

O Summoner 1401

Chapter 1401 The Strangeness Of Life

King Yama returned to his realm as he knew that both Adrian and Levin Cloud will be the one to oversee the situation later. Peridot, on the other hand, did not know why the two referred to the god of death as kindhearted. She knows that the Queen of the Alluring Forest only has a day to live in her human form.

"Why are you calling that old man kindhearted? He only gave her like a day to spend with her beloved. I would not call that kindhearted in my opinion." Peridot stated as she pouted.

"Why is he not kindhearted when he changed the destiny of death that the Queen of the Alluring Forest? She would have likely died this year if he did not intervene." Adrian stated.

"You should be actually looking at it with a mortal's perspective when death can come to you arbitrarily. She is already blessed that she was given new life but I think you should be praising King Yama instead." Levin Cloud added as both him and Adrian smiled.

"Giving someone new life is always a blessing when you know that you are going to die. The fact that King Yama actually erased her name in the Book of the Dead meant that he would also need to go against providence. He will likely have a minor altercation in his realm for doing something like that.

He returned quite quickly when we summoned him for a whole day. He may have returned because he knows that being with us for the rest of the time will just endanger us. Our punishment for messing with the natural law is already coming for us anyway." Adrian stated he pointed upwards.

Massive dark clouds started to form on top of the Alluring Forest and even the winds started to become harsh. All the people near the Alluring Forest could see that a powerful energy is forming on top of the forest which they mistaken for a tribulation of a powerful beast. They did not know that it was not tribulation but a punishment for messing with the natural law.

The curious onlookers wanted to see if the beast that will undergo tribulation would succeed but they were afraid of the massive energy being pulled. If they enter the Alluring Forest then they could also become a casualty as the lighting that will be produced seemed to be greater than the usual.

"Can I go now since I am not really part of the thing that happened here?" Kabrakan stated as he was not really that involved in what they did.

"Oh! You are already part of it because this punishment was meant for all four of us. It would not be that big if that was the case." Levin Cloud stated.

"You actually counted wrong because I have seven other souls in my body which means we are facing a punishment meant for eleven people." Adrian corrected them which even made Levin Cloud limp even though he was confident before.

Just like Adrian stated, the clouds were still forming like crazy and it did not seem to be stopping despite covering the entire Alluring Forest. Levin Cloud did not panic as he knew that he might be able to at least save himself but he also wants to save everyone. He is quite confident because he gained an increase of mastery with the Guardian of the Forest skill.

"We should start our preparation if we actually want to live this punishment. I can tell you that this will negate our revival. If we die here then we will die and be locked out of the game for a day." Adrian warned them which shocked Peridot and Kabrakan.

Peridot is suddenly a bit ashamed of the fickle that she gave the team for her wish. Adrian and Levin Cloud did not tell her off though because they know that they have the last say on the matter anyway. Levin Cloud wanted to do it for the increase in mastery and Adrian wanted to do it to help his friend.

Peridot then transformed to her Ryujin form and started to create multiple elemental barriers above them. Kabrakan changed to his mountain armor and started creating a barrier using his energy and his Wilde Soul assisted in strengthening the barriers that Peridot already placed. Adrian started to summon all his soulbounds and commanded them to increase their protection.

Levin Cloud then started to see the powers of his newly upgraded Guardian of the Forest skill. The Alluring Forest currently has no queen or ruler which means he can now use the newly acquired ability he got. His new ability allows him to synchronize with the forest itself as one can see since he is doing it right now.

Levin Cloud's body started to slightly morph into his true form as part of his lower body started to get rooted into the ground. The trees of the Alluring Forest started to move with his command as everything in the forest became a part of his control. He could do this before but he did not have the ability to control an entire forest of this size.

Levin Cloud's rooted body looked like a forest god that awakened from its slumber and used its power to control the trees. The whole forest started to shake as Levin Cloud commanded all the trees to use all of their energy to protect them. Just as he commanded, all the trees sent their energies to him and he used that to create a dome of vines covering the entire forest.

The onlookers could see the sudden progression of the vines in the forest covering it which solidified their guesses that a monster was undergoing tribulation. The onlookers were like hyenas waiting to see the result of the tribulation as they wanted to see if they could take care of the weakened beast after the tribulation.

"No wonder the Allurers were acting strange earlier! Their master must be undergoing tribulation which is why they were sent to root out all the people inside the Alluring Forest!" One of the immortals that were waiting for the results stated to his group.

"If such a beast that has powerful tribulation survives then would it not be at the level of the divine beasts?" One of the immortal's students asked.

"With a tribulation like that, we can be at least sure that it is as powerful as the divine beasts. We need to see the outcome of this tribulation as this will affect the eastern continent as a whole." The immortal stated.

The powerhouses near the Alluring Forest all watched as the scene of the entire forest getting protected by a dome of vines flooded their eyes. The former Queen of the Alluring Forest could see that something is happening within her forest and wanted to check if she could help as she knew that she is the source of this trouble.

Just as the former Queen of the Alluring Forest is about to return to the forest, her beloved held her hand and told her not to go. She explained to him what she really is and what really happened but her beloved did not care as he hugged her there. She was about to push him away when a snow white fox suddenly appeared before her.

"Are you a messenger of the gods?" The former Queen of the Alluring Forest's lover stated as white foxes are sometimes known to be messenger of the forgotten gods of the east.

"You can say that but my master has told me to tell that woman over there to not interfere with what is happening. She would not be of any use even if she goes to them as she is now human for the rest of her life. King Yama has granted her the chance of becoming a human due to her resolve.

The Queen of the Alluring Forest is no more as you will no longer turn into a plant monster after a day. That was all a test that King Yama has given you to see if you would break. Congratulations and live a good life with your beloved." Yuki stated as she suddenly vanished as her body turned to snow.

Just as Yuki vanished, a powerful lightning came crashing towards the giant vine dome that encompassed the entire Alluring Forest. The lightning not only hit the center where they were but scattered all throughout the vine dome as Levin Cloud intended. Levin Cloud hurriedly tried to replenish the vine dome with the remaining energy that he got as it will not end with one strike.

The energy of the Alluring Forest is sucked dry as Levin Cloud hurriedly tried to create another dome but lightning strikes faster. The second lightning strike hit all the barriers that Peridot created which actually hit her soul. She is immediately incapacitated as a result, but Saena immediately started healing her.

"Next time, let those that love die. I am not dying for another person's love ever again." Peridot grumbled as she could not move her body.

Chapter 1402 Reward From Punishment I

Peridot can no longer cast any spells as the providence lightning damaged her mana circuits. She received a notification that stated that she cannot cast any spells for two hours due to the damage. The providence lightning is definitely a higher power as it could even damage the mana circuits of the most well-built mana circuit race which are dragons.

Lightning once again poured down towards them and it was Kabrakan that shouldered the burden this time. He covered himself with earth to make sure that he can let the ground siphon the rest of the energy. Kabrakan fused with his Wilde Soul to add another layer of magical protection.

The vines did not immediately cover them despite Levin Cloud's attempts to seal the hole as fast as possible. This led to Kabrakan to eat up all the lightning that was supposed to hit them. With his body as an anchor for the lightning, Kabrakan tanked all of it in one blow.

