image of the location that she wanted to go to.

Adrian then focused on them "arriving" on that location and slowly but surely a magic circle of a violet color appeared below them. Their body started turning into particles of light. A little soul like entity also joined them on being transferred. Adrian did not mind as he knew the identity of that soul and he only smiled as he did not mind because it generated a mission for him.

Whoosh!

Lauma and the Free Wraith-kun party disappeared from Cristobal's view just as an entity was crawling out of the magic circle he made. Cristobal stopped his incantation which in turn forcibly cancelled the magic circle and a shriek was heard before the magic circle banished completely. The Abomination shrieked as if it was displeased but could not protest as his summoning circle was cancelled prematurely.

Cristobal stomped his feet and went insane as thing did not go in the end. He could only curse at the air as he himself is not a master of space magic. Also demon's manipulate space as if they were breathing so for Cristobal to follow them would cost a lot of magic power. If he did follow them then he should be ready for an ambush as he would charge into enemy territory.

"I will get you for this demon! I have remembered what you look like. You cannot hide from me forever!" Cristobal said.

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In another realm, the party members and Lauma successfully arrived in one piece. They all sat down on the ground exhausted but their stamina bars are restored. They were exhausted mentally more so for Adrian as he did not believe his trick to work.

It was a good thing that Rewind would also recreate attacks in the area especially an attack that made use of a terrain. He now knows how to use Rewind as another skill to rewind terrain effect skills. It could even work on domain skills if he timed it properly.

When the party looked at where they were, only Adrian was amazed. Vayu and Soleil seemed to have a normal face on them as if they have been here before. Adrian looked towards Lauma because she started to speak to them.

"It seems some of you have been here but allow me to still welcome you to our place. Welcome to Alfheim." Lauma said with a smile on her face as it has been hundreds of years since she returned.

Adrian looked at the surroundings and inhaled deeply as the air was so fresh that it almost tasted sweet. He then saw a towering tree on the horizon and could not contain his curiosity to ask.

"Elemental King of Life Lauma, what is that towering tree at that place? It feels familiar for some reason." Adrian asked.

"Lauma would be fine as you have saved me Guider of Souls. That would be a world tree or Yggdrasil if you wanted to be more specific. I believe I do not need to tell you what it does as you are the Champion of the Twin Gods." Lauma said with a bit of a giggle.

When Vayu and Soleil heard what the Elemental King said they were stunned. A player was actually chosen to be a champion of not one god but the twin gods. Soleil was amazed even more as she already admired the big brother in front of him greatly.

Adrian wanted to go closer towards the world tree but he was suddenly warned by Lauma.

"That would not be a good decision, Champion Equinox. Even if we share this realm with the faekin that does not mean we would be gladly welcomed. Plus, I think I do not need to tell you how mischievous they can be." Lauma warned.

"If I chose the faekin then this would have been my starting point instead of the Paradox Planes. Does that mean that the five races have their own designated realm? If each realm is as beautiful as this then I would like to see each of them." Adrian thought.

A few moments later, a tornado suddenly landed a few meters beside them but they were not sucked towards it nor felt the wind pressure. A few feet away from the tornado, cracks started to appear from the ground and fire erupted. The tornado stopped and from it appeared a man. The fire erupting also stopped and from it a woman appeared.

Name: Zephyr

Race: Elemental

Species: Elemental King of Wind

Name: Alba

Race: Elemental

Species: Elemental King of Fire

The two elemental kings manifested before them and suddenly hugged Lauma. The two even started crying but instead of tears, the wind became erratic and the temperature became a bit higher. Even Lauma who was surprised at first started bawling her eyes out but instead of tears a calming wave of refreshing feeling assaulted the three party member's body. The grass and flowers nearby even started growing lush. It was as if the elements were in disarray as this should not be a natural phenomenon.

A few minutes later, the three elemental kings suddenly realized that they were not alone and had visitors. The three then tried to straighten their attires (it was not possible since they were made of the elements themselves) and acted as if the previous event did not happen at all. They even had a squinty eyed smiling face as if they are telling the three, "You guys saw nothing. Nothing at all."

## Chapter 105 - The Duty Of A Guide

Adrian looked at the two elemental kings that were looking at them but mostly at him because it seems that they did not expect him to come to their realm. They were looking at him with both wonder and a bit of fear when they saw the energy surrounding him. Adrian also observed them as the elemental kings have different appearances unlike imagination that they were all made of energy but in reality they look more human.

Zephyr, the Elemental King of Wind, looks like a monk in robes. His robes were blue as the sky and if one looked closely the clouds that was printed was moving as if the wind was carrying them. He had pale blue hair that was long and it flows as if a gentle breeze was always flowing on it. He also had silver colored eyes that ties up his whole look.

Alba, the Elemental King of Fire, looks like a flamenco dancer. She had a fiery red dress and orange flames acts as the frills instead of actual ones. She also had red gloves that had a flame pattern design. She had bright red hair that shines or glitters when sunlight hits it. She even had a red fan with a black handle that she uses to hide her lower face. Her eyes are a deep crimson that if you look at it you feel your internal temperature rising.

"I am happy that the one I blessed have successfully cleared the mission that I have given him." Zephyr said with a hearty smile.

"Don't you mean the ones we blessed? I am pretty sure my cute little Soleil did most of the work anyway." Alba retorted.

"You two it is not good to fight when others could see you bickering like children." Lauma said as she smiled a little bit as she missed this scene.

"Anyways, as you have done a great job. We will promise you with the reward you deserve," Zephyr said as a sphere made of wind formed in his palm.

"Well, at least we agree on something." Alba said as a sphere made of fire manifested in her palm.

