

O Summoner 141

Chapter 141 - It's Returning Not Stealing

"What did you just say!?" Levin Cloud shouted.

"What? It's not a big deal." Adrian replied.

Noticing that his shout brought attention, Levin Cloud bowed to the others and apologized. He then sat back down and whispered to Adrian.

"You seriously are not thinking to break in and steal from the Church of Life are you?" Levin Cloud whispered while looking sideways.

"It is not stealing. I am merely taking back what rightfully belongs to the Undead King. Without the church's permission of course." Adrian said in a nonchalant tone as if it does not bother him.

"Bro, what you said right there that is the definition of stealing." Levin Cloud said and sighed afterwards.

"I am returning. R-E-T-U-R-N-I-N-G." Adrian stated fiercely.

"In any case, I could help you get in but you might not get out. Did you not see the doors? They are enchanted. You would need a proper token to access the treasury. Do you even know where it is hidden?" Levin Cloud started hurling non-stop questions at Adrian to which the latter did not appreciate.

"Calm down. I am telling you this because you will first scout the place for me." Adrian said in a calm manner.

"You are making me an accomplice now?! Did you go insane? Forget about excommunicated. I could even be put to hang. If I get hanged, I will not be able to access the game for one whole month." Levin Cloud berated.

"Really? There is something like that? Huh, you definitely learn something new every day." Adrian said as he took a sip of his juice. Even in-game minors could not get alcoholic drinks. The age limit depends on the country of origin though.

"How can you be this calm? You do know it is pretty much impossible to go inside the treasury." Levin Cloud said in a slightly angry tone as he thinks it was impossible.

"Well..." Adrian said.

"Well...what?" Levin Cloud asked.

"I pretty much snuck inside the Church of Light and stole...I mean retrieved the fragments from them." Adrian said and he then took another sip of his juice.

"You what! I think I did not hear you clearly." Levin Cloud said in a shocked tone.

"I said I retrieved the fragments from the Church of Light. Their Pope was not there though so you could have said I got a bit lucky. But that old woman still manage to kill me in the end though. Thankfully, I still have my free revive." Adrian said as he finished his glass of juice.

"Dude! You just triggered a holy war then." Levin Cloud said as he sighed and looked as if he gave up.

"Holy War? What do you mean by triggered a holy war?" Adrian asked as he genuinely did not know.

"Do you not read the priest section of the forums?" Levin Cloud asked.

"Nope. I could hardly read the summoner forums so why would I read a forum of something not associated with my class. I was really busy you know." Adrian said as he ordered another glass of juice. He was really amazed by the replication of taste in a virtual world.

"Here watch the video. It is much easier to explain." Levin Cloud said as he sent the link of the video to Adrian.

Adrian clicked the link when his juice arrived. He was sipping it while watching the video with a stoic expression as if he did nothing bad.

Adrian watched the video. The old woman, the Pope of the Church of Light as Adrian saw her age as 755 years old, was shouting something something about bringing justice or whatever. Adrian put it as 1.5x speed so it would speed up as it was a twenty minute video. Finally, the last sentences were said by the Pope.s

"Those dirty devils decided to ally themselves with the undead. We, the Church of Light, shall not tolerate this for mankind. We shall declare a holy war upon the devils and the undead!" The Pope of the Church of light shouted to which the denizens of Sanctus rejoiced upon hearing.

"Jeez. It is not like I stole other treasures. I mean retrieved other treasures. Stupid Angels." Adrian grumbled as he felt sorry for the devils and undead caught in the aftermath of his deed.

"What did you just say?" Levin Cloud asked as he heard something intriguing.

"I did not retrieve other treasures?" Adrian said.

"Not that. The one after that." Levin Cloud said with a bit of a frustrated tone.

"Oh! I said stupid angels." Adrian replied.

"What do you mean by that?" Levin Cloud asked.

"Oh! I forgot to tell you. The high ranking officials of the Church of Light are Angelus or angels if you wannabe generic." Adrian said as he ordered another glass of juice but another flavor.

Levin Cloud's mind was blown by the information he received. Not even the priest players from the Church of Light know that information. At least, it was not posted in the priest forums. If this information was real then there would be a massive influx of wannabe Church of Light priests from the players.

Who doesn't like becoming an angel? In every media, they are said to be immensely beautiful and powerful. Every girl player and male player would definitely want to become one. What he did not understand though was Adrian's resentment of them.

"Why do you dislike angels anyway?" Levin Cloud asked.

"They are just a race with a big head and not much else. I got attacked immediately and that old woman even said nasty things about me." Adrian said as he grumbled.

"You did steal from them though." Levin Cloud rebutted.

"Anyways, so do I have your cooperation?" Adrian said to change the subject.

"Fine. If I do not help you then I will not be called your best friend." Levin Cloud said as he sighed.

Adrian passed him the fragment and told his best friend to find the route. If he deems it to dangerous then he can go back and report to Adrian. Levin Cloud the rose from his seat and went towards the Church of Life main Cathedral.

"I know that you have been observing us for quite a while. So why not stop hiding from me." Adrian said.

After Adrian said that, the elf managing the counter closed the door. The other elves that were being joyous stopped what they were doing and looked at Adrian. It was as if the elves in the pub were only previously acting.

A few seconds later, a pair of green eyes were seen on the tree wall. A beautiful lady that had pointed ears and leaves swirling around her emerged. She wore a dress made of leaves patched together and had some vines coiled up in both her arms and legs.

The elves inside the pub then bowed towards her as if she was royalty.

"I hope I was not rude, Champion of the Twin Gods. My name is Makiling and I am a dryad. It is very nice to meet you." The lady who introduced herself as Makiling said as she curtsied.

"It is very rare for me to see a dryad here in Neo Alfheim. I thought all of your kin are in Alfheim." Adrian said as he gestured her to sit.

Makiling sat in front of Adrian but she did not want to utter a word. She was probably waiting for Adrian to ask him.

Adrian sighed and finally asked, "So there must be a reason that you want me to meet me in person? I hope it is not very troublesome."

The dryad Makiling looked at Adrian with a sad expression. Adrian only sighed and said, "Fine. Just tell me what is the problem but do not expect much from me."

The dryad then smiled a bit and told Adrian her problem.

"The problem is very big Champion Equinox. The world tree here at Neo Alfheim, where I am rooted, is sick." Makiling said while she stopped herself from crying.

"Can you please elaborate? I do not know the customs of your race." Adrian stated and already expecting a massive headache from the mission that will be given.

"I am sorry. I will explain it thoroughly. World trees are a special existence. Usually, hundreds of dryads or leshies would tend to it depending on the size of the tree. Sadly, only I am currently tending to the world tree here despite it not being enormous. It is very taxing but I could manage." Makiling stated.

"But there seems to be a problem?" Adrian asked.

"You are correct. A few days ago, someone poisoned the tree. I did not manage to catch the person but it might have been an inside job. Due to me being rooted to the tree, if it dies then I die as well." Makiling said in a grave tone.

"I think this is not about you staying alive is it?" Adrian asked.

"If the tree dies then all of Neo Alfheim dies as well. The protection that the tree gives to its people will vanish and they would no longer become immune to minor diseases or pests. If the world tree of this world dies then the dimensional barrier will weaken." Makiling stated in a grave but serious tone.

Chapter 142 - Another Headache

"As long as the task that you want me to do is not that difficult then I would gladly help you." Adrian stated bluntly as he does not want impossible tasks right now.

Adrian was then given the quest.