The lightning coursed through the body of Kabrakan as some of it was dispersed with the ground as he planted his feet on the ground. Kabrakan could be seen struggling until he transformed to his beast form which made him look more like a minotaur. The lightning attack soon died down but a very smoky smell could be felt whiffing in the air.

"Are you good?" Adrian asked but Kabrakan did not reply.

Adrian looked closer at Kabrakan as he knew that he was not dead but it seems that he is stunned to the point that his body could not move. With a loud thud, Kabrakan's body crashed on the ground as he could not move. His whole body refused to listen to him despite him still being alive and conscious.

[Your team member, Kabrakan, has been permanently stunned for half an hour due to the power of the attack that he received.]

"Saena!" Adrian commanded as Peridot stated that she could recuperate on her own.

Saena immediately flew towards Kabrakan and started the healing process. Kabrakan was not immediately healed of the status affliction as it was made by a superior energy. Even Saena needs at least ten minutes to fully heal Kabrakan as the energy that the lightning was made of is vastly superior to her sun energy.

"Another round is coming!" Adrian stated as he knew that this would be his turn to defend them against the lightning.

Levin Cloud tried to cover them once more with vines but it was slow as the energy of the forest started to dissipate. He can pull more but that would mean that the forest itself will die from the sudden exhaustion of energy. Adrian told Levin Cloud that he will be the one that will take care of the next one.

"Kimat! You know what to do." Adrian stated as Kimat suddenly grew to his original size.

A large white tiger with sparks of blue lightning is suddenly covered with silver armor. Kimat roared at the thunder clouds above as if challenging it to a battle. Kimat is not alone though as Charon dug its chains deep into the ground and tapped into a ley line. Charon absorbed some of the natural energy of the ley line to create layers of barrier for Kimat.

Adrian also changed to his Aetheros form as he needed to strengthen the defenses of Kimat. Sirius covered Kimat with layers of shadow while Kanlaon created six elemental barriers above the former. Dodu jiggled as it was ready to take on the damage that might kill Kimat while Wisteria used some of her life to actually create energy for the forest which revitalized it.

With the forest suddenly getting a large amount of energy from Wisteria as she has access to Aether energy, Levin Cloud could make use of it to strengthen the vine barrier. As if the thunder clouds above have sentience, the clouds rumbled even louder as the lightning that it was preparing could be felt becoming bigger.

Those that could see the lightning becoming much fiercer suddenly thought that the heavens might not like the beast that is undergoing tribulation. What they did not know is that the beings were not undergoing tribulation but getting handed punishment by a much higher power than what they thought. The vines managed to cover them once more, but the world suddenly became silent.

The whole eastern continent became a silent world where no one lives. The silence was only broken with the loud rumble of the powerful thunder. A massively powerful lightning suddenly rained down from the heavens as if they were trying to smite those that offended them. The lightning hit the vine dome which instantly vaporized it.

Levin Cloud suddenly weakened and reverted to his humanoid form. Levin Cloud spat blood as his soul was damaged by the attack but it was only minor due to Adrian suddenly using his own soul to protect him as the latter's soul was stronger. Adrian's soul took a bit of damage as he mitigated some that would have been fatal for Levin Cloud.

The lightning is then drawn towards Kimat as he siphoned it to himself. All layers of protection that was applied to Kimat's body were destroyed like paper. He is then submitted to a powerful blast of lightning that actually injured him to a large degree which made him roar so loud.

The loud roar made those that were looking from afar shudder as they thought they heard the dying roar of a powerful beast that cannot ascend to a divine beast. They could only sympathize with it as they knew that it will die due to the power of that lightning. Adrian, on the other hand, used all of his essences to make sure that Kimat will not die.

Dodu and Charon even took some of the damage but they were suddenly eviscerated as it was very powerful. They were sent back to the soul chamber to recuperate. Sirius also tried to defend Kimat with his shadows but the lightning dispelled easily.

Chapter 1403 Reward From Punishment II

Sirius was about to use his own body to save Kimat but the latter told him to stop. Kimat told everyone that he could still endure and that they should focus on the areas that he was not siphoning. Seeing their brother's resolve, Sirius and Kanlaon focused on protecting the outer area that Kimat could not siphon as it might hit the others.

Kimat's health could be seen dropping at a fast rate, but Saena blasted him with a healing sun beam to bring his health back to full. When Kimat's health dropped back to half, Adrian then used Invigorate to heal him back up. He was not able to use it earlier as he received a major shock when Charon and Dodu suddenly got deleted by the lightning.

Kimat endured the powerful lightning that poured down on him and roared like the king of beasts. Kimat fought valiantly but he could not take on such a huge burden alone. Just as Adrian is about to whip out a talisman that he save for this occasion, the paper that King Yama gave him suddenly glowed and flew towards Kimat.

The paper was actually a seal that absorbed some of the lightning's energy and created a barrier using that energy. The barrier protected Kimat for a decent amount of time which was enough for Saena to heal him back up. When the barrier vanished, Kimat only needed to endure a few more seconds of the lightning onslaught.

The lightning punishment ended with Kimat becoming incredibly weak as he actually converted to a smaller form. He suddenly became the size of a small kitten and fell on the ground. Adrian picked him up and caressed him while telling him that he did a wonderful job. Adrian then returned Kimat back to his soul chamber.

When Adrian returned Kimat back to his soul chamber, he suddenly coughed up blood which weakened his soul. He realized that he took more damage than he thought as his soul link weakened. All of his soulbounds are then sent back to his soul chamber in order to strengthen his soul.

Adrian then looked towards the sky and could see that the sky was still quite dark. There was still some energy left being gathered as one last lightning strike will surely happen. Adrian could only smile as all of his team members are incapacitated while all his soulbounds could not be summoned.

"I cannot even use my skills because this damned lightning messed up my own core. At least, we managed to hold on until the last strike." Adrian muttered to himself as he was about to accept his fate.

"Cube of Paradox... commencing absorption of needed energy to transform as host could not produce needed energy... Source for energy has been detected... commencing black hole initiative..." A mechanical voice suddenly stated as Adrian's weapon suddenly shot towards the sky.

The Cube of Paradox that was silent for a long time suddenly spoke as it flew towards the location of the thunder clouds. When it reached the core of the thunder clouds, it then transformed itself into a small black hole that absorbed all of the energy that was collected there. Like a powerful vacuum, the Cube of Paradox emptied the energy of the thunder clouds.

The clouds became clear once again as the skies reverted back to normal. The Cube of Paradox then returned back to Adrian as it went into sleep mode once again. Adrian then sensed that a lot of powerful forces started to move which means that they are not safe there. He knew that he cannot go against them at his current self.

"Quantum Dispersion!" Adrian stated as he forced himself to use that spell.

A powerful pushing force then swept all of the incoming forces which knocked them back unexpectedly. Adrian then gathered all of his team members and forcefully teleported out of their location. He would just view this as a detour but he could not teleport that far.

Adrian chose the mountains he could see in the distance since he would need more time to teleport to a new continent. With his quick thinking, all of them vanished from the area by the time the sly people started to gather at their location. When the onlookers arrived, all they could see is the whole area being extremely devastated.