The two elemental kings then shot their elemental spheres towards Vayu and Soleil. The wind sphere was shot at Vayu while the fire sphere was shot at Soleil. Strangely enough, the two did not take damage but it seemed as if they were at peace. Adrian looked at them using his Dark Blue Evil Eyes and discovered that their soul was fusing with the energy sphere shot at them.

The energy sphere was fusing to their soul that was white in color and turning it into the respective color of the energy sphere they were shot with. Although when the energy was mixed into their soul, the color of the energy became diluted as if it was mixed with impurities. The father and daughter floated mid-air for a brief five seconds before coming down. Adrian had a not so good reaction on his face.

"I feel cheated. Why is that their soul conversion seemed less painful?" Adrian bickered.

The two then landed on the ground but if one looked at them from afar they do not have visible changes on their body. If you look up close their eye colors became two different colors. Vayu's left eye became sky blue in color while his right eye became golden. Soleil's left eye became crimson and her right hazel eyes was added with a tinge of gold that made her adorable.

Adrian could feel their demeanor has changed so he checked their statuses to see if anything did change.

Name: Vayu

Race: Human Elemental Hybrid

Species: Half Human Half Lesser Wind Elemental

Name: Soleil

Race: Human Elemental Hybrid

Species: Half Human Half Lesser Fire Elemental

Adrian was not surprised because they did say that their quest included a race change. Most of all, their mana points disappeared. Adrian could guess that their intelligence stat could have been transformed into something different but he waited for them to tell him.

"Amazing! We do not need to rely on mana anymore!" Soleil said as she jumped for joy.

"That may be the case but the cooldown for our spells are doubled and we could not rely on cooldown reductions. We also cannot use other elemental magic other than our own element. It has great use but also great restrictions." Vayu told her.

Adrian who heard this thought they were extremely overpowered. The cooldown of their skills might have been doubled but them not resorting to mana means they could spam skills as long as they were numerous. Most important of all, they do not need to rely on mana potions or mana regeneration.

Their downside is that if they run out of spells they will do less damage. The items that have cooldown reductions that they equipped would be rendered useless. Nevertheless, it was still a god race. If a race was too perfect then they would broke beyond repair. Double cooldowns would also mean slower mastery increase but with them being half elemental that does not rely on mana it balances it out.

Also if they were hit by an opposing element, they would get extra damage. That would also mean that they deal more damage to an element weak against them. Overall, there were pros and cons like any other race. At the very least, the two were happy with their choices. Adrian who only smiled at them as he looked towards his new mission and looked at the cute little soul next to him.

*\*An Innocent Soul's Wish\**

Asterion's soul who escaped with you when you left the Distorted Labyrinth wants to reunite with his family. Send him to his family. Asterion was supposed to become the hero of his nation since he was combined with the Bull Demi-human Hero, Reigor Tecton, but Cristobal disguised himself as a queen's maid and polluted the soul fragment thereby causing an aberration on Asterion's soul.

Reward: Bull Demi-human Hero Soul Fragment

Clear Condition: Find where Asterion's family is waiting for him and deliver him there so they could pass on together.

Failure: Asterion's soul would disappear and would never reincarnate.

Time Limit: 30 days

Adrian once again looked at Asterion's soul and he no longer looks like a minotaur but he had the appearance of a normal child. He could not see his features clearly because he was a soul but he looked cute as a boy. If he grew up normally then he would have become a handsome hero like in epics.

Adrian smiled at Asterion and went closer to his party members and elemental kings. He told them that he had a duty to fulfill and that is why he needed to bid his farewell first.

"I understand Guider of Souls. It seems you need to help that child. He might not have been trapped for centuries like I did but I want that child to be happy. If there is anything I could do please ask as you have done much more for me as you are considered my benefactor." Lauma said as he looked at Asterion with kind eyes like a mother.

Adrian then pondered as what he could ask for and it suddenly came to him like a flash of lightning.

"Could you do what did before and give me strength so that I could teleport to possibly the location where Asterion's family is? Adrian asked.

Lauma only nodded in response and planted her hand on the ground. Two flowers then sprouted from the ground that had golden petals that were close like a bud. The two flowers then opened their golden petals to reveal a green crystal. Lauma picked these two crystal from the flower and handed them to Adrian.

"These are Lyf Crystals that are filled with life energy. Use one of them to empower your abilities and the other one is my reward for your help. I know this is not enough to repay you as my task became harder when that wretched warlock appeared which is why we the elementals are considered your eternal friend starting today."

[You have obtained the title Friend of the Elementals.]

[You have obtained two Lyf Crystals as a reward for completing the quest 'Escape from Cristobal'.]

The other two elemental king looked like they wanted to protest when Lauma handed over two Lyf Crystals but it seems that the demon was the real reason she escaped. The two elemental kings just observed quietly as Lauma handed them over.

"Thank you very much for the great gift, Elemental King of Life. I mean, Lauma. If you need any help just contact me whenever you can." Adrian said while giving a bow.

[You have gained max affinity with the Elemental King of Life, Lauma. She views you as her benefactor.]

Vayu then sent the list of items that they got from the dungeon and said, "Take all of them if you want to as we already gained a great reward from the mission we received."

Adrian replied with, "I will impose on you then." Adrian collected all the loot but in exchange he offered them a friend request which they gladly accepted. Adrian activated the Lyf Crystal and said his farewells. He and Asterion's soul was transferred to another realm.

## Chapter 106 - The Joy Of Being A Guide

A few minutes before teleporting away. Adrian looked at the description of the Lyf Crystal.

Item: Lyf Crystal

Tier: Legendary

Type: Consumable, Gemstone

Effect: Consume to increase racial affinities or individual powers for five seconds by 500%.