QUEST NOTIFICATION

SAVE THE TREE OF LIFE

The dryad Makiling wants you to find a cure for the poison that was poured unto the Tree of Life, Yggdrasil. Investigate the cause of the poison and find a cure. Makiling will guide you to the poisoned location. Each day Yggdrasil is not cured, its power will weaken bit by bit. Monsters previously warded by Yggdrasil will be able to attack Neo Alfheim.

Difficulty: S

Requirement: Cure Yggdrasil of its sickness.

Reward: Unknown Sapling

Failure: The Tree of Life will die and all of Neo Alfheim will vanish. All Elves or any other faefolk in Nebulon will grow weaker by 5%. Makiling will die.

Time Limit: 200 days

[Do you want to accept the quest?]

Adrian frowned a bit when he saw the job difficulty. It should be doable but he has a lot riding on his plate right now. He just hopes that he accept the quest.

"I am sorry. I am too busy." Adrian answered.

[You have cancelled the acceptance for the quest SAVE THE TREE OF LIFE.]

"I think this is something that the Champion of the Twin Gods can definitely do." Makiling insisted.

[Do you want to accept the quest SAVE THE TREE OF LIFE? YES OR NO]

"What the heck? I already said no." Adrian thought and once again said no.

"I am really busy right now." Adrian insisted.

[You have cancelled the acceptance for the quest SAVE THE TREE OF LIFE.]

"I am pretty sure the CHAMPION will be able to do it." Makiling said with a great stress on the word Champion.

[You have accepted the quest SAVE THE TREE OF LIFE.]

"What the fudge! I did not even accept the quest. It was forced unto me! I feel defiled." Adrian thought as he slung his shoulders in defeat.

"Since you insisted that I do the quest to help the tree then you should be able to help me." Adrian stated while hiding his eyes full of anger.

"If I can do it then feel free to ask me Champion." Makiling said with a smile as if she did not push a gigantic obligation on Adrian.

"Can you help me infiltrate and locate the location of the crown fragments of the Undead King?" Adrian asked.

"I do not know what you want to do with those dangerous fragments but I can. I am this forest and this forest is me. As a root of the Tree of Life, I can even transport you to ant forest area but I am currently weakened due to the poison." Makiling replied.

"Then do you know where the fragments are?" Adrian asked.

"Not really but I can transport you there as long as you know the location. I am one of the founders of this city after all." Makiling said calmly as she ate something like potato chips which was given by the server elf.

"If you are one of the founders then why do you not ask for the Church of Life's help?" Adrian asked.

"Unlike true faekin, elves do not obey those who are stronger than them. They have delegations for that which I find boorish. We are descendants of Asmodians after all and it is in our blood to obey the strong to a certain extent. We are also not sure if the perpetrator is still there. I am getting a wood ache." Makiling said and after sipped her apple juice.

"If the tree dies then so does this city. Why do they not want to help?" Adrian asked once again.

"I did ask someone who was level headed but those higher than him said they would do so in their terms. Even I do not know what poison that was used and I have lived longer than them." Makiling said with a bit of frustrated tone.

Adrian thought that there must be other ways to go about the mission. He need to cure the tree not cure the poison. Adrian thought to ask his mother as she tends to garden. Even though it is a long shot, he still had to try as he had no idea about plants.

"Can I inspect the poisoned part?" Adrian asked.

"Yes. I intended to transport us there when you accept my quest." Makiling said with a smile while Adrian was slightly angered once more because of the remark.

"Do you need to prepare Champion?" Makiling asked but Adrian said no.

"Let's Go!" Makiling said as she clapped her hands.

When Makiling clapped her hands, a flower could be seen growing below both of them. The scary thing was that the two flowers had teeth. Adrian felt a bit scared but he thought that making a slight move could result in being injured.

The two flowers swallowed Makiling and Adrian whole. Adrian though could feel his body moving through something. It was a bit uncomfortable as it felt like being buried in sand and struggling to free yourself.

"I think I am experiencing what it means to be an earthworm." Adrian thought.

A few minutes later, the two flowers spat both of them out. Adrian though felt sticky and when he looked he shouted, "Eww!"

The flower left some kind of nectar like mucus on Adrian. He looked towards Makiling and saw that she did not have the slimy substance on her body. Adrian really wanted to ask but she was looking at him with a smiling but warning eyes. It was as if she was telling, "A lady never reveals her secrets."

Adrian looked at the room they were in and smelled a pungent bad aroma. He looked towards where the pungent bad aroma was strong and gasped. What Adrian saw was a tree trunk that was healthy but it was oozing violet liquid. Every time the liquid drops, the pungent horrible aroma would fill up the room. Adrian almost puked because of it.

This was one of the downsides of having close to reality games. Adrian tried inspecting the poisoned part but it came up as all question marks. The poison used was something even Adrian's evil eye could appraise.

"Have you found out anything about the poison used, Champion?" Makiling asked as she saw Adrian looking intently at the poisoned part.

Adrian only sighed in dismay and Makiling already knew the answer before it was said so she did not pursue the matter. Adrian then took a vial from his inventory and gathered a few drops. The interesting thing about this vial was it was formerly a bottle for potions.

Unlike some games where the potions disappear after use, Pandemonium was a bit grounded in reality. After drinking the potion, the player could either store it in the inventory or throw it. If it is thrown then the bottle disappears. If kept, the bottle would be a miscellaneous item called empty bottle or vial.

Adrian would be able to sell it for five copper so he dared not to throw it. Little amounts of money could pile up to large amounts as long as you know how to save. Adrian used the empty vial and collected a fair amount of poison. He almost filled the whole vial.

Item: Mysterious Poison

Type: Miscellaneous

Effect: Unknown

Description: An empty vial that was filled with poison seeping from the Tree of Life, Yggdrasil. Take it to a poison master to be appraised.

Adrian frowned a little because he does not know a poison master. It was just one way to find a solution but not the only solution though. Adrian stored the vial in his inventory and planned to ask the elders if they knew how to help him.

"I think I have seen enough. Can we please return back to the restaurant?" Adrian asked.

"Very well, Champion." Makiling stated and clapped her hands once again.

Adrian once again looked below his feet and a flower with sharp teeth swallowed him whole. Adrian could only keep his mouth shut to not offend the plant as it seemed sentient. A few minutes later, Adrian emerged or rather spit out by the flower with teeth.

There was the slimy substance sticking on his skin but he was a bit fine due to it having a flowery scent.

"Well then Champion of the Twin Gods, please call upon me if you need help with your business here in Alfheim. It would be my honor to serve the Champion chosen by them." Makiling said as she slowly became vines and disappeared on the floor.

Adrian seated himself once again on the same table. The elf server once again opened the doors and the atmosphere in the restaurant became merrier once again. Adrian though was a bit disturbed by their actions.

"It feels like I am in one of those movies where there is a secret cult and this establishment is their base of operations." Adrian thought but quickly denied that claim. He was though in fact not far from the truth.

Chapter 143 - Getting Two Fragments I

Adrian logged out as his best friend, Marlon, had yet to come back to him about the location of the crown fragment. Even Adrian was not sure it was hidden in a treasury. Adrian then searched for his mother.

When Adrian went downstairs, her mother and sister was having a chat. He was surprised because Mina became addicted with playing Pandemonium. She usually only comes out to eat or sleep. She has been reborn thanks to his brother.

"Oh! Son, come and joys us. We are having juice and some bread as snacks." Adrian's mom said.

"He probably wants to ask you something. He rarely comes out of his game pod." Mina teased.