"Did the divine beast really fail? If it failed then its body should have been here!" One of the immortals stated.

"Maybe it made itself explode earlier which was the force that knocked us all back." Another immortal added as there are some prideful beasts that would destroy all of their body instead of being used by others.

"Investigate the whole area!" One of the immortals stated as he was with his disciples.

"If you want to do that then you have to go through us! You are not the only one that can reap the benefits of this place!" Another immortal stated as fight started to brew.

==

"Ugh!" Adrian stated as he gently placed his three companions on the ground as he rested.

Adrian then started to recuperate as fast as possible as he used his aether energy to make sure that he gets healed as soon as possible. He teleported them to an unknown mountain that he does not

even know if the monsters there are powerful or not. The one that was the first to start to move was Kabrakan as he was healed by Saena at Adrian's behest.

"Where are we?" Kabrakan asked.

"I do not know. I just teleported us as quickly as possible because of the irritating people that suddenly flew towards our location." Adrian replied.

"I think we are in the Scarlet Mountain Range." Peridot stated as she started to be able to move as well.

"Why is it called that?" Adrian asked.

"It is called that because it is a place where the firebirds claim as their territory. They are descendants of the fire phoenix by the way and also very territorial." Peridot stated.

Chapter 1404 Reward From Punishment III

"Great! We are trapped in a death zone but at least we did not die earlier." Levin Cloud stated sarcastically.

"You are welcome by the way." Adrian answered.

"Sorry about that. I am just airing my frustration and was not an attack towards you." Levin Cloud stated as he did not mean to say what he said earlier.

"I get it. Next time, we will not mess with the natural order so that we do not get punished." Adrian stated.

"What are you talking about! That was cool and was really rewarding!" Levin Cloud stated which shocked Adrian.

"I actually agree with him because I got my wind crystal upgraded to the lightning element for free. Well, it was not free since I had to endure a powerful lightning strike that could have ended in my death but that is still great! My master said that it would have taken me two years to upgrade it, but it actually upgraded into a Lightning stone with the energy that was poured out earlier." Peridot stated as she was not that upset as she benefitted something from it.

"I also benefitted a lot. I actually got a magical defense skill called Lightning Aura. This is quite rare for Selvaggians as we do not have the best magical defenses compared to the faekin." Kabrakan stated as he showed the new skill to his friends.

==

Skill Name: Lightning Aura

Tier: Semi- Mythical (Can be evolved to Mythical tier)

Type: Passive Magical Defense

Effect:

- When the skill holder instantly gets damaged by 7.5% of his total maximum health then his body would create a lightning aura around him.

- Increases defenses by 15%, regenerates 1% of total maximum health, and damage reduction by 5%.
- When the lightning is released, all enemies in the surroundings get shocked which deals 3% of the skill holder's health as magic damage.
- The effects of this skill can stack up to five times.
- The skill effects can only be dispersed when the skill holder is no longer in combat.

Cooldown: None

Cast Time: Instant

Mana Cost: None

Skill Evolution Requirements: Eye of Lightning

==

"You probably got that skill because you already went against the providence of this world once. It might have triggered a special interaction which is why you got such a powerful skill. You also have the item needed to evolve the skill listed. You are basically getting a mythical skill at this point. Congrats!" Adrian commented as he really thought that the skill is really great for a tank such as Kabrakan.

"I also got something as my Guardian of the Forest skill got a new form called Lightning Blessed Form! I do not know what it is but seeing I got it from that powerful lightning meant that it must be powerful." Levin Cloud stated smugly but returned to a more comfortable position as his whole-body hurts.

"I also got something from the lightning as Kimat powered up and is currently digesting the energy that he absorbed. I just hope that it is enough for him to get an evolution as his next evolution requirements were empty. If he gets an evolution path, then that makes three of my soulbounds ready for evolution." Adrian stated but that is not the only thing that he received.

Adrian also had his Cube of Paradox absorb enough energy to complete its transformation. Adrian knew that it would not take long for it to transform into another weapon. He could feel it because the Cube of Paradox is currently attached to his soul as well. It is now in the process of using all the energy it accumulated to evolve as well.

"It is good that all of us got something from that troublesome lightning but what about the former Queen of the Alluring Forest?" Peridot asked as she was not informed that she would be a mortal starting now.

"You do not need to worry about that because I already tasked Yuki about that. The fox that Sirius had converted to become a member of his pack." Adrian stated.

"I see. No wonder there was no white fox earlier. Then our only problem would be to get out of the Scarlet Mountains and towards the Imperial City. If we get out of this place, then we should be near the Imperial City of Hinomoto as it is only on the other side of this mountain range." Peridot stated as she has memorized the map of the eastern continent.

"That is great then! I will heal everyone so that we can continue on for the current quest." Levin Cloud stated as he started to heal everyone.

"Why not summon Saena to aid him? She also has authority over bird monsters as she is of ancient blood." Peridot stated.

"I would have done so if I could, but my core is damaged. I cannot summon any of my soulbounds for a whole day because they are needed to strengthen my current soul. Unlike you guys, I absorbed the lightning damage needed for eight people." Adrian stated as they could see that his current color was paler than usual.

"I should summon Moksha then." Peridot stated but all of them said that she should not.

Peridot is currently being targeted at the eastern continent as well and it is known that only she has a qilin as a mount. If they rode Moksha, then they will only be telling the ones harming her their location. They decided that they have no choice but to continue by foot. Thankfully, Peridot already has the trail covered as she has a complete map of the eastern continent.

When all of them were able to walk by themselves, they started to head towards their destination. Peridot carefully chose the track to make sure that they do not encounter any fire birds or locations of their nests. Fire birds are not really known for their patient temper as they could ignite with just simple statements.

As if the heavens were taking pity on them, they did not encounter any monster that can pose a threat to them. They were only an hour away before they were out of the Scarlet Mountains when they suddenly heard people talking. Adrian casted Spirit Form Transformation on all of them to turn them invisible.

The people that they saw were a group of ten people with Taoist robes, but they were wearing a fox mask to hide their faces. They also do not seem like pacifists or spiritual in a sense as they did not even sense the group despite being in spirit form. This only means that they were using the clothes as mere disguises.

"Are you sure that the information that the Soul Princess is heading back towards the Imperial City of Himonoto?" One of the masked people stated.

"Affirmative. They said that she will be using the special passage available here in the Scarlet Mountains as we ambushed her party at their earlier intended path." One of the masked people added.

"If that is the case then we could claim her and present her to the Veiled Ones. We would be greatly rewarded for our efforts should we achieve this." Another masked person indicated.

"Everything is for the restoration of the past glory!" One of the masked individual stated as the other soon followed in saying the chant.

The ten masked individuals then ran off to the location that they called the secret tunnel. It seems that they want to capture the individual called the Soul Princess. The fact that they want to kidnap her means that she has incredible worth as they were not there to kill her.

"Do you know the Soul Princess that they are referring to?" Adrian asked.

"The Soul Princess is Princess Shini. She is a direct descendant of the reigning emperor and is also one of the daughters that she dotes on. She is also a powerful shaman that can erect barriers using what she calls as spirit energy which the eastern continent is abundant of.