Description: Crystals that have hardened life energy that could be either be used as a way to boost the powers of an individual in a certain time frame or be used as a gem to produce healing staffs for

priests. It is the most sought out gemstone for making priest equipment. It is not known how these gems form or how it is even cultivated. It is said to be found only once a century.

Adrian was astounded on the effects of the Lyf Crystal. Sadly, he only has two of them. If any player were to know of what Adrian was thinking there they would have thrown him into a canyon already and if he survived he would be left there to die.

Adrian activated the crystal and envisioned the most likely place that Asterion's family would be waiting for him. He then felt the same feeling he had when Lauma empowered him. He immediately activated his origin magic to "take him there" and with that Adrian and Asterion's soul disappeared from Alfheim.

=====

[You have arrived at Asterion's Labyrinth.]

Adrian read the system notification and looked around. He was sure that he was not in the main realm, Nebulon, as it was night and at the sky there were eight moons. At Nebulon, there was only one moon so Adrian was sure that he had not returned back to the main realm.

He looked at Asterion and saw that the boy had a nostalgic smile plastered on his face. They arrived the entrance of the labyrinth so Asterion signaled Adrian to enter by hanging on his clothes and pointing at the entrance. Adrian then entered the labyrinth and was surprised that it was actually a dungeon.

It had tall walls about twenty meters in height and were a meter thick. Adrian tried flying upwards but he was met with an invisible barrier. The barrier only worked on him or rather strong entities as normal birds and insects were able to pass through without resistance. It took approximately forty minutes for Adrian to reach the center as the labyrinth was confusing.

It was unlike the Distorted Labyrinth where he had a guide so he did not bother using his brain. Asterion's labyrinth was also smaller compared to the Distorted Labyrinth. Some of the magic written on the walls have also deteriorated which means some walls have crumbled thereby creating a new passage. Adrian was able to see this magic patterns thanks to his Evil Eye.

When they were near the middle entrance, Asterion went right ahead of Adrian as if he was really excited. Adrian then ran right after him only to see a down trodden Asterion. Asterion had a visible sad expression on his face because he might have expected at least one family member's soul in his garden.

Adrian wanted to comfort him but he was alarmed by a sudden notification.

[Your title 'Shepherd of Lost Souls' is resonating in the area.]

[The tired and dreary souls that are weakened have been rejuvenated and would come to you for help.]

Every two or three second, a spirit would materialize and would do an action of stretching their arms out as if they were waking up in the morning. The first two spirits to materialize was that of a man and a woman that had features the same as that of Asterion. The two then noticed each other and saw the little kid besides Adrian and started to walk towards him.



Asterion however hid behind Adrian as if he was scared or shy for some reason. A few more seconds passed and more and more spirits appeared. The spirits now numbered six if you count Asterion then there would be seven.

Asterion still a bit shy then looked towards a giant oak tree as it started to shine with bright light. A spirit of a young man started to materialize in front of it. Asterion then walked towards that spirit and hugged him. The spirit of the young man seemed shocked at first but then realized who Asterion was and hugged him back.

The first two souls who appeared, the man and woman, seemed to want to also get a hug from Asterion but Asterion was wary of them for some reason. Adrian guessed that that man and woman must have been his parents. Asterion must be wary of them because of his feelings when he was sent to this labyrinth but Adrian noticed that the two immediately noticed Asterion when their sight landed on him.

The young man spirit that Asterion was hugging then tapped the latter on the back as if signaling to it is fine to stop hugging him now. Asterion then released his embrace and hid behind the young man's back since the man and woman spirit along with four others came closer to them.

The young man's spirit seemed to say something to Asterion and he then shyly looked at the spirit of the man and woman. The spirit of the man and woman opened their arms wide and were waiting for Asterion to come towards them.

Asterion then slowly walked towards them step by step until he was at arms-length towards them. The spirit of the man and woman then embraced Asterion so endearingly that the latter started to cry. The man and woman spirit also started to cry. The other spirits then came towards them and also hugged them.

Adrian who saw that scene could not help but feel his heart ache and shout for joy at the same time. He was not aware that he had released a tear or two. He wiped his tears away when he noticed Asterion's spirit coming close to him with something in hand.

Asterion then gave Adrian the object he was holding and waved goodbye to the latter. Adrian did not bother to look at the object in his left hand as he waved goodbye with his right hand. Asterion then went back towards his family with a full smile before they walked in towards a door made of light.

[You have cleared the quest 'An Innocent Soul's Wish'.]

[Asterion has already handed over your reward.]

Adrian was happy not because of the reward he received but because of the joy in his heart for reuniting a family. He then checked out the item that was given to him by Asterion but his only reaction was his mouth opening wide open.

Item: Bull Demi-human Hero Soul Fragment

Tier: Legendary

Type: Race Change Item

Effect: Activate to change your character's race to bull demi-human after assimilation. The character's stats would be recalibrated to fit your new race. Obtain the title 'Reigor Tecton's Descendant' after completion of the race change mission that would be given. (Limited to Warriors)

Description: A part of the soul of one of the heroes of the Selvaggians who participated in the war against the Dark Gods. He was a terramorph with immense strength and stamina. It is said he could slice a mountain with just a strike of his axe. His soul was shattered because of an enemy Dark God and resulted in some parts of his soul dissipating. This fragment contains his legacy in which an individual could inherit his skills and fighting prowess.

Adrian could see why Cristobal wanted Asterion to be his labyrinth guardian. If he actually successfully brought out Asterion's strength then Adrian could only dream to free Lauma from her prison. Adrian wanted to speculate further but he has more pressing concerns as an ominous system message appeared before him when they escaped from the Distorted Labyrinth.

[Your face has been etched in Cristobal Graedig's mind and he labeled you as a must kill individual. Be careful of Cristobal's allies since they would hunt you down if they ever see you.]