"I could say the same about you. You almost never get out. You even forgot to bathe one time. Stanky." Adrian teased back.

Mina did an exaggerated death animation and their mother just chuckled. Adrian then proceeded to chug down the juice that was made from the lemons in their lemon tree. Adrian basically stuffed himself with Spanish rolls and Pan de Coco.

"So mom, I was wondering what to do if a part of a tree is dying from poison?" Adrian said while chewing and was spilling crumbs everywhere.

"Do not talk while food is in your mouth. It is bad manners." Adrian's mom said while looking at Adrian with a glare.

"If it's plant you are talking about, I have an idea." Mina stated.

"Your sister is more knowledgeable than me about trees. I only grow flowers and some fruit trees as a hobby." Adrian's mom replied.

Adrian looked at his sister and asked, "So care to answer my question?"

"Information is expensive. So I need to get paid." Mina replied.

"It depends. I do not even know if what you provide me is effective so the value would be cheap." Adrian retorted.

"I see that you drive a hard bargain. I will settle for 1000 gold coins then." Mina retorted back.

"300" Adrian replied.

"950" Mina replied.

"450. That is my last offer." Adrian stated.

"Give me 700 and I will pay you for the 200 gold coins. Ten per cent lesser than the market price as we are family after all." Mina stated with a serious expression.

"Deal" Adrian answered.

"When I was spelunking in the Amazon rainforest, we had a biologist there. He told me that trees expel poison differently. Some just die when exposed to the poison while some adapt. There are cases where trees need external help to get rid of the poison. I witnessed her carve the poisoned area out and graft it with a piece of another one like it." Mina said and Adrian listened intently.

"If the poison is surface level then doing that might work. If the tree absorbed the poison then that is another story and I do not know the answer. I expect my payment when you log in back okay." Mina said.

Adrian nodded and said, "If you want gold that badly then why not just buy it from the trading site."

"I tried to but apparently it was all bought out." Mina replied

"Bought out by whom?" Adrian asked.

"I looked for the reason and I saw that one of the top merchant guild is hosting a player auction. There are even NPCs that are rumored to join the auction. It is rumored that a mythical item is going to be auctioned along with other high tier items. So the gold trading site is out of stock right now." Mina replied.

"I see. Top players would want to have a piece of that mythical item. No wonder the price of gold coins suddenly spiked to five dollars. Send me the nine hundred dollars okay. I would need that because I will start streaming soon. I need a hundred dollars just to have my own streaming IP on Pandemonium's streaming site. It is true what they say. If you want to make money then you have to spend money." Adrian exclaimed.

Adrian then returned to his room after he stuffed himself with juice and bread. He hurried because Marlon already found the location of the fragments. Adrian did not want to keep him waiting for too long. He logged back in the game.

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Adrian was back inside the restaurant and so was his best friend.

"Finally, I thought you bailed on me or something." Levin Cloud stated.

"Sorry about that. I got carried away eating. Anyways I got something interesting to tell you." Adrian said and then told Levin Cloud of all that happened.

"Shut up! Someone actually poisoned the tree. No wonder I felt like something was in pain while I was staying at Neo Alfheim." Levin Cloud remarked.

Adrian then remembered that he needed to send 700 gold coins to his sister. He did that while Levin Cloud was discussing where the fragments were held.

"Here's the thing. The two fragments are actually not in the same room. One is being studied by some priests and mages. The other one is kept in the treasury which is inside the mouth of a man-eating plant." Levin Cloud said and handed over the crown fragment given to him by Adrian.

"The last one is doable while the first one would be tricky. What is this about you feeling something is in pain?" Adrian asked.

"I got a cool passive called Whisper of Life and Death from the job class chain mission. It lets me detect living things and it is more effective to those who are near death. It is very useful for a priest like me so that I would not be assassinated." Levin Cloud said while doing what looks to him as a cool pose but Adrian just think he was over-acting.

"I hope you heard what he said then Makiling." Adrian said and the elf server once again closed the door. The rowdy atmosphere became calm which baffled Levin Cloud.

Vines sprouted below the tree floor and a beautiful woman with a green skin tone appeared.

"You have called Champion?" Makiling said.

Levin Cloud had a look of disbelief. He knew there was a dryad somewhere in Neo Alfheim but it is said to be very elusive. There was a story in the forums that it gave a random someone a useful skill and that someone became a top ranker. It is all rumors so no one really believe it was true.

"Oh right. I forgot to introduce you. Makiling, this is Levin Cloud. He is my best friend and a Child of Gaea. Marlon, this is Makiling a dryad. So where is the shard with the man-eating plant?" Adrian said in a friendly tone.

"Um..Uh..It is located at the lower part of the church where they keep unidentified treasure that are deemed destructive. It is the forbidden treasury." Levin Cloud stated while still in disbelief.

"Can you transport us there?" Adrian asked.

"Certainly. It is but a menial task." Makiling said and she clapped her hands. The flowers with sharp teeth arose below the tree. Adrian was now a bit used to it while Marlon was wondering what was happening.

A few moments later, three were spat out at what seems to be an overgrown garden. It was filled with vines and flowers of all shapes and sizes. Some plants were even bigger than Adrian.

"Strange. Why are the Killer Vines or the Man-eating plants not rowdy?" Levin Cloud remarked.

"They are calm because you are with me. Dryads or Leshies are considered to be the royalty to plant creatures. They would not dare to be rowdy when I am in their presence." Makiling stated as she radiated an aura of dignity.

"Neat. So where is the fragment?" Adrian asked.

"I actually did not enter the room all the way and just stopped at the entrance. It was very dangerous. A plant even launched spikes at me." Levin Cloud said as he shivered a little because he remembered the experience.

"So Makiling, can you also talk to plants? If so. Why not ask which one is holding the fragment?" Adrian asked.

"I can do that Champion. Wait a moment." Makiling answered and started speaking to a budded flower the size of her face.

A few moments later, a giant fruit with vines started crawling towards them. Adrian looked in wonder on what was happening because a fruit was walking per se.

"So the man-eating plant is a Peach. Well, you do not see that every day." Adrian remarked.

When the fruit arrived near Makiling, it opened up its mouth. Rows of sharp thorny teeth was inside and at the bottom was the crown fragment. Makiling then gestured to Adrian to take the crown fragment. Adrian carefully bent over to not get pricked as there was a nectary substance dripping from its spike like teeth.

The Man-eating plant was five feet tall and it could swallow a person whole if it wanted to. Adrian safely got the fragment. Adrian then told Makiling that they should go to the next place but she swung her head sideways.

"I am afraid that I cannot transport you to the next location. If the elves see that I am helping you steal the fragment then they might demonize me. Excuse me for the term. I do not want them to accuse me of helping outsiders steal their stuff." Makiling said with a disappointed tone.

"I understand. Can we return to the restaurant then? We would think of what to do from there." Adrian stated.

Chapter 144 - Getting Two Fragments II

Makiling clapped her hands once again. The three individuals was once again swallowed by the plant with sharp teeth. When the two friends saw light, they are once again located in the restaurant.

"Good luck in your endeavors Champion of the Twin Gods." Makiling said as her body became vines and retracted below the tree floor.

The elf server once again opened the door and business resumed on the restaurant. Adrian is still creeped out about the whole scenario even if he already experience it once. For Levin Cloud though it was a new experience.

"Creepy" Levin Cloud muttered.

"You were the one who invited me here in the first place." Adrian stated.

"They serve good food here so I really wanted to come. It is a secret spot though and is a bit shabby compared to other establishments. So what is your plan for getting the last fragment located in Neo Alfheim?" Levin Cloud muttered.