The fact that they are targeting her means they have a death wish because she can never be captured. Fighting her would not only mean getting pass through the great defenses but also her personal guards that are great fighters. There were attempts at first, but they all stopped when the heads of those that dared to do so was posted on the walls of the imperial city." Peridot stated.

"I see then we do not need to interfere then." Kabrakan stated but Adrian and Levin Cloud had a different look when they saw the masked individuals.

"You saw it too, right?" Adrian asked Levin Cloud.

"Yes. It was something that made my eyes hurt and soul tremble." Levin Cloud replied.

"Feel free to inform us if there is something important. We do not operate on both your realms of life and death." Peridot stated.

"They have something that smells of death. Not the blissful kind but the begrudging kind." Adrian replied.

Chapter 1405 Soul Princess I

An item that is filled with death energy should not be possible to be in the mortal world unless it was done by gods. The Gods of Life and Death have made sure to never make an item that contains death energy to be in the hands of other mortals as it disrupts the equilibrium that they have created.

The dark elves were the ones that were tasked to search for such items in the world as they can sense death energy. Even the undead that has accepted the covenant with God of Death Abaddon knows of this and are actively searching for such relics. Even Adrian and Levin Cloud are shocked that such a thing was here in the eastern continent.

Adrian might want to ignore it but he suddenly got a quest that told him to get the item. Even Levin Cloud has the same quest given to him as they were responsible as the Champion of the Twin Gods and the Envoy of the Twin Gods.

==

Emergency Quest!

Quest Name: Retrieve the Item with Death Energy

Quest Difficulty: B

Quest Description: You and the Envoy of the Twin Gods unexpectedly ran into some mysterious individuals that has an item filled with death energy in their possession. Investigate and get the item to see what it is.

Clear Condition: Retrieve the item that has death energy.

Clear Reward: Gain Tokens of Death x1

Failure Condition: Unable to retrieve the item.

Failure: A special NPC will get captured and the fate of the eastern continent may be affected.

Duration: Until the mysterious people capture the Soul Princess.

Restriction: This is a quest only available to people that have relation to the Church of the Twin Gods.

Note: It can be shared with other people that are not affiliated with the Church of the Twin Gods but they will only receive experience points as a reward.

==

Adrian and Levin Cloud showed them the quest as they knew that this must be a big deal. It is a quest that might affect the future of the eastern continent. Peridot immediately told them that they should accept it as the quest is related to the fate of her home continent.

"This is also a hint on the fate of the Soul Princess. This quest basically indicates that if we do not move then she will be taken by those people. It must be something related to the item filled with death energy that those people have." Adrian stated.

"I agree." Levin Cloud stated.

"What should we do then? We can also use this chance to save them so that we can get free entrance to the Imperial City of Hinomoto." Peridot stated.

"Nice going! We can do that! Kill two birds with one stone." Kabrakan added.

"The only problem is that we are not in our full fighting capacity right now." Adrian stated.

"That will not be much of a problem as you can just revive us if we die. The Soul Princess also has her guards which means we have extra hands when it comes to enemies." Peridot stated.

All of them nodded as they knew that they should do their best. Adrian also wanted the reward as it is a rare commodity in the underworld. He learned of this item thanks to Creepysoo as he got this for working with some of the Gods of Death.

The Token of Death is basically a special currency that is issued by the Gods of Death. One can trade any item in the underworld for this special item. The items are actually being monitored by the God of Death Hades as he is the one running the inventory for tradeable items. Creepysoo even mentioned that there are rare class change items or skills in that trade post.

"For the Token of Death!" Adrian stated.

"For the eastern continent!" The others stated as they looked at Adrian since his chant was different than theirs.

"I got priorities, but the eastern continent is definitely second." Adrian replied as he waved them to follow the location of the hidden passage of the Scarlet Mountains.

They might not know the location of the hidden passage but they can feel the death energy emanating from the item. If they follow that trail then they would be able to intercept the suspicious individuals. They followed the traces of death energy only to be alarmed by the sound of clashing weapons and armors.

The four of them sprinted as fast as they can and noticed that the ten suspicious individuals were not the only ones waiting for the Soul Princess. It seems that they also had some reinforcements as the number of fox masked individuals grew to at least thirty. Each of the fox masked individuals also have great fighting prowess.

"Protect the princess!" A great warrior shouted as he commanded their group.

"Yes, Captain Xiang!" All the soldiers replied.

The princess has five warriors that are dressed differently to her other guards. The one that shouted seems to be leader of her royal guards. He wielded a long spear that is twice the length of his body with a blade coming out of a golden dragon head. He also rode a War Horse or rather a Primal War Horse which is an evolved version of the former.

Captain Xiang sported a black and red armor that perfectly showed his well-built stature and physique. It also added to his domineering aura as he can send a man flying with one swing of his spear. He could also take on five opponents at a time compared to the others.

One of the four remaining guards that look different from the rest has a spear as a weapon as well. Her subordinates called her Qin Liangyu. She sported a freer flowing red and black dress that becomes deeper in color with the blood of her enemies.

If Captain Xiang used his spear with great force and might then Qin Liangyu wielded her with finesse and grace. She would look like she was dancing in the battlefield with great movements but it did not end with applause. Her dance would end with the body of her enemies in holes.

The second of the unique looking guards seem to be an intellectual type and he was called Tiangang. He looked weak as he wore robes of a scholar but that should not hold well in the eastern continent. With a flick of his hands, inscriptions would be created on either the ground or the air itself.

The inscriptions that he created would explode in a powerful blast of flame. Those affected would either burn to death or explode on the spot with their bodies being reduced to ashes. He did not move away from the palanquin though as he acted like a core guard near the one inside it.

Another unique looking guard of the Soul Princess is a woman wearing light green clothing with a light pink dress under it. She wields a special fan that seems to carry the wind with its movement. She is also protecting the palanquin with Tiangang as she created powerful winds that swept her enemies away.

She could even create a wind barrier just by lightly tapping on her fan. She would create wind blades with each aggressive movement of her fan which sliced the enemies into pieces. She did all this with a gentle smile and calm demeanor.

The last of the uniquely dressed guards is a beautiful woman with blue hair dressed lavishly in deep blue and purple. She wielded a staff that has a gigantic pearl on it and called upon the waves. She stayed at the back of the palanquin and aided her allies via spells that attached the water element into their weapons.

The fight against the assailants were quite easy for the guards of the Soul Princess as they have no trouble in keeping them away. The guards of the Soul Princess was about to defeat the assailants

when Adrian and Levin Cloud felt their skin tingle. The item that was being kept by the fox masked individuals was taken out of its protective box.

The item that contained vast amounts of death energy was actually a cursed hand that was wrapped in cloth with sacred texts. The moment the assailants used this item, all their dead comrades suddenly reanimated. All those that they killed started to stand up to fight once more which made it a hassle to deal with.

The guards of the Soul Princess would cut their enemy down, but the magical hand would just reanimate them to their peak form. The reanimated bodies would be marked by a special paper talisman sticking in front of their head that read Jiangshi. They were none other than undead that was reanimated but the way they were reanimated was different.

"Is that even possible?! Even Creepysoo cannot restore an undead that was torn into pieces, but that item can." Kabrakan stated as that is basically cheating if they can do a thing like that.