Adrian could only shout in his mind the word, "Seriously". He did not expect Cristobal to actually put him on a hit list. It seems that Lauma was far more important for his plans than what Adrian initially suspected. Nevertheless, Adrian was not the least bit perturbed because of a certain skill he has. That skill would be the 'Glamour' skill.

"Hehehe! I rarely use my demon form anyway when I am outside with a lot of people. Good luck finding me senile old man." Adrian said as he laughed in a way that could be seen as an evil laugh if other people saw him.

Adrian tore up the scroll that was given to him by Ascalor as he no longer needed to do anything on this dungeon as it no longer had a boss or spawned other mobs. Adrian vanished into particles of light and returned to the Paradox Planes. Little did he know that if stayed a little bit later then he would have encountered Cristobal as he set up a detection magical formation in Asterion's Labyrinth. Cristobal was late to arrive as teleporting from other dimensions took more time and effort. It is not like he was born to use spatial magic.

## Chapter 107 - Sirius Before The Contract

My mother was the strongest wolf I have ever known. She was feared by her enemies and respected by her pack. Other pups would always bully me for being different than them but I knew they were probably just jealous of my mother.

Unlike my mother, their parents are not that strong so they ask mother to be their leader. She was the best wolf in all of our lands. My mother is special because unlike most wolves. She can control shadows and could even enter them to launch surprise attacks on other creatures who wants to claim our land.

I did not mind that other kids bully me because I knew that one day I would grow big and strong just like mother. One day, I was playing with the other pups when a menacing howl was heard on the direction of our territory. Mother's howl then came next after the first menacing howl.

All of the pups were very scared except for me of course as I am brave and strong. I told the other pups to go into hiding and wait for one of adult to fetch us later as what always happens when

invaders try to come to our territory. It would not take too long before everything settles down and we would be back to playing around again.

We waited for hours but no one came for us. I started becoming worried as this has never happened before. I am scared. Mother, why are you not coming for us? No I must not think like this. It might just have been a long battle and they are recuperating then they would start looking for us.

A few minutes later we started to see a silhouette. It was one of the aids of mother. We were so excited to see him that all of us unconsciously ran towards him. When we were about to reach him, he suddenly dropped to the ground. I ran faster towards him to check if he was wounded but when I tried to nudge him he was no longer breathing.

I panicked and ran towards my mother because I wanted to see if she was alright. I ran as fast as my little legs could carry me but it seemed that the world move slow. I ran faster and encountered the rest of the adults in the pack. Some were grievously wounded while some lost limbs or tails.

It did not take long before I reached the middle of the battlefield where mother was still clashing with her enemy. It was a giant wolf that was twice the size of mother. He had black fur and red eyes. His fangs are so sharp that he could easily kill someone just through biting. He also had chains on his body as if his power was being bound by something.

In contrast, mother was a silver wolf with beautiful blue eyes. She was both powerful and elegant but her elegance could not be seen right now as she was covered in wounds as some of her fur was dyed red. I could see that mother was already exhausted fighting the giant wolf so I shouted to encourage her.

I think that was a grave mistake as the black wolf suddenly lunged towards me but mother used her powers and appeared behind me using my shadow. Time seemed to stop when mother used her body to shield me from the attack. I heard a wailing sound from mother who dropped just in front of me.

I nudged at mother checking if she was alright but she was losing the light in her eyes. I cried because I was the reason that mother lost the battle. She let of a last howl and I was suddenly shrouded in shadows. The shadows were pushing me in but I tried resisting.

I looked around and saw that the others were also getting wrapped in shadows. The black wolf's eyes suddenly became fierce that I peed myself. Yet the only thing that my mother said before she lost the light in her eyes was, "I hope you grow up strong and healthy." After mother said those words, the shadows transported me to someplace else.

When I opened my eyes, I was at an unfamiliar forest and the rest of the pack was nowhere to be found. I hope they are all alright despite us having our differences. A few seconds later, I heard rustling in the nearby bushes and an old female human appeared. She muttered, "Oh my! Is this perhaps fate?" as she picked me up and carried me to a nearby village.

It is not like I tried to protest but she was scary that all my fur stood up just from gazing at her. She handed me off to an old human male that seems to take care of a variety of other creatures. I did not really bother befriending other creatures as they would often get picked up by different humans.

For some reason, the creatures here seemed to become soulbounds by the humans that visit here. It seems that the old man seemed to be some kind of summoner or something from what I heard from one of his conversations.

Some tried to gain my affection but after an hour or two they would give up and choose another creature to befriend. It is not like I care. If you want the powerful me then you have to prove that you are worthy. That's right! It's not like I am jealous or anything that they do not want to take care of me.

I waited but it seems that all the people that visit here do not try hard to gain my affection. So I just spent my days and wait until I become older so that I could venture outside on my own. Then one day, a human boy that looked so excited visited the shop.

I thought to myself that he would probably get the others or something as no one would really choose me first anyway. I just laid on my bed and closed my eyes. A few seconds later, I could feel a presence near me. I looked up and it was the human boy that came in a few seconds ago. He was staring at me with sparkling eyes.

I did not care as they would grow tired after an hour or two to gain my affection so I humored the human boy. About two or three hours has passed but this human boy seemed to have endless energy as he did not grow tired from gaining my affection. I like this human boy but that does not mean that I would easily follow him.

He has to work for it as I do not want to be like the others that are too easy to recruit. I will wait a few more hours to see if this human is worthy....

This human really is passionate. He played with me and even tried talking to me for the whole day. It is not like I really like you or anything but you are worthy of me. When I finally opened my heart towards the human, I let him bond with me and agree to become his soulbound.