"We just waltz right in like we own the place." Adrian said.

"You do know that only I could do that right. Even I would not be able to get you inside." Levin Cloud muttered.

"It is very easy. You just need to get me a sample of any DNA of the researchers. We lure one of them and I would do the rest." Adrian said nonchalantly.

"So you are into kidnapping now. Man, you became a monster. What are you going to use the DNA for anyway?" Levin Cloud said dramatically.

"Very funny. We would just trap the guy in a shadow dimension. I will not hurt him or her... much...depends whether they struggle. I need the DNA for something. You will see later." Adrian said with a stoic face.

"Why don't we sneak when the researchers are out? I will give you the hair strand so you could go inside with me." Levin Cloud said.

"Wow! Your plan is better. Let us do yours." Adrian said.

The two friends then walked towards the Church of Life. The guards only looked towards Adrian and did not notice anything unusual. Levin Cloud led Adrian to the room that his teacher assigned to him. Everything was smooth until Adrian saw an old elf inside the room.

"Teacher! You are here!" Levin Cloud exclaimed in shock as he did not expect his teacher to be in the room.

"Oh! And who is your interesting companion with you?" Elder Willow said as he stared down Adrian.

Adrian felt this intense stare from the old elf despite him looking at him with an amiable face. Adrian felt naked in front of the elder. He felt that the elder could see through Adrian's disguise.

"This is my friend, Equinox. I was just showing him my room here in the Church of Life." Levin Cloud said and gulped right after.

Elder Willow walked towards the entrance. Elder Willow intentionally walked besides Adrian. The latter felt a chill down his spine.

"You have a very interesting friend my dear student." Elder Willow said. Elder Willow flicked his hand a green energy barrier engulf the whole room.

"I did not think that you were friends with a Daemos." Elder Willow said and a great deal of pressure was exerted towards Adrian.

Adrian felt immense pressure from Elder Willow. He felt so heavy as if the gravity became so intense. If he was not a greater demon then he might have passed out by now. Adrian tried to bear the pressure but ultimately lost. Adrian was forced to kneel down with sweat trickling from his face. Even Adrian's glamour wore off.

"Uhm..Teacher, what are you doing?" Levin Cloud said as even he felt some pressure but not to the extent Adrian was experiencing.

The pressure emitted by Elder Willow suddenly vanished and both friends could finally breathe. Adrian though felt immensely scared. He has never experienced something like that in his gaming experience. Adrian gauged that Elder Willow would be able to contend with one of the Elders of the Daemos race.

"I was just testing your friend's capabilities. I would not outright harm someone chosen by Gaea herself." Elder Willow stated with a smile plastered on his face.

Adrian fixed his breathing and stood up.

"How did you find out esteemed elder?" Adrian asked politely.

"You radiate the aura of life as if it was clothes on you but you also have another aura with you." Elder Willow replied.

"If you know about that teacher then why did you attack him? Are you not afraid that Gaea might punish you?" Levin Cloud said.

"I was not punishing him. I just wanted to know the capabilities of the current Champion of the Twin Gods. Oh! I must not mention that here as it is taboo. But who would hear anyway. Hohoho!" Elder Willow said as he laughed a little.

"This elder is more than meets the eye. He knows of the relationship of the Goddess of Life Gaea and the God of Death Abaddon." Adrian thought.

"What brings you here, Equinox?" Elder Willow asked.

The two looked at each other and both do not want to answer. They were afraid to be punished once more.

"Do not worry. I have set a protection inside the room so no one can spy on us. Besides, this is a rare chance for me to hear a champion's request. Our church has yet to get a champion. No one has passed the test in hundreds of years." Elder Willow stated.

"Tell teacher. He is very trustworthy. He is the most forgiving in the church unlike other radical priests." Levin Cloud said to Adrian.

Adrian sighed and gave in. What else could he do in this situation?

"I need to retrieve the Crown Fragment of the Undead King so that I could get the vow of loyalty from the Undead King." Adrian confessed.

"I see. It is a tall task because it would certainly be helpful if the Undead King pledges allegiance to the Twin Gods. It has been said that the Undead King wields intense might." Elder Willow replied.

"Will you help us teacher?" Levin Cloud asked.

"Of course. A friend of my student is like a student to me as well. If is the champion chosen by our Goddess Gaea then all the more reason. Should we blame it to the demon that the Church of Light is saying?" Elder Willow said.

Adrian recast Glamour onto himself. The three then planned what to do. They even executed it right away after the planning phase.

A few moments later.....

"A demon possessed stole the fragment!" Elder Willow shouted.

The elven paladins came and saw Elder Willow clutching his stomach.

"Elder! Are you okay!?" the elven paladins shouted.

"I am fine. I managed to fend off its attacks. I was not able to stop it from taking the fragment. Look for it! It might not have escaped far." Elder Willow stated.

"Some of you escort the elder. I will personally lead the pursuit." An elf paladin that looked like a captain ordered.

Once all the individuals got out of the room, two individuals are rising from the shadows.

"Your teacher is a great actor. Maybe I should take some acting lessons from him." Adrian stated.

"Do not waste any more time and get out of here. They might put this place on lock down." Levin Cloud warned.

"Okay then adios amigo." Adrian said and tore a scroll.

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In a sealed mountain top, a man in a pitch black cloak was once again visiting someone.

"It seems you have recovered a little Vel'drix. I hope you will keep your end of the bargain." Eldritch who was the top player in the magician ranking said.

"I will keep my end of the deal human. I do not break deals but if you betray me then you better have a hole to crawl into." Vel'drix said and the voice sounded like Argent but it had an echo.

"With how weak you are now, it would still take a year for you to fully recover. Be thankful that I shortened your recuperating time." Eldritch said.

"If those despicable Twin Gods did not do the great me dirty then an entire continent would have been beneath my feet." Vel'drix said with intense hatred.

Vel'drix has now fully consumed Argent's soul. The dark god was now wearing Argent's body but some features have changed. Her hair now became tentacles that wriggle in the air as if they have a mind of their own.

Her eyes are now like those of an octopus. There were also visible tattoos scattered throughout his body. Vel'drix has now full control of Argent's body. The fusing process was made faster due to Eldritch. Although they pose no threat right now, no one could foretell the future.

"Even if it will take a long time, I will persevere. It would be very entertaining to see a world of pure unbridled evil. Where chaos is the norm and order is but a pipe dream." Eldritch thought as he grinned like a madman.

Chapter 145 - Bluthafen

Adrian reappeared in the Paradox Planes. The first thing he does is head straight to Koronn since he might know of the poison used on the Tree of Life. He already arrived at the door and he was thrown inside before even knocking the door.

"Not Again." Adrian thought.

Adrian is pushed to a black hole and he landed back to the floor made of a giant clock. He saw Koronn looking at him and floating like he once again did nothing wrong.

"So what is with the sudden visit kid?" Koronn asked.

Adrian knew that Koronn must find the subject interesting for him to move. This old man wants to be intrigued and bury himself in research. Adrian must present his issue in a very captivating way.

"I just wanted to present you with something that even you might not know." Adrian teased.

"Ohoh! The great me. Not know what you might present? You underestimate me boy." Koronn stated.

"Well...It is related to a tree and even a dryad does not know what it is. If a dryad that is called a forest guardian does not know then how will you do any better?" Adrian said with a helpless expression.