Chapter 1406 Soul Princess II

The fox masked individuals are revived or rather reformed into jiangshis as they could not die. The only thing that could really kill them was to disintegrate the whole body to ashes but there is only one of them that could do that. The guards started to get injured more and more as they were pushed back towards the palanquin.

Just as one of the guards is about to die, a powerful barrier suddenly emerged from the palanquin that protected all of the guards. The guards were able to breathe a bit when they saw the barrier being erected as they could rest a bit. Just by the expressions of the guards, they have full confidence in the barrier that the Soul Princess erected.

"Everyone! Heal up! We need to become fighting fit as we cannot move while we are protected by the barrier." Captain Xiang stated, and all the guards followed.

"It is pointless because all of you will die here." A man that has an ash grey fox mask stated as he brought out the undead hand wrapped in incantations.

The undead hand that was inanimate suddenly started to form a hand seal. The hand seal looked like it was clasping something and the jiangshis suddenly clashed with each other. As if the jiangshis were magnetized to one another, all of them stuck to each other and started to meld into one being.

When all of the jiangshis fused, they created an abomination that is an undead that has five heads and six arms that ran like a spider. It still has the jiangshi indication on all of its head but it emanated a dark smoke that corrodes even the ground.

==

Monster Name: Corpse Legion (Jiangshi)

Monster Tier: Legendary

Monster Level: 250

HP: 100%

MP: 100%

Status: Immortal, Miasma

Description: A monster that is created or rather an abomination created by fusing multiple jiangshis together. It is said that whoever creates a Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) will be punished for all eternity in the underworld as it is a great offense to the dead. It is also very rare for this monster to be created as all bodies used must be compatible with each other.

==

The Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) suddenly skittered towards the barrier and tried pressing it but it did not budge. It then tried to slam it but the barrier did not even get cracks. All five heads then spewed its miasma on the barrier and there were signs that it is becoming weaker.

The Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) laughed upon seeing the barrier getting melted by its miasma breath. The image of five undead heads laughing at the same time is the stuff of nightmares. The most important thing is that the Soul Princess started to cough as the sound of her wheezing could be heard from inside the palanquin.

The moment the Soul Princess started coughing all five guards immediately went on the offensive. The other guards were tasked to protect the princess as the five royal guards are starting to move. They know that the Soul Princess cannot keep the barrier up with the fact that the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) is using some sort of hex to weaken the barrier and the princess.

All five royal guards tried making the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) go away from the barrier but five fox masked individuals suddenly blocked them. The fox masks of these five were also of an ash grey color which means they are different to the other ones that had brown fox masks. The individuals with ash grey fox masks were definitely the leaders of the other group.

Since the five royal guards were not able to make the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) go away, the guards inside tried to destroy it. They used their weapons to poke and slash at it, but they were not able to damage it to a great degree. The Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) is just letting the guards damage its body because it just gets regenerated.

"We should go now!" Adrian told the other three and they nodded.

Levin Cloud suddenly turned into vines as he seeped into the ground. Peridot applied numerous speed buffs to Kabrakan as the latter suddenly charged towards the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi). Adrian might not be able to summon his soulbounds but he can still summon his Primordial Armaments.

"Primordial Armament: Twin Daggers!" Adrian muttered as his form changed to more an assassin style clothing.

The sound of a large build individual like Kabrakan charging towards the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) could be heard. All of the individuals there could see him charging towards them but neither group knew if he was a friend or a foe. The group of the Soul Princess knew that he was an ally as he actually tackled the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi).

"Shield Bash!" Kabrakan stated as he sent the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) flying for about five meters.

As soon as the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) fell to the ground, Peridot immediately casted a spell called Earth Trap which created precipices of solid rock to cling onto the target. The rocks below suddenly clung to the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) and disabled its movements.

Just when they thought it was over, vines started to grow from the ground and strangled the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi). Levin Cloud is actually using his body to hold down the enemy as there were no trees nearby. Levin Cloud also started to use Sand Pit to soften the ground below to try and bury the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) below.

With the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) no longer affecting the barrier, the coughing sounds started to stop. It seems that the Soul Princess is somehow connected to the barrier that she erected as she was directly affected by the miasma. The barriers she create may be sturdy but it seems that it also comes with a cost.

"No! You dare to intrude!" The one using the undead hand stated as he gathered some energy from it and threw it towards the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi).

The Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) suddenly became enraged and more powerful. The bindings holding it down were all destroyed, and the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) roared with five different voices. The roar sounded more like five people wailing than a fearsome sound.

"Found you!" Adrian muttered as he suddenly appeared behind the one wielding the undead hand.

"Soul Impale!" Adrian stated as two of his daggers glowed in a purple and gold light.

Adrian stabbed the back of the one wielding the undead hand with all his strength. He even used all of his Primordial Essence and charged his attack with all his Nether Energy. An ugly scream could be heard as the fox masked individual let go of the undead hand. Adrian immediately took the undead hand and vanished from his current location.

Despite the undead hand no longer in the control of the fox masked individual, the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) did not vanish. Adrian did not deactivate the spell as it was still locked in place. He would need quite some time in order to do so as he needs to summon the gate of the underworld.

"Capture the thief!" The fox masked individual shouted.

"He cannot be located!" Answered the other ash grey fox masked individuals as they cannot see Adrian's location.

"He is there!" the one that previously wielded the undead hand stated as he pointed towards Adrian's location.

Adrian then hurriedly threw the undead hand towards Peridot that was hiding in the corner. She then transformed into her ryujin form and flew towards the skies. They would not be able to catch her if she was in the skies as they do not have a mode of flying but they were wrong. Some of the fox masked individuals suddenly brought out swords and rode them.

"Immortals!" Adrian muttered as he vanished from his location once more.

Adrian then appeared next to one of the immortals and plunged his dagger on their back. The fox masked immortal suddenly screamed in pain as Adrian also applied nether energy on it. Four other fox masked immortal managed to follow her though which she then called upon the moon as it could now be seen in the sky since night is about to fall.

Adrian then felt the danger behind him as numerous flying swords are aimed at him. He used enhanced blink to dodge which made the fox masked immortal that he stabbed be hit by the numerous flying swords.

"Aim correctly, you bastard!" The one that was stabbed by numerous flying swords stated.

"Hold him down since you were not able to follow the Ryujin!" The ash grey fox masked individual stated.

"That would be no longer needed. Soul Seeker!" Adrian stated as he threw his left dagger towards the ash grey fox masked individual.

"Useless!" The fox masked individual stated as he controlled his flying swords to block the dagger, but the latter just passed through his weapons.

"Checkmate." Adrian stated with a smile as he activated the second phase of the skill.

Chapter 1407 Soul Princess III

Adrian suddenly turned into a being of pure mana and appeared next to the ash grey fox masked individual. The enemy that Adrian hit could not even emit a sound as the latter's dagger accurately hit his heart. Adrian's enemy dropped to the ground with a thud as all the energy that controlled the flying swords vanished.

[You have activated Soul Seeker with Soul Impale.]

[You enchanted the skill with Nether Energy which granted it a greater chance of execution.]

[You have executed an enemy due to hitting their vital spot.]

[You have killed an unknown immortal. You have received experience points.]