The human's name was Equinox as that was what that old man called him when he gave him some refreshments. I quite like his name because it sounds powerful. He said some type of chant and a magic circle appeared below me. Strangely enough, I did not feel threat from it and let its power flow through my body.

I became a soul and fused with Equinox's soul. I could feel that he and I have now become people with shared fates. One day when I am strong enough, I will avenge mother. I am sure my new master would not object to that as he will definitely listen to my plight. But for now, we would focus on getting stronger since what good is revenge if I am not strong enough to attain it.

When the contract was finally established, master decided to name me to act as a seal. He named me Sirius. Does my name not sound powerful to hear? I quite like it not because my master gave it to me. Master then summoned me from the depths of his soul and I responded. I appeared using a magic circle like the rest of the other creatures when they were called upon.

Master said his farewells to the old man while I told him, "thanks for everything" even though he probably could not understand me. We ventured out into shop and finally I could explore the outside. Master seemed to remember something as he told me to follow him and I did since even I am not familiar with this place.

Master went to some alley and encountered an old human female. She looked familiar. It then suddenly clicked as she was the one who took me from the forest. I put my guard up and started telling my master that she is bad news but he ignored it. He talked to the old human female and she seemed to give him something. I did not mind it as she seemed to not want to harm master. Master consoled me and then we went to the forest so that we could train.

## Chapter 108 - Meeting With Fellow Friends

Levin Cloud, aka Marlon who is Adrian's best friend, was on his way to Blue Valley as part of his mission. He contacted two of his companions to accompany him since he lacks the damage if he ever fights a boss monster. One of them was his cousin who was a Shield User and the other was another of his childhood friend and crush a Gem Mage.

He was currently waiting for them in Neo Alfheim before they set off to his quest location. Thankfully both of them were not busy and are not in any important mission. The three of them started the game just about at the same time but Levin Cloud has a lower level than them because of his arduous job class change mission.

The first who came to his location was his cousin Alberto who has an in-game name of Kabrakan. He found that name in some website, change some letter and then go with it as he views it a pain to overthink stuff like names. He was 5 feet and 10 inches tall and chose the orc race. He had black hair and brown eyes. The only thing that he changed is that he shortened the tusk that protrudes in his mouth since he thinks it as a bother.

Kabrakan wears heavy armor that was brownish red in color. He also wears a helmet to protect his head. He carries a shield that is two meters long and one meter in width. He might look intimidating but he is actually a gentle giant.

Levin Cloud saw his cousin and waved at him from the distance. Kabrakan increased his stride and also flashed a smile towards his cousin. They rarely meet as they were a few hours away if they take the bus. Every time that they meet they always do their secret handshake. Levin Cloud looked at his cousin and was astounded as he was already higher level than him.

Name: Kabrakan

Level: 65

Job Class: Shield Bearer

"Your level is higher than mine already. I need to work harder in order to keep up." Levin Cloud said in a teasing tone.

"If you did not bother changing your job class then you would have been in the hundreds by now." Kabrakan said to him in a rather stiff tone.

Kabrakan then remembered that Levin Cloud's best friend that is also his friend, Adrian, started playing the game.

"Did Adrian start to play the game yet? I remembered that he managed to convince his strict parents into getting him the game. That is what he said in the group chat anyways. I remember that we were the ones who always invited him into gaming. He was the noob yet for some reason he gets better than us overtime." Kabrakan said.

"Don't talk about that monster! He only started playing online games by eleven because I was the one to invite him. At first we beat him rather easily but a week or two later, we get stomped by him. I tell you his character in Pandemonium is monstrous already." Levin Cloud said sarcastically.

"Who is monstrous?" a cute female voice said.

The two then faced the direction of the voice to see where it came from and saw their other companion has arrived. Kabrakan just waved his hand with a stoic face while Levin Cloud blushed a little. The girl was 5 foot tall and her character's race was a gnome.

True to the race's characteristics, she was short and her ears were short and pointed. She had bigger eyes thanks to the proportions of the gnome race that made her look extremely cute. Her eyes were like sapphires thanks to its color. She had golden hair that was hidden in a long pointy cap that was a race specific items for gnomes. It is said to be both an identification and a helmet at the same time.

She was wearing something like a mix of a tunic with leggings. She also wore high boots with pointed ends. Her weapon was a gemstone that floated near her. Her real name is Esmeralda and she uses the in-game name Peridot.

Name: Peridot

Level: 60

Job Class: Gem Mage

"So is no one actually going to answer me on who is monstrous? Or do I have to force you two to say who it actually is?" Peridot threatened.

Kabrakan then nudged at his cousin to answer it as he does not know how to deal with this tomboyish girl but mostly just to tease him.

"We were talking about Adrian. By the way, you are an alchemist right?" Levin Cloud asked.

"Ugh! I keep telling you my job class and secondary class has fused together as I became a Gem Mage. Also did that dork get something good again? I swear he gets the good stuff rather earlier than us. I used to love defeating him back when he was a noob at games but he adapts way to quicker. It was like he was raised in a Spartan household or something." Peridot said as she remembered the times she used to beat Adrian in games.

"What could we do? The guy's like a sponge. He could absorb everything easily as long as he puts his mind to it." Levin Cloud said in a proud tone.

"Back to the topic, why do you ask me if I am an alchemist anyway?" Peridot asked.

"Oh! Adrian and I picked up a golem recipe so I thought that you would want it." Levin Cloud said.

"I see." Peridot said as she blushed a little but Levin Cloud was not able to see.

Kabrakan who saw Peridot blush a little could only think, "It feels like I am the third wheel. Should I have even come?"

"Ehem!" Kabrakan coughed and said, "So what is this golem recipe anyway for you to give it to her first? It must be amazing."