"You really underestimate me kid. I am second to none when it comes to knowledge. It is a duty of us protectors to be educated on all living things. Even my knowledge on plants would put any dryad to shame. Come on now and show me." Koronn stated proudly.

Adrian was grinning inside but did not show it on his face. He then retrieved the vial containing the poison from his inventory.

"Hehe. This eccentric old man is finally very interested. Here it is but what would you give me if you did not know what it is?" Adrian said as he presented the vial containing the poison to Koronn.

"Nonsense. I would definitely tell what it is. If I could not then I would teach you magic." Koronn said as he snatched the vial containing the poison and checked it. Adrian though was praying that Koronn did not know what it was which is bad for the mission but good for him.

Koronn then checked the vial containing the poison. At first, he had a confident expression. A few seconds later, Koronn's face became dark.

"So do you know what it is?" Adrian asked.

"I will try to test it. I will definitely find what substance this is. It is not enough for me to just observe it. Get back later and do whatever you kids do." Koronn stated.

Koronn then flicked his wrist and a force seemed to carry Adrian to a vortex. The vortex swallowed Adrian and he reappeared at Koronn's doorstep.

"At least, I could focus on the crown fragments first. I really want that rare undead that the reward is talking about." Adrian said as he went towards the spatial fracture sites.

Adrian was researching areas where there have been strange cases of undead popping out. He did that while having his snacks earlier on. He managed to get about ten areas on the forums. Eight

areas were below level 100 so he could visit those. The last two sites are above level one hundred so he will only attempt that when he is near that level.

He teleported to the first three sites he marked that were in a field zone where level 50 monsters spawn. Despite doing hours of searching, there was no entrance to a dungeon. Only skeletons were spawning there. He concluded that it was just a place for newbies to get familiar with undead.

Adrian frequently checked up on Koronn but he was not let inside his home. It seems the old man was too focused on researching the poison. Adrian had to respect the elder's dedication to uncovering the unknown.

Adrian chose his fourth destination which is called Bluthafen. It is classified as a field zone but it looks more like an abandoned fishing town. This was not a popular field zone due to land dwelling monsters being scarce. The monsters here are mainly from the sea that is beside the town.

In this ghost town, players would experience the feeling of being watched. They also reported that water would drop on their necks when it was not even raining. Some players managed to stay and camped the area until night came.

The players who camped the area were shocked because activity became bustling at night. Mist that enveloped the sea rolled towards the town. A few moments later, groaning could be heard and undead emerged from the sea. They were overwhelmed due to the sheer volume and there was even an undead that could assassinate them when they become low health.

Others have tried to do what the previous players did but some were not successful. It seems that the event does not happen all the time. Adrian though was sure he would summon the event. He was sure because he took out the crown fragment and it had a reaction.

"It is almost night time for this area. The crown fragment only reacts when I point it at the sea. The undead who possess this crown fragment would definitely be at the sea." Adrian muttered as he summoned all of his soulbounds.

The soulbounds stretched their limbs as it has been some time since they were all summoned out. Fortunately, this field zone was not that popular due to the drops and the experience gained. It is also called a low gain field dungeon due to it.

Adrian though was having an internal debacle because the next field zones after this one were very famous. He prays that the undead having the fragment was in a hidden dungeon. The reason Adrian knows about undead having the crown fragment was due to Elder Willow.

Elder Willow told him that the ones who retrieved the fragment fought a unique undead. The crown fragment seemed to induce some sort of evolution to undead. Adrian wanted to try what Elder Willow said but he does not want to accidentally use a fragment.

Adrian was sure that this undead that could assassinate players was holding the fragment. He had no reports in the forums that they subjugated it yet so Adrian could only hope. It is also said by other parties that they did not encounter this assassin undead so the first group was called liars.

"Night has finally come." Adrian stated as he could see the sun setting and being replaced by the moon.

Adrian could visibly see the mist from the ocean rolling towards him at an eerie way. The mist is as high as his knee. A few minutes later, Adrian could hear the groaning sound that the others reported. Suddenly, figures started emerging from underwater.

Adrian had yet to fully see what they are because the moon was not full and he had low visibility. Adrian did what horror movie protagonists did and that was to investigate the activity. It usually did not end well for them but this was not a horror movie.

A few seconds later, Adrian could now see the entities that were emerging to the surface of the ocean water. They were indeed undead but they looked different. The undead emerging were covered in stuff that come from the sea like kelp or barnacles.

Adrian looked at the undead and they have yet to notice Adrian.

"It seems they have a small attack radius." Adrian thought.

Adrian then heard something like a whistling sound coming from somewhere. He did not know where it was coming from so he looked at all directions. When Adrian was about to face the ocean once more, Kanlaon came swooping down to block something aimed towards his master.

Adrian immediately backed away and looked at the thing aimed at him. It was a harpoon that was made of a sharp bone that probably came from a sea creature. The harpoon had a rusted chain connected to it and it looked like it was about to be broken in any moment.

Adrian immediately summoned his Psyche Armament: Bow. He wanted to be on the safe side because the enemy had yet to show itself. Adrian was certain though as the crown fragment was giving off light which means the other crown fragment is nearby.

A few moments later, the harpoon was immediately pulled back. Adrian wanted to command Kanlaon to secure it but it happened all of a sudden. Kanlaon even got damaged by the attack he just blocked.

"Kanlaon, decimate the enemy forces. Sirius, look for any suspicious attackers that are hidden. Saena, immediately heal anyone that gets wounded." Adrian commanded all of his soulbounds into battle mode.

"If that harpoon managed to hit me then it would have been very lethal. I might have also been impaled and dragged away. It even damaged Kanlaon which proves it is more or less near his level." Adrian thought as he began assessing every bit of information that he has acquired.

Chapter 146 - Undead From The Sea

Adrian was getting ready to fire his arrows to whichever direction the harpoon will come from. Kanlaon was also ready to launch his breath attack to that direction. Adrian was getting goosebumps because it felt like he was getting stalked by a predator. It felt as if he was a small fish from the sea and a shark is waiting to pounce at him.

[You have been affected by Bluthafen mist.]

[Visibility will be affected due to the effects of the Bluthafen mist.]

[You can only see things in a ten meter radius.]

Adrian was startled because of the sudden notification popping up. Adrian tried to use his Evil Eyes but even that could not pierce the mist. It seemed the mist was really a field effect that will not be cleansed no matter what.

Before Adrian could adjust to the sudden changes, the same harpoon was once again aimed directly towards him. Adrian reflexively fired an arrow but he did not aim properly so it just flew somewhere. The good thing though was that he did damage.

[You have dealt 3,475 damage to an Undead Sailor.]

It was Sirius this time to block the harpoon by ramming its body to the harpoon's shaft. Kanlaon launched its breath to the direction but it only damaged undead that are considered normal. Kanlaon dealt damage over time using his breath attack.

[Kanlaon has dealt 8,347 damage to an Undead Drowned Lady.]

[Kanlaon has dealt 7,548 damage to an Undead Drowned Lady.]

[Kanlaon has dealt 8,107 damage to an Undead Sailor.]

....

It seems whichever undead hurled the harpoon would be very far away for Kanlaon's breath to hit or it can command the lesser undead to become cannon fodder. The chain on the harpoon was tugged once again and it was dragged once again by whoever hurled it.

Adrian wanted to go to the direction of the harpoon but he does not want to be in a dangerous position of being cornered. Nevertheless, Adrian did not give up and fired a skill in the direction where the harpoon was being dragged.

"Shooting Star" Adrian muttered as he poured half his soul essence to empower the skill.