"Where do you think you are going!" Adrian stated as he stretched his hands to capture the soul of the unknown immortal.

"Unhand me, you disgraceful demon! I will kill you once I can reconstruct my body once more!" The spirit of the unknown immortal stated but Adrian just gripped his soul tighter.

"Leader!" All of the remaining ash grey fox masked individual shouted as they charged towards Adrian.

"A little help." Adrian stated as the vines that held the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) suddenly became thicker and bigger.

The vines that is Levin Cloud's body swatted the flying immortals from the sky which made them crash on the ground. Seeing their chance, the royal guards of the soul princess immediately jumped at the opportunity to kill those that crashed. The Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) is enraged but no one was controlling it which made it go berserk.

The Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) started to go crazy and attack even the fox masked individuals. Due to this, the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) started bashing at the barrier even crazier than before and even using its physical body to do so. When the royal guards dispatched the ash grey fox masked individuals, they helped Kabrakan in taking care of the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi).

The Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) did not suffer much from the attacks as it could regenerate despite the undead hand being away from its vicinity. The next thing that happened are meteors crashing towards the ground as the horrid face of the immortals caught within it are viewed. The fox masked immortals that chased after Peridot are reduced to meat pastes as their bodies are crushed by meteors.

"Sorry, I got a bit late from dealing with them." Peridot stated as she descended to the ground in her full Ryujin splendor.

All of the guards were basking on Peridot's beautiful form but they were woken up by the horrid roar of the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi). Peridot immediately gave the undead hand towards Adrian as the latter attempted to destroy it using his nether energy. Adrian would have been successful if he had more nether energy left but he used most of it to dispose of the immortal earlier.

"I will help!" Levin Cloud stated as he sprouted from the ground.

"Thanks!" Adrian replied.

Both Adrian and Levin Cloud then used their abilities to try and destroy the undead hand but they were unable to despite working together. They knew that they cannot do so even if Adrian has more nether energy in his body. Levin Cloud decided to seal the undead hand instead of destroying it.

"Seal it. We have no other choice. It might be a cursed artifact from the underworld." Levin Cloud stated and Adrian agreed.

Both Adrian and Levin Cloud started chanting in a language that cannot be understood by normal ears. They were heard by those around them but the sound they are making cannot be distinguished as the low and high pitches mixed together. Listening to them might even trigger the ears to explode if they listened with great intent.

ρᾶπδᾶ-ñovê|·cóm The undead hand started to get coated with a tar like substance which made the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) scream. The Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) instinctively knew that its pitiful life will draw to a close if the undead hand were to get sealed. The Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) used ll of its remaining energy to charge towards Adrian and Levin Cloud but Kabrakan met it with its body.

Kabrakan's body is covered with parks as his Lightning Aura activated due to the damage that he received. He met the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) with all of his body and sent the huge monster flying back. It seems his Lightning Aura also energized his body and not just increased his defenses.

"Smack Down!" Kabrakan shouted as he suddenly jumped up high and slammed the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) to the ground.

The Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) screamed as it tried to stand up again but Kabrakan pressed it with Smack Down. Kabrakan's weight is tripled during the activation of the skill which makes it ideal to keep enemies knocked down. Since Kabrakan also mastered the Smack Down skill, he can use more mana to increase his weight to up to five times.

"Done!" Adrian and Levin Cloud stated as the tar like substance has coated the undead hand completely.

As soon as the undead hand was covered, the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) started to melt into a puddle of unknown substances. It released a last painful cry but no one felt pity on the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) as it was already abomination that disgraced life. The souls of the bodies used for the Corpse Legion (Jiangshi) did not ascend but got erased from existence.

"I should take this for now. We need to have an Anubis identify this artifact as even my eye does not know what it is." Adrian stated and Levin Cloud agreed.

"Unhand me!" The soul of the immortal stated but this time he is shouting in fear instead of the arrogant tone earlier.

"I almost forgot I was holding this thing. I will go to Limbo for now. I leave the explanation about what happened to you guys." Adrian stated as he opened a gate to Limbo and left his friends to explain why they were there.

"Hey! You just do not want to explain it to them. You are the one with the token though." Peridot stated but Adrian already left.

Chapter 1408 Soul Princess IV

Back in the tea house, the hostess was about to collect the Faux Mana Caterpillars as the time limit has been up. The ones that were monitoring Adrian and his friends back in Vermillion City are in panic as they left. The hostess chuckled while she took the first three Faux Mana Caterpillars but found out that the last one was missing.

"Where is it?" The hostess muttered as she looked for it in all parts of the room but there was no trace of it.

The Faux Mana Caterpillar that was missing was the one that absorbed Adrian's mana signature. She even looked for it at the rooms next to them but there was no sign as well. She suddenly thought that it might have disintegrated as there was a chance for that to happen.

"Thankfully, I got gold as a compensation or else the breeders will yell at me. It is a good thing that at least three of the four are alive and returned to their usual forms." The hostess stated as she kept them back into the box and left.

The hostess did search every nook and cranny for the Faux Mana Caterpillar that was missing but she did not search above her head. Inside the empty ceiling covers is the Faux Mana Caterpillar that has eaten Adrian's mana. It did not change its form back to its original appearance but kept the form that it took upon eating Adrian's mana.

The Faux Mana Caterpillar did not emit the same mana signature that Adrian has though but it has suddenly got an appetite for it. The Faux Mana Caterpillar that ate Adrian's mana actually changed to a different species as it is no longer a mana caterpillar. It has now resolved itself to find the delicious mana it has tasted and unconsciously created a small portal in front of it.

If one were to see this then they would have jumped at the opportunity to catch this caterpillar at all costs but no one saw it. The caterpillar crawled towards the small portal it created as it instinctively knew that it will lead it to that delicious mana.

==

"Greetings to the Princess Shini!" Peridot greeted the palanquin with a light bow.

"Greetings to the Lady of the Ryujin, Peridot. Guards, greet Lady Peridot." A petite voice from the palanquin replied as it opened to reveal a petite girl that is still the age of a teenager.

"The Esteemed Tortoise Guards greets the Lady of the Ryujin!" The guards shouted as they bowed to Peridot to show respect.

"There is no need for too much pleasantry as this place is not ideal for it. Let my companion here help in healing all of you as your guards are heavily injured. He should check on you as well, Princess Shini." Peridot stated.

"Thank you for your assistance." Princess Shini stated.

"Excuse me then." Levin Cloud stated as he started to heal the injured guards.

Princess Shini and Peridot then started to talk to each other about the circumstances of their strange meetup. Peridot told her that they teleported to the Scarlet Mountains and they were headed to the Imperial City of Hinomoto. On their way, two of her companions sensed a powerful death energy signature and they found the fox masked individuals.

"Do you know who they are or what organization they belong to? It seems that they might also be related to the people that are trying to kill the Ryujin traveling alone. They seem oddly familiar to me as I was attacked like you once." Peridot stated.

"We do not know as well as this is the first time in a long time since someone was brave enough to actually attack me. It seems the eastern continent is becoming unstable and I fear that it might affect the ordinary citizens." Princess Shini stated in a worried tone.