"Look, I have a screenshot of it here." Levin Cloud said as he showed both of them the recipe.

The recipe looked simple but the most eye-catching one was the note saying 'Alteration of Forms is Possible'. If an alchemist of a top guild would see this then they would most definitely pay thousands of gold coins for this recipe. If alteration is possible then they could change the form of the golem to anything that suited their need. It was versatile and the ingredients were not that rare.

"Too bad. I could still use alchemy but now I am limited to stone materials." Peridot said with a dismayed tone.

"I will go tell Adrian that he could sell it or whatever he thinks he could do with it then." Levin Cloud said as he typed a message to Adrian.

"Wait! I think you said something like your main job and sub job has fused right? Is that even possible?" Levin Cloud remarked in a surprised tone.

"Duh! I just said it didn't I?" Peridot said in a mocking tone.

"How could you achieve that? Is any job class possible?" Kabrakan asked as even he was curious.

"Well when I was busy collecting herbs and stuff since I wanted to just be a full time alchemist, I met a woman NPC who was dressed in a hanfu. I talked with her a bit about the mysteries in alchemy and why I love it. After the end of our conversation, she handed me a manual and told me to become her apprentice." Peridot said.

"So you said yes?" Kabrakan asked in a blunt tone."

"Of course I did because she was so beautiful and like I wanted to have a master since he has one and he got a special class because of it." Peridot said while pointing at Levin Cloud.

"Anyways, back to me. So I accepted and used the manual to get my first job class advancement since I did not bother taking one yet. I did and then she told me to look for her in the East Continent if I want to explore more into my new job class. She vanished and when I looked at my status, my main job and sub job has fused." Peridot said.

"Then you could no longer create potions then? Your potions were super effective!" Levin Cloud commented.

"I have new alchemy techniques and recipes thanks to the book I was given. Compared to the potions I used to brew, the things I can make now are much better in my opinion. Look at this!" Peridot said as she presented them a stone.

Item: Small Healing Stone

Tier: Uncommon

Type: Consumable

Effect: Once activated, the stone will heal you by 100 health every five seconds for five minutes.

Description: A peculiar alchemical stone that is said to be made using techniques of an ancient kingdom. It could only be made by a certain type of alchemist.

"She is as monstrous as Adrian is." Is what the two boys thought while Peridot had her head held up high as she was proud of what she has made.

## Chapter 109 - Blue Valley

Peridot looked at the two as if they were looking at her as a tigress or something. She finally decided to stomp her feet and tell them that they should not waste any more time.

Peridot then asked, "What were your missions again?"

"I will send it to you guys then." Levin Cloud answered.

**\*Uncover the Truth I(Link Quest)\***

The Church of Life has concealed the records of history containing the creation of the world. Retrieve these records and make sure that the higher ups of the church do not know of your identity.

Clear Condition: Find records of the Real history of the world without being suspected.

Reward: Random Epic Skillbook(Priest Class)

Failure: Excommunicated by the Churches aligned with 'Good'

Final Link Quest Reward: Unique Job Class 'Envoy of the Twin Gods'.

Time Limit: None

**\*Pilgrimage to the Blue Valley\***

The Church of Life wants you to see and investigate the ruins of an abandoned church in the Blue Valley that has been abandoned for a few centuries when a beast flood suddenly attacked that area.

Requirements: Level 50 and above

Clear Conditions: Submit a report on the state of the abandoned church

Failure: Decrease in reputation to the Church of Life

Time Limit: None

The two of them then bulged their eyes when they saw the final link quest reward. The last quest was a unique job class that only one player has acquired. The player who unlocked the unique job class has not been identified yet as there were no streamers who announced it yet. There were some players who claimed that it was them but was quickly shut down because they only wanted attention.

"Do not tell me it was Adrian who acquired the unique job class? It can't be because that guy is good but not that good." Peridot was mumbling to herself.

"Wow! Your first quest is like bad news. The second one is ok since it is only a bit of reputation. Anyway let us head there already because we are wasting time." Kabrakan mentioned.

"Let us go then!" Levin Cloud said as he invited them in a party that he just named Cloud Party.



Blue Valley is like the name says a valley but it was not exactly blue. The reason it has the word blue in the name is because of the clear blue river running at the middle of it. It was the centerpiece of the town that was there before the monster flood came in and wrecked it.

Now the river is still clear blue but it was already infested with aquatic predatory creatures. The river also sometimes rises as that field zone would experience heavy rainfall because of a rumored river monster. There was a subjugation quest for it but you needed to be at least level 150 and have the ability to breathe underwater which a majority of the player base do not know.

The party went by carriage since teleportation scrolls were expensive as hell unlike someone who gets it for free. Also since there are not many mages who can use spatial magic, the current teleportation portals are strictly guarded by each nation. It is a combination of alchemy and magitech with a bit of space magic mixed into it. Only head mages of magic towers could make them with the help of gnomes.

"Seriously! You are a gnome. Why do you not have at least a vehicle? I know gnome players could get them for free once." Kabrakan asked as the carriage they are riding is slow compared to Magitech Vehicles that gnomes use.

"I broke mine okay so shut up and look at the scenery!" Peridot said a bit embarrassed as her vehicle was still getting fixed due to her poor driving skills.

The journey then went smoothly with silence inside the carriage as no one knows how to diffuse the atmosphere that happened. They went down the carriage and paid. Since there used to be a monster flood in the area, they were dropped off a bit farther away so that they could be safe. Monsters still attack roads as NPCs hire bodyguards to guard convoys and such.

The three friends then went towards the area where the church used to be. Thankfully, the church ruins was near the edge of the town as the Church of Life like to put their churches where there is peace and quiet. The monsters at the edge of the town were rather easy as they were about only level 40 at the highest.