The shining arrow was fired and it parted the mist but only for a few seconds as the mist rolled back. Adrian heard lots of notifications due to the arrow colliding with lots of undead. The last to be hit was the most important one of all though.

[You have dealt 37,548 damage to an Undead Drowned Lady.]

[You have dealt 28,107 damage to an Undead Sailor.]

....

[You have dealt 15,753 damage to the Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis.]

When Adrian looked at the last line, the name Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis is gold in color. Adrian was sure this was the undead allured by the crown fragment that he has. This particular undead was even targeting him instead of others.

"It is definitely attracted to the crown fragment. I might actually drop it if it kills me." Adrian thought.

A piercing cry that sounded like a strangled bird was then heard. Yellow dots suddenly appeared throughout the mist. Adrian suddenly got a bad premonition as he felt that the yellow dots were looking at him.

A few moments later, undead that rose from the sea started running towards Adrian. Numerous groaning and clacking sounds could be heard coming near them.

"Everyone to their battle stations. We are going to be overrun by undead." Adrian told his soulbounds via their soul link.

Twenty undead was suddenly seen by Adrian and he immediately told Kanlaon to use his breath attack. Due to the Undead in close proximity to each other, they also suffered extra damage to the miniature explosions that resulted from intense heat and cold interacting with one another.

It did not take long for other undead to appear in their field of vision. Adrian noticed that they were surrounded so he told Sirius to attack those who charge towards them. A whistling sound was once again heard by Adrian.

Adrian immediately activated Chrono Shift to himself and it made him move so much faster. HE managed to react on time but the bladed part of the harpoon manage to graze him.

[You have been dealt 176 damage.]

Adrian was astounded because a graze was already in the hundreds in terms of damage. No wonder that the people who encountered this undead are assassinated. If you are a job class with low health then you might definitely be executed.

Adrian tried stepping on the harpoon so that the undead Captain Baha would not be able to collect it but it was unsuccessful. A stronger pulling force was felt by Adrian's foot and he could no longer step on it. He even lost balance but he unfurled his wings and managed to prevent himself from falling down.

"It is stronger than me!" Adrian thought.

Adrian then fired piercing arrows towards the undead charging at them. Adrian needed to cull their numbers so that they could have more breathing time. Adrian timed the harpoon was recalled and when it was shot so he could have a grasp on when to dodge.

The harpoon was approximately recalled for one minute because he could not hear chains being pulled after that time frame. It then takes about two minutes before the harpoon is fired again. Although Adrian was not absolutely certain, he could only do trial and error at this point.

Adrian finished off the undead that both Kanlaon and Sirius damaged while Saena heals them immediately after being damaged. Due to her heal now transformed to an area heal, everyone in the vicinity get healed even if only one of them is damaged.

The yellow dots that could be seen piercing the mist looked like it was not diminishing but even increasing.

"Okay. It should be time for the harpoon to target me once again." Adrian thought.

True to his guess, a whistling sound was once again heard. The whistling sound came from behind Adrian so he had no choice but to roll to the side. The harpoon even hit an undead sailor instead of Adrian.

Adrian's heart was beating like crazy because it seemed that Captain Baha came closer to their general location. The harpoon usually will hit Adrian exactly using the bladed edged but this time it was longer than before. This could only mean that Captain Baha moved closer to Adrian's location or the chain became longer.

Adrian looked at the twenty meter mark where the chain fades into the mist. He smiled and activated the last skill of the Bow Psyche Armament immediately before the chain gets pulled. Adrian rose to the sky but he could still not see the bodies of the undead.

What Adrian could see though was the lights that come from the eye sockets of the undead. There was in fact a different colored light than the yellow light and it was a red light. The red light was about more or less fifty meters away from Adrian's location.

Adrian fired the three shooting stars produced by the third skill of the Psyche Armament which is Orion's Wrath. Adrian's two shooting stars hit but the last one was avoided because the red dots suddenly disappeared from its location.

[You have dealt 17,124 damage to the Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis.]

[You have dealt 19,159 damage to the Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis.]

The Psyche Armament disappeared and his demi-gauntlets is once again equipped in his two hands. When Adrian landed on the ground, the harpoon also disappeared but the looming threat of being overrun by undead was still there.

"Everyone protect me." Adrian commanded via their soul link.

Adrian then cast Vortex. A small black sun which is the size of a marble appeared on Adrian's hand. Adrian released it and it floated up to twenty meters in the air. With a snap of Adrian's fingers, a cracking sound was heard and the marble size black sun exploded.

The explosion produced a giant black hole that sucked all the undead close to its vicinity.

"Quantum Cascade" Adrian said as he used himself as an epicenter.

A few seconds later, more undead have been pulled to the black hole. Amidst the chaos, a whistling sound was not heard by Adrian but by Sirius. Due to the immense sound produced by the black hole, Adrian did not hear the whistling sound.

Sirius pushed Adrian to the side but he was pierced in his right leg as a result. Sirius let out a pained sound and Adrian noticed it. Before Adrian could pull out the harpoon, Sirius was being dragged towards the location of Captain Baha. Adrian panicked a little as he enlarged his demi-gauntlets and pulled the chain on the harpoon.

Adrian did not want Sirius to get dragged and get ganged up on.

"Kanlaon, help me pull. Saena continue healing Sirius. He is bleeding." Adrian immediately ordered as he initiated tug of war with Captain Baha.

Chapter 147 - Surviving The Night I

Adrian and Kanlaon are pulling the chain of the harpoon that is piercing Sirius' leg. Adrian tried to order Sirius to use his movement abilities but he cannot use them.

[Your soulbound Sirius cannot use Portal Assault due to being immobilized.]

[Your soulbound Sirius cannot dive in the shadows due to being immobilized.]

Adrian felt no other choice than to pull the harpoon from Sirius' leg. Adrian touched the harpoon but he was damaged instead.

[You have received 100 damage.]

Adrian then looked at the harpoon and saw that it suddenly was covered with spikes. He also felt that the harpoon was alive as it responded to him gripping it tightly. Adrian then cast his Evil Eyes on the harpoon to identify it.

Monster: Living Parasitic Harpoon

Level: 75

HP: 1 / 1

MP: 1 / 1

Durability: Tied to user's life

Description: An ordinary harpoon that was said to be transformed into a parasitic living weapon due to the grudge of the monster slain by it. This weapon is tied to the user's life and it would die when the user also dies.

Adrian was astounded as he has never seen a weapon like this. It was such a shame that this weapon was already bound to the undead Captain Baha. It means that after killing Captain Baha then the weapon would also disappear with him.

Adrian pulled the harpoon despite being damaged every five seconds. Finally, he managed to pull it with Kanlaon's assistance. Sirius let out a pained cry and Adrian saw that the harpoon had tiny spikes at its blade. Those tiny spikes is one of the reason that the blade is firmly inserted Sirius.

Adrian then ordered Saena to immediately tend to Sirius while he and Kanlaon pulled harder on the chain. Thankfully, the chain had no spikes or anything. It did not take long for the Vortex to disappear and the numerous undead to continue charging at them.

Adrian is now presented a choice on either to let go and deal with the flooding undead or keep holding the chain and get overrun by undead. Adrian did not want to choose so he thought of the craziest idea and that was to get dragged by the chain.

"Kanlaon, let go. All of you follow me when I get dragged." Adrian commanded via their soul link.

Of course, Adrian did not get himself dragged like a sack but he still resisted. If he gets dragged too fast and was attacked by undead then he could only blame himself for his poor judgement. Adrian was getting dragged by 1 foot per ten seconds.