Princess Shini looks like a doll with her porcelain white skin and her vibrant red dress that looks like a modified priestess gown. She is also one of the kind hearted princesses in the imperial city as she always gives a chance to those that commit minor offenses. Still, she knows when to punish those that deserve it as she knows when to be ruthless. The two talked while the guards are healed up and rested since they have to wait for Adrian.

==

"Welcome, Master Equinox!" The anubises stated as they bowed toward Adrian.

"We have a problem. I found this on the hands of mortals in the mortal realm." Adrian stated as he showed the sealed undead hand.

"This!" The anubises exclaimed in shock.

"Do you know what this is?" Adrian asked.

"A dreadful artifact that is made by making use of a body part of a depraved individual. The ways to create this cursed artifact should no longer be possible as records of it was burned to ashes. How was it possible for the mortals to create such a thing!?" The anubises stated.

"You can interrogate this soul then. This soul should be under the care of King Yama but we can borrow it for the time being since this being was the one using this artifact." Adrian stated as he presented the soul of the immortal.

"As your will commands! We shall make sure to get answers from this mortal." An Anubis stated as it took the soul of the immortal.

"No! You cannot do this to me! I was promised to live forever in paradise!" The soul of the immortal shouted but a glare from the Anubis made it shut up.

"Can you tell me how this artifact is made or what it is even called?" Adrian asked.

"This cursed artifact is called the Depraved Man's Hand. It is a powerful cursed artifact that can create undead and make them virtually immortal. It even has the ability to fuse the souls of people into one to create an abomination but it comes at the cost of the souls of the people used." The Anubis stated as it started to give Adrian all the information about it.

Chapter 1409 The Depraved Man's Hand I

The Anubis explained how the Depraved Man's Hand is created and Adrian paled when he learned the process. The Depraved Man's Hand is created by having a killer that ended innocent lives become a living saint by other people. The killer must be worshipped until they die as their body is preserved.

There would then be one ritual sacrifice for at least one hundred years where innocent lives are used. The Depraved Man's Hand will become more powerful as long as the ritual is still performed. When the artifact creator is satisfied then they would wrap the hand of the killer in special fabric that can preserve the energy of the faith given to it.

"The fact that something like the Depraved Man's Hand was made in the mortal realm is truly worrying and it has been undetected by even the other gods of death. The only plausible reason for this to happen is that a god is the culprit." The Anubis stated.

"You mean to say that the Depraved Man's Hand is not an artifact that was stolen in the underworld?" Adrian asked.

"All the Depraved Man's Hands that was confiscated back then were all destroyed by the God Abaddon as it is truly an item that could even affect his control over the souls of the damned." The Anubis stated.

"But how can a god interfere with the detection when it is only recently that gods are able to descend as demigods. The process that you told me meant that it will take at least a hundred years minimum for the Depraved Man's Hand to be made." Adrian stated.

"Gods are being that could trick causality as long as they know how to get around it. It might be a wild assumption but there must have been a god that descended into the mortal realm by sealing their powers to the level of a mortal." The Anubis stated.

"Then which of the gods are crazy enough to do that? From what I remember, gods and goddesses are prideful beings that see their divinity as part of themselves. The fact that one or more of them could easily give it up to end up with a mortal shell is crazy. They could actually die as a mortal if they did that as they would be subjected to mortal rules as well." Adrian stated.

"It is very hard to believe but I have a feeling or rather a hunch on a group of gods that might be able to pull something like this off." The Anubis stated.

"Can you tell me? It might just be your hunch but it is better than nothing." Adrian stated.

"There are gods called Tricksters. From what the name suggests, they are gods that like to pull tricks but tricks made by gods are not the same as those done by mortals. The most noteworthy thing is that the Trickster Gods are the ones that know the effects of causality the most as they are the ones that are always testing its limits.

It might be my hunch as I do not view Trickster Gods in a good light. They are the ones that can make something like the Depraved Man's Hand appear in the mortal realm where records of it are destroyed. If something out of the ordinary happens, they are usually the ones that are behind the scenes." The Anubis stated as it seems to have some experience with Trickster Gods.

"Can you guys confront them at least?" Adrian asked.

"I am afraid that will no longer be in our jurisdiction as we only concern ourselves with the dead." The Anubis stated.

"Is there really no chance? Like is there no summit where all the gods attend or anything?" Adrian asked as there are stories of gods meeting with one another and partying.

"You are very knowledgeable of the affairs of gods. They do have an event called the Summit of the Gods where all gods that are part of the world are required to attend. We might be able to confirm our suspicions if one of the gods are absent there." The Anubis stated.

"Then when will it be held?" Adrian asked.

"Unfortunately, the Summit of the Gods is not an event that is held annually in the mortal timeline. It is only held in a hundred years time when converted to the time of mortals. The next one will be ten years from now if one is to be held." The Anubis stated.

"Then the culprit for the Depraved Man's Hand must have planned it carefully ever since the last summit then. It is all too coincidental for something like a well monitored dangerous artifact to be hidden from the divine senses of the gods. Whoever planned this has thought out everything very carefully." Adrian stated.

"There are exceptions for the Summit of the Gods to happen. Such exceptions are when punishing a god as the other gods will judge on the severity of the punishment or when the world is about to come to an end." The Anubis added.

"Great! Where can I find a god being punished then. It is not like mortals can see the affairs of gods." Adrian stated sarcastically.

"Anyways, brief me on the findings that you get from that immortal's soul. I need to return back to the mortal realm as my friends are still waiting for me." Adrian stated as he opened the door.

"Arbiter! I should warn you that there is not only one Depraved Man's Hand. If they used a mortal man's hand, then there could be two in existence." The Anubis stated which made Adrian's ear perk.

"You mean to say there is another one when we barely felt the signature of the other one. We only happened to get a read on it by chance as the container was faulty. The fact that there is another one is a great danger to the mortal world. Thanks for the information. I shall get you the treats... I mean the biscuits in my next visit." Adrian stated as he hurriedly returned to the mortal world.

==

Levin Cloud finished curing all the wounds of the guards that the Soul Princess had. They even marveled at how masterfully he has done it. Sometimes they would have scars left from their encounters but Levin Cloud even made their skin spotless. This made him a favorite to the female guards as they could also feel that their skin became even smoother.

Even some of the female guards that were not injured heavily came to him for treatment. He did not decline as it is very easy for him to heal them as his body has been back to normal. The last one that he healed was Princess Shini and he immediately made a complicated face when he checked on her.

"Is there something wrong?" Princess Shini asked.

"There is something wrong but there isn't. I cannot put my finger on what is the problem. Let me heal you fully first as it seems that you were injured earlier." Levin Cloud stated as he healed Princess Shini.

Everything went well as the Princess Shini could be seen with no injuries or bruises. Her skin even had a healthy glow on it when he finished the session. He checked again but there is something else that he feels wrong.

"Her soul is damaged or rather a bit incomplete." Adrian stated as he suddenly appeared before them.

"What do you mean by that?" Levin Cloud stated but the royal guards suddenly became up in arms.

Adrian saw the reaction of the guards and immediately shifted the space that they are in to make sure that no outside noise can be heard. The royal guards felt something happen in the space around them which made their alarm bells ring. The being in front of them is not someone they can easily mess with.

"Captain, tell the other guards to check the perimeter." Princess Shini stated.