They reached the abandoned church with ease that was a surprise for the three of them because they thought it was easy. The only obstacle that they encountered was the monsters that suddenly attacked them during their travel to the church in ruins. They found the church with only about a quarter of it was still standing and the rest were in rubbles.

Levin Cloud told them to search for a hidden entrance as each church used to have one as both a bunker and a storage for important documents. They looked for it but as only a quarter of the church was still there and there were big stones blocking some of the places. Kabrakan then started bashing his shield onto the big stones which puzzled the two who heard the cracking sounds.

"Why are you doing that?" Peridot asked.

"I thought that since this game mimics most of the real world so I tried to bash the big stones. If they crumble them we could gain access to the areas that the big stones have blocked off."

Kabrakan said since he is the type of person that thinks simple.

When the two heard his reason, they could only laugh at themselves because their thinking was that it was a game. Well, it is indeed a game but not the traditional game in a sense that you need this to

get access to that. Pandemonium is like the real world where you need this so you do option one or option two. There are multiple ways to do something but you can arrive at the same conclusion. You could also do the same thing as the other and slightly vary it and you would get a different result. Pandemonium is filled with different possibilities depending on the behavior of the player.

"Move your giant behind out of the way then." Peridot suddenly ordered.

"Why?" Kabrakan asked because he knows that she was a mage and would have less of a strength stat compared to her.

"I have a skill that could crumble stone. I got it when I got my job class advancement. I just did not think I would use it for this occasion. I only have a low mastery so do not expect that I would be done quickly." Peridot said as she began chanting the spell.

When she casted a spell, something like a magic circle appeared below the church and was triggered. The weather suddenly changed and dark clouds rolled over. It did not take long for rain to appear and drench the party but it only made Peridot's spell more effective as it somewhat weakened the giant stones. At first she could take out chunks that were a foot in diameter but with the aid of the rain, the stones crumble easier as she takes out chunks.

The party did not know that something triggered as they thought it was just the usual rain for the Blue Valley. Peridot was working hard and her mana draining as she continued to use the spell. The two who were guarding her suddenly realized that the monsters that they used that were passing by were no longer there.

Although it was raining, they should have seen at least small critters try to escape the rain but they could no longer be spotted. To more precise, the valley became silent and the only sound you could hear was the rain falling. Kabrakan did not think much of it but Levin Cloud had this eerie feeling that he has experience this somehow when he was with Adrian.

A few minutes later, they could hear footsteps but it was not like human footsteps in water because the sound was faint as if their feet was not sinking in the mud. It did not take long for the two to see their visitors were. They were scaled green bipedal aquatic person.

They looked like a cross between a frog and a piranha. They were walking in a normal human but with their hunched. Their eyes that resembled that resembled that of a fish moved in a weird way as it scans all the area around it. Their eyes then landed on the three on the church. A group of ten of them then suddenly charged towards the party.

When the two who were guarding Peridot saw that the amphibious creatures were charging towards them, they immediately went into combat mode as the eyes of the creatures were hungry.

Chapter 110 - Stay Alive!

The party members then suddenly received a system message.

**\*Emergency Quest Notification\***

**Survive the Storm**

Someone has triggered the spell that was set in the church ruins. Survive the oncoming onslaught of enemies that wants to offer your soul to their master.

Clear Condition: Survive for the given time limit. At least one member must survive.

Failure: The church ruins will be completely destroyed and all the hidden artifacts and records in it.

Reward: Fear Resistance passive skill

Time Limit: 8 hours

They were caught unaware that they triggered something as there was not even a sign or something just that the sky suddenly darkened and it rained. Nevertheless, they came prepared. Even Peridot immediately stopped what she was doing and chugged a mana potion. She also prepared for battle because the given time limit was eight hours.

"What are they? Can you guys inspect them?" Peridot asked as she does not know what they were up against due to the area having no lighting.

The two also tried casting their inspect skill but it only came as fractured info as some were full of question marks. Their descriptions was not even displayed as if something was inhibiting their inspect skill. The only thing visible was their level and health.

Monster: D?ep ?n?s

Level: 55

HP: 100,000 / 100, 000

MP: ???? / ????

Description: Cannot be read

A frog fish men started clamoring and a gurgling sound was produced. When one of the frog fish men started the gurgling sound, the others followed suit. They also started dancing like a prayer for a few minutes before they stared intensely at the three person party as if they were prey or more precisely sacrifice.

When all the frog fish men stared at them simultaneously, the suddenly got shivers throughout their whole body as if the strange creatures staring at them were dissecting their body. The frog fish men started charging towards their location as if they were hungry for blood.

Kabrakan immediately used a strengthening skill so that he could be ready for any unforeseen attacks. He was also buffed by Peridot using one of her buff skills.

"Fortification" Kabrakan shouted.

"Let the Stone Skin" Peridot chanted.

Skill: Fortification

Tier: Uncommon

Type: Defensive Buff

Effect: Increases the user's stamina stat by 20% and physical defense by 20%.

Duration: 5 minutes

Cooldown: 6 minutes

Cast Time: Instant

Mana Cost: 300 Mana points

Skill: Stone Skin

Tier: Rare

Type: Defensive Buff

Effect: Increase the user's defense by 30% against physical attacks. Range attacks will deal 20% less damage.

Duration: 10 minutes

Cooldown: 10 minutes

Cast Time: Instant

Mana Cost: 500 Mana points

Levin Cloud immediately used a terrain changing move Mudpit to change the land around them as they frog fish men were traversing the water filled land with ease. When they stepped on the muddy land their feet sunk but by not much but the charging speed was lessened. Peridot then started using her spells.