Undead that see them will charge at the group indiscriminately. Adrian ordered Kanlaon and Sirius to attack those who get too close to them. Adrian would then use Quantum Spacemines in order to get soul essences. Adrian would then use the essences to increase his strength so that he could delay getting pulled.

The experience that the group gain was little but since they could easily dispatch undead then it was worth it. Each undead that they kill gives about two per cent experience points so just about fifty

would level Adrian up. Adrian already gained two levels which means they already killed a hundred undead.

The only problem now is the stamina that is being continuously depleted. Thankfully, the devs made a slight patch where the stamina bar gets a tiny bit bigger if you deplete it. Adrian was also using his soul essence to decrease the stamina consumption.

It did not take long for the named undead called Captain Baha to be in Adrian's line of vision. He finally saw the menacing undead that had a golden colored name. True to his title, Captain Baha was indeed a captain but a pirate captain.

Captain Baha was wearing torn and slightly spectral clothes that one would expect a pirate in famous movies would wear. His face was pale and some spots were rotting. His hair was until his shoulders and the hair was floating as if it was underwater.

Captain Baha's right hand was clasping the chain where the harpoon is connected. His left hand was holding a scimitar. His eyes glow an eerie red and his killing intent flared up when he saw what Adrian was doing.

"How dare a mortal hold my mighty weapon!?" Captain Baha shouted.

"So it is intelligent to some degree." Adrian thought.

Adrian thought that Captain Baha was like other undead that hated the living that it would attack indiscriminately. It seems the crown fragment had a significant effect on undead that it even increases their thinking capacity.

Adrian did not bother to respond but instead ordered Kanlaon to attack Captain Baha.

"Insolent" Captain Baha snorted.

The breath attack that Captain Baha was about to be hit was then blocked by a rising curtain of water. Adrian saw what Captain Baha did as he swiped his scimitar in an upward swipe then that curtain of water rose.

"His sword seems to be able to control water but only to a certain extent." Adrian said as he put all his soul essence to his strength.

Adrian weakened his grip a little on the chain. Captain Baha became a bit unbalanced due to Adrian's sudden action. Adrian then pulled back hard in return. Adrian managed to yank Captain Baha towards him thereby making Captain Baha's face greet the sand.

What Adrian did was a strategy in tug of war. Unlike others who just pull as hard as they can, Adrian uses Newton's Third Law of Motion. Any type of action will have an equal and opposite reaction.

By Adrian letting go in a short time duration, Captain Baha did not immediately register the necessary force to balance his body. Adrian then pulled with double his strength which in turn dragged Captain Baha. Some professional athletes do this sometimes in order to clutch their win.

"Kanlaon, turn up the fireworks. Sirius, use Phantom Rush to decimate the mobs." Adrian commanded via their soul link.

Chapter 148 - Surviving The Night II

Kanlaon spew his breath directly at Captain Baha. The captain was yet to recover from falling down because Adrian would yank the chain every time that the captain would use his right hand to stand.

[Your soulbound Kanlaon dealt 10,324 damage to the Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis.]

[Your soulbound Kanlaon dealt 9,725 damage to the Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis.]

[Your soulbound Kanlaon dealt 10,138 damage to the Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis.]

....

[Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis has been affected by frost.]

[Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis has been affected by burn.]

[Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis has been dealt additional 1,211 damage due to conflicting high temperatures.]

Adrian then checked the information of Captain Baha using his evil eyes.

Monster: Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis

Tier: Epic

Level: 80

HP: 547, 472 / 800, 000

MP: 211, 475 / 350, 000

Description: Once a normal commander type undead but was transformed into an Epic Undead due to the Crown Fragment of the Undead King. It managed to bond with a parasitic weapon but it must hunt living beings in order to feed it. It also wields a mystical sword called the Tideshifter which has a special power to control the ocean's wave.

Adrian immediately summoned his sword Psyche Armament and held it with his left hand. Adrian charged towards Captain Baha still with the chain in his right hand. He casted Chrono Lag on Captain Baha to slow down its response so he could get a few attacks in.

[You have dealt 4,473 damage to Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis.]

"My damage on it is weak. It definitely is an epic undead." Adrian commented as he continued to attack.

Adrian managed to attack a few times before Captain Baha recovered from being pinned down. Captain Baha glared at Adrian fiercely as his red fiery eyes became darker red. Adrian is still grabbing the chain with his right hand.

Captain Baha tried to shake Adrian off but was unable to. Adrian then noticed the sword on Captain Baha's left hand glowed in an aquamarine color. A few seconds later, a gush of water like a geyser came from below Adrian.

The water pressure was so fierce that Adrian lost his grip on the chain and Captain Baha now retrieved the harpoon. Adrian was brought up in the air by the geyser that sprouted below him. Captain Baha then went into a throwing position and his target was obviously Adrian.

The harpoon whisked itself towards Adrian and the latter did not even see it coming. The geyser finally died down but Adrian was too late to react to the harpoon. The harpoon hit his right shoulder.

[You have been dealt 2,476 damage by Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis.]

[You are unable to use movement abilities.]

[You are bleeding.]

Adrian who saw these notification was horrified because of what would happen next. Adrian did not drop down because he unfurled his wings so he was still flying in the air. If an outsider looked at it then Adrian was like a kite and the string was the chain attached to the harpoon.

Adrian was being healed by Saena but the bleeding status will not stop. It will not stop unless the harpoon was removed but that would be difficult. The harpoon pierced even his back. If the pain was not dulled to be a hundred times less then Adrian might have passed out right now.

"Sirius, use Ragnarok on Captain Baha!" Adrian commanded.

Sirius let out a howl and his eyes became red. Sirius sped up and charged towards Captain Baha. Because of the incredible speed, Adrian did not even see Sirius moving and all the latter leave was afterimages.

"Kanlaon, follow up Sirius' attack with your breath attack. Saena just focus on healing me." Adrian commanded.

Kanlaon did not bother with the approaching undead as its master was already airborne. The undead below could not even reach Adrian even if they wanted to. Adrian threw his sword towards Captain Baha and held the chain with his left hand because his right hand was unable to move.

Due to this action, Captain Baha was locked in place and could not evade Sirius' attack. It would seemed that the chain was also bound on the right arm of Captain Baha so it could not let go of the weapon even if it wanted to. This was one of the weaknesses of a parasitic weapon.

[Your soulbound Sirius dealt 210,628 damage to the Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis.]

With great force, Sirius crashed at Captain Baha. Sirius was able to take out Captain Baha's left foot with the attack but the former became weakened due to the after effects of the skill.

A giant torrent of fire and ice then welcomed Captain Baha as it could not evade the attack due to its missing leg. A giant sword was then hurled towards him that damaged the undead a bit more but it was still not enough to finish him.

Captain Baha then emitted a shrill cry and it gained great strength. Using its new strength, it pulled Adrian towards him. Adrian then saw the silhouette of a ship come upon his vision. The ship was filled with undead and the cannons were pointed at Adrian's location.

A giant target was then put on the ground but it was still blinking. Adrian did not panic but immediately saw Sirius in his vicinity. Adrian then smiled as he was getting closer to his objective

without even trying. Captain Baha was too late to notice this change or did not even notice this as he was in berserk state.

In a span of five seconds, Adrian was within casting range. The cannons fired and cannonballs were about to land on the targeted spot but Adrian was faster.

"Rewind" Adrian said as he cast it on Sirius.

"Sirius use Ragnarok." Adrian commanded once again with a grin that would scare even the undead.