"As your will." Captain Xiang replied as he already knew what the princess wanted.

All the guards were sent to check the perimeter as they must not know what Adrian will say. He then reduced the size of the spatial shift to make sure that only his friends, Princess Shini and the princess' royal guards are inside.

"What do you mean her soul is incomplete?" Peridot asked as she does not know about states of souls and such.

"I did not know what the princess did, but her soul is not completely whole. I am guessing it is related to the fact that her ability to erect barriers is directly related to her soul. She does not feed mana into her barriers but use her own soul's energy.

I got to say it is very powerful since the energy of one's soul can rival a sun if strong enough. If I am not mistaken then the barrier covering the Imperial City of Hinomoto is actually made using that missing chunk as a catalyst." Adrian surmised as all of the royal guards pulled their weapons.

Chapter 1410 The Depraved Man's Hand II

All of the weapons and even spells of the royal guards are aimed at Adrian but the latter did not flinch. Adrian already knew that he would get that reaction if he should say it out loud but he went

and did it anyway. He was already planning on what they needed to enter the Imperial City of Hinomoto and even get the sun stone without breaking a sweat.

"Stand down." Princess Shini stated but the royal guards did not accept her command immediately.

"I said, stand down!" Princess Shini stated in a more domineering voice.

All of the royal guards stood down as the other side was also ready to clash should something happen. All of the jewels that Peridot used were ready to burst out while Kabrakan was ready to go in front of Adrian should something happen. Levin Cloud was even ready to use death magic to the princess herself if the other side did not back down.

"Seeing that you made them stand down means that I am correct in my assumption." Adrian stated.

"I will neither deny nor confirm that allegation. I am curious though of the consequences of having a part of your soul missing." Princess Shini asked in a dignified manner as she radiated the aura of what a princess should have.

"Since you asked then symptoms would be different per case basis but they do have some in common. One would be the obvious lack of energy of the person affected which sometimes manifests in pale skin and looking a bit sickly. Another would be the person's intense hunger that should not be proportional to their body frame." Adrian stated.

"One more symptom would be often dazing out into the sky as if they are daydreaming always. This can also manifest into the person being absent minded despite being attentive just a few seconds before the conversation." Levin Cloud added.

With each of the symptom that Adrian and Levin Cloud gave, the expressions that the royal guards gave made it apparent. The royal guards could check all of the boxes that the two gave as they have noticed it on their master. Some of them genuinely looked worried for the princess with each symptom given.

"The most notable one would be when it is already severe is the person suddenly blanking out. At first, the interval might be long for example years, but the timeframe will shorten. It will shorten to the span of days then to hours until the person just becomes a husk of a human." Adrian stated which sent shivers down the spines of the royal guards but Princess Shini seems to be fine or at least looked fine.

"Is there anyway to cure it?" Captain Xiang asked.

"Cure? There is only one cure and that is to have that missing chunk of soul be returned. Mortals are not like gods that can just split their souls because they want to." Levin Cloud stated.

"There is another way but that one is even more unlikely to happen." Adrian muttered.

"Can we know what this other way is?" Tiangang asked.

"The reason I said that it is unlikely is due to the fact that no mortal can ever achieve it without divine intervention. The way I am saying is the person eating food that was created or grown in the underworld. There is a downside to that as any being that eats food from the underworld would also need to return to that place every so often." Adrian stated.

Any food eaten in the underworld will make any mortal become subject to that specific area. This is not only limited to mortals as even gods can be subjected to this rule. This rule was made to make

sure that any being that wanders into the underworld and takes from it can never return to being normal. It is also a precaution in place to make sure that no thieves gets any idea.

"There is another way and that is by eating the Peach of Immortality. Legends say that it is a fruit that can transform a mortal into an immortal. If that happens then the person afflicted with that condition will be safe." Captain Xiang stated.

"It is foolish to think that Immortals are immune to effects like that. I said that only gods can do something like that without any side effect. Immortals are just more evolved humans and are still subject to the rules of mortals." Adrian stated with a chuckle, but the royal guards cannot believe what he said.

"Anyways, I have something more important to talk to all of you about. I reckon that all of you should hear about this as well since you were the targets of the situation earlier." Adrian stated as all of the attention shifted towards him.

"The thing that created that abomination is called the Depraved Man's Hand. Apparently, it is not only one as some beings were born with two hands. I am telling this to all of you to move carefully and with caution as this is a cursed artifact." Adrian stated and all of them went silent.

A powerful artifact that can create a powerful undying undead which can also destroy barriers created by the Soul Princess is not something the royal guards can ignore. They fear that the attack towards the princess was just a test to see if the monster created can affect the barrier created by the former.

"Princess! This is a state of emergency! What if dozens of those monsters were to attack the capital? They could melt the barrier if they are numerous in number." Captain Xiang stated.

"Do not panic Captain Xiang. You have seen that there is only one that was created earlier. I believe that should be the restriction of that cursed artifact." Princess Shini replied.

"Not really." Adrian muttered and all of them looked at him.

"Can you please enlighten us?" Princess Shini asked in a voice that quivered for a second.

"The other party seemed to not have many bodies to use for the monster. If they had more then you would not only face one of them. We also interfered immediately which is why they were only able to make one. The cursed artifact is powerful enough to create hundreds as long as the user has enough materials." Adrian stated which made everyone gulp.

"Captain, we must return to the imperial city immediately." Princess Shini commanded as Captain Xiang gathered the guards for their departure.

"Since we are also going there then may we accompany you on the way?" Adrian asked.

"I am not small minded to not give back to our helpers and you are very knowledgeable about the artifact as well. Your help will be gladly appreciated in the imperial city. I will welcome all of you as my guests." Princess Shini stated.

"Thank you very much." Adrian stated with a slight bow to hide his smirk.

All of them then departed to the Imperial City of Hinomoto without much worry on the way. It seems that the ones that attacked them have no reinforcements. They wanted to question those that

were left alive after the battle, but they just killed themselves with poison. Adrian did not need to take their souls as he did not need to bother with cannon fodder.

==

"Is the Depraved Man's Hand really that powerful?" Levin Cloud asked as his two friends also joined in.

"Not only powerful but catastrophic. Its power is determined by how long it has undergone ritual sacrifice. I left it with the Anubis to determine how powerful it is so that we can prepare for the worse. If we cannot deal with that group, then the best we could do is find the sun stone and bolt out." Adrian whispered.

"Can't we seal it back again like what we did earlier?" Levin Cloud asked.

"We could if we are able to get it. You have seen the work we put just to seal one hand. What if more than ten monsters were there? Will we be able to do the same as easily? The other party is also consisting of immortals which means the mastermind must be stronger." Adrian stated as they reached the gates of the Imperial City of Hinomoto.

Just as the name suggests, the Imperial City of Hinomoto is definitely something fitting for a place where the emperor of the east lives. The walls were five stories tall while the actual gate was even laced with gold. The tallest structure could be seen even if the walls were that high which means the castle was at least three times taller than the walls.

The most notable thing in the Imperial City of Hinomoto are the four gates. Each of the gate has a golden statue of the divine beasts that represents that direction. The walls are also constantly being patrolled by imperial guards dressed in the sturdiest looking armor that seems to be made with lesser dragon scales.