Skill: Gem Aura Strike

Tier: Rare

Type: Active Projectile

Effect: Uses the gem's internal aura and convert them into five orbs of energy that you could shoot at enemies either as one or more projectiles. Each projectile deals 150% of the user's magic damage. Cooldown will only take effect after all projectiles are fired.

Cooldown: 5 minutes

Cast Time: Instant

Mana Cost: 800 Mana points

The frog fish men all charged towards them from different directions but Kabrakan immediately used his taunt skill to redirect aggro towards him. It was still manageable since there were only ten of these creatures. They all charged towards Kabrakan with their scaly claws. He managed to fend some of the strikes but since ten of them charged towards him even he could only do so much.

Thankfully, Levin Cloud's powerful heals could offset the continuous damage that he has taken. If a frog fish men were to strike at his back then Peridot would shoot a projectile towards that creature. The strangest thing was the creatures did not bother even coordinating with their kin and just lunged toward Kabrakan even if they bump or scratch their kin.

Levin Cloud thought this was strange behavior for creatures of the same kin but something felt different from this creatures. He then tried striking them with a Holy Smite skill and he was shocked because he dealt devastating damage.

[You have dealt 20,477 holy damage to the target.]

Levin Cloud was surprised as he was not expecting to deal that much damage because only creatures aligned with 'evil' will be dealt with tremendous damage. He thought the creatures before them was only amphibious in nature but it seems he has to reconsider his options.

"Do you guys have any holy attribute attacks or skill?" Levin Cloud suddenly asked as he still did his duty as a healer.

"I only have one and I could only use it once due to a restriction. Why are you asking?" Peridot answered as she continued buffing Kabrakan and hitting the creatures with spells.

"I used a holy attribute spell and it dealt tremendous damage." Levin Cloud immediately answered.

"I am getting overwhelmed here! Could you please hurry it up?!" Kabrakan said as he was getting bitten in the thighs, feet and arms by the frog fish men that increases their number by one every fifteen minutes. They been holding out for two hours and yet they only beat two from the original ten. New frog fish men also emerged during that time and now they numbered sixteen. Kabrakan was getting overwhelmed by the damage but Levin Cloud activated his area heal skill.

Peridot then took out a white crystal from her inventory and started chanting, "A jewel that has come from the heavens gifted by the gods. Show me your power and unleash your wrath upon these evil creatures. Holy Sunder."

Skill: Holy Sunder

Tier: Epic

Type: Active Damage

Effect: Call forth the holy power of the gods and ask for their help to sunder enemies and deal 500% magical holy damage in an area. Targets that are not killed will get weakened status that drops their stats by 10% (double for "evil" affiliated enemies).

Duration: 10 minutes

Cooldown: 20 minutes

Cast Time: 5 seconds

Mana Cost: 1,500 Mana points

Rays of light pierced the dark clouds and dealt damage to the frog fish men. Those that have been previously damage have been killed while those that was still had high health was dealt devastating damage. The white stone then shattered into dust as soon as Peridot finished her chant.

[Peridot has dealt 60,556 holy damage to the target.]

[Peridot has dealt 61,175 holy damage to the target.]

[Peridot has slain the target.]

[Peridot has slain the target.]

[Peridot has weakened the target by 20% of its total stats due to the target being aligned with evil.]

◆◆...

The skill killing four frog fish men was very helpful to their front liner since the pressure on him decreased by a lot. Levin Cloud also finished off the ones in low health using his limited damaging skills. The sixteen frog fish men were now decreased to half.

"Can you not repeat the skill?" Levin cloud asked Peridot.

"Unfortunately, I cannot. That skill was inside that gem that I took out. It was only a catalyst for my skill that can unleash an attack depending on the type of stone I consume." Peridot answered.

Thanks to the healing skills of Levin Cloud, Kabrakan's health did not drop to the fifty per cent mark as the frog fish men seem to deal more damage the lesser your health. They endured for about seven hours already. Thankfully, the frog fish men only increased by one every fifteen minutes. That all change however in the final hour.

Two frog fish men appeared every fifteen minutes for about half an hour. They now have a total of twenty charging towards their front liner. The good thing is that the party have now gotten used to fighting them and now they could kill one every three minutes as long as they focused on that enemy.

They were still pressured because they were already almost out of consumables that they could use. Thankfully, only twenty minutes was left but to the three it felt like an eternity. They were carefully observing the clock as they were fighting their enemies. Time continued to pass.

"Only ten minutes left now!" Levin Cloud thought but the rain became heavier and even lightning struck.

When lightning struck, Peridot thought she saw a silhouette of some snake-like or dragon-like entity that was staring at them from afar but she just shook her head and treated it as her mind playing tricks on her due to fatigue which all three of them are experiencing due to repetitive battles. Thankfully, Peridot had given them stones that could recover fatigue but even that is running out.

During the last ten minutes of the fight, the frog fish men became crazier or more bloodthirsty than before. This burdened the three but thankfully they reduced their enemies' number to ten. Even Kabrakan almost died because he was clawed near his neck. Every minute there was a lightning strike in the distance and a different member would see the silhouette of a giant snake or dragon entity.

They did not realize that every time they saw that silhouette they were affected by a stack of fear status. Thankfully or luckily, they did not know what that was and nobody bothered to tell it as they would be more aware of the silhouette which would have been dangerous.

The three did not realize but the timer had already ended and they manage to kill every frog fish men that came at them. They sky became clear once again and the giant rock blocking the entrance of the hidden passage of the church suddenly crumbled.

[All members of the Cloud Party has cleared the quest 'Survive the Storm'. All members have gained fear resistance.]

The three were soaked in mud and water with a splash of blood here and there. Peridot and Kabrakan decided to not follow Levin Cloud in the passage and just wait for him to surface. The three did not know that they were so close to witnessing a Dark God.