Chapter 149 - Another Fragment Obtained

Sirius once again charged in lightning fast speed towards Captain Baha and successfully struck him.

[Your Soulbound Sirius has dealt 233, 247 damage to Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis.]

Captain Baha lost the light on its eyes. Its clothes and bones became ashen in color and the wind blew the ashes. Captain Baha only dropped a blue colored jewel, the sword it uses and the crown fragment of the Undead King.

[Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis that was haunting Bluthafen has been eternally laid to rest.]

[You have gained 100% experience points due to accomplishment. Increased the experience points to 300% due to experience multiplier.]

[You have leveled up three times.]

[Your Soulbound Sirius leveled up three times.]

[Your Soulbound Kanlaon leveled up three times.]

[Your Soulbound Saena leveled up three times.]

The cannon balls that are fired towards Adrian disappeared as if it's a mirage. The giant ship disappeared from their view and the mist cleared up. The sun shone upon the group and Adrian heaved a sigh of relief. If the cannon balls did not disappear then they would have been dead.

Adrian then picked up the items that Captain Baha dropped and asked Kanlaon to pick up all the other items dropped by the undead in his human form. Adrian then checked the items that he picked up.

Item: Gem of Water

Tier: Rare

Type: Runestone Fragment

Effect: Imbues the socketed weapon or armor with properties related to water. For weapons, it would imbue it with one passive skill and one active skill. For armor, it would imbue resistance and a passive skill.

Description: This Runestone is considered as a fragment of a runestone but it could be equipped due to its peculiar nature. This runestone is one part of a greater runestone which consists of six fragments. Gotta collect them all.

Weapon: Tideshifter

Tier: Epic

Type: Scimitar

Effects:

Damage Modifier: 150

+100 Strength

+ 10% stats in areas where water bodies are present

+ Skill: Water Curtain

+ Skill: Geyser

Description: The beloved sword of Captain Baha of the Undead Crew Navis. It is said to have the power to move the tides. It is said to be already in the possession of the captain even when he was alive.

Restrictions: Level 80

Skill: Water Curtain

Tier: Epic

Type: Projectile Blocker

Effect: Summons a curtain of water that is four meters wide. All projectiles will be blocked for the remainder of the duration. Elemental attacks that are strong against the water element can penetrate the curtain.

Duration: 3 seconds

Cooldown: 1 day

Cast Time: Instant

Skill: Geyser

Tier: Epic

Type: Area of Effect

Effect: The area selected will spurt out a geyser that has a diameter of two meters. All units in the area will get damaged and be knocked up.

Duration: 2 seconds

Cooldown: 1 day

Cast Time: Instant

The runestone was peculiar but it seemed useful. Adrian decided to socket it in his armor because it gives resistances which is very rare. If he can find the other fragments then it would increase his resistances more. The other gems would have be corresponding to other elements.

Kanlaon returned but all he had were silver coins and a piece of paper. It seems the undead really have no money to even drop. The piece of paper was actually a map but you needed a specific skill called Nautical Mapping. Adrian had no idea where to even get that skill but it should be possible for players who are seafarers.

He could sell the map in the player auction but he must know where the rumored player auction will be even held. He did think of selling the legendary skillbook he has for more than what it would fetch but he must find the merchant responsible for the auction.

Adrian then walked towards the spatial fragment and went to his next destination. He managed to get transported to a place with sweltering heat this time. He was in a rather tropical area which is unlike what you would expect where undead would be gathered.

Adrian bought a rare engraving stone from the auction and used it on his Asmodian Battle Uniform. He also looked at his stats. He also

Item: Asmodian Battle Uniform(Growth Type)(Character Bound)

Tier: Rare

Effect: Physical Damage Reduction- 15%

Magical Damage Reduction-15%

HP+500

HP Regen+50%

Water Damage Resistance + 10%

Slots:

1. Gem of Water

2. Empty

3. Empty

Name: Equinox

Race: Daemos(Half Asmodian)

Species: Netheros (Greater Demon)

Title: Champion of the Twin Gods, Undead Killer (Expand)

Job: Soul Summoner

Sub Job: Scribe (Beginner)

LVL: 88

Exp: 20.8%/100%

HP: 4600/4600

MP: 2450/2450

VIT: 200+5

STR: 240+25

INT: 240+20

AGI: 200+10

DEX: 205+15

END: 200

Available Stat points: 10

Hidden Stat: Luck +10 Wisdom +30

Adrian was satisfied with the water resistance and the additional skill that was given which was called Protection of Laplace.

Skill: Protection of Laplace

Tier: Rare

Type: Barrier

Effect:

Passive: Summons a protective coating on the user and lower the temperature by 5 degrees.

Active: Summon a spherical barrier of water that will protect the user from any sort of damage for the duration.

Duration: 2 Seconds

Cooldown: 1 day

Cast Time: 1 second

Due to the passive of the runestone, Adrian could barely feel the heat and his stamina was not decreasing rapidly.

"It is like summer in my country here." Adrian commented.

The forums said that the undead here in Versengt are weird because they are on fire. Usually normal undead would be very weak to fire and would immediately perish but it seems not in this location. The weirdest thing was there was even floating skulls that were on fire.

Adrian really wanted to find the next fragment here because he only has two days left on his experience multiplier. Adrian wanted to reach close to level one hundred or at least reach the level one hundred threshold.

Adrian already cast Spirit Form Manifestation on Kanlaon as the latter did not want to walk in human form. It seems that Kanlaon did not feel that comfortable in his human form because he said that it dulled his senses.

Adrian did not mind because it was not an inconvenience for him. If Kanlaon also has dulled senses then it would be much more dangerous for them. Like in Bluthafen, the undead would only appear during the night so Adrian decided to hunt in the area.

Adrian went to a field zone and retrieved the crown fragment from his inventory. Even though the chance was slim, he wanted to try because what else would he lose. He held the crown fragment and it glistened for a bit.

Adrian thought that he was just seeing things but it glowed again for a brief moment. He then heard some chanting sounds. Adrian did feel that it was strange that there were no players or NPCs in the surrounding. His question was suddenly answered because he found himself inside an instance dungeon. His view changed instantly into a cave structure. It was as if the field zone was a lie.

[You have entered Santelmo's Den.]

[The temperature will increase every second you are trapped inside his den.]

[Current Temperature: 25 Degree Celsius.]

"It seems this is a time attack instance dungeon. If I stay here for too long then I would die from the intense heat." Adrian muttered.

Adrian hopped on Sirius and told Kanlaon to hold Saena as they would blitz through it. Adrian clasped the crown fragment in his hands and saw that it was shining. Adrian beckoned Sirius to go forth and Kanlaon followed.

Adrian gripped tightly while commanding Sirius to charge to the numerous tunnels. When they enter a room that has multiple cave structures, Adrian would choose the one where the fragment would shine even though faint.

[Current Temperature: 35 Degree Celsius.]

Adrian was wondering if there were even traps inside or even monsters to greet them but there was none. What Adrian did not know was that the traps were of fire in nature. Kanlaon was actually using his powers to control fire to cancel the traps that would spew fire at them.

Kanlaon did not also bother to tell his master because even he knows that it was urgent that they get out of the instance dungeon. Adrian managed to arrive in a large room with nothing inside but the crown fragment was actually shining brightly. Adrian did not know what to do because the temperature was still rising.

[Current Temperature: 49 Degree Celsius.]

Adrian, Sirius and Saena were losing 0.5% of their health per second but Saena was able to heal it immediately. The downside is their stamina was being drained greatly. About five minutes later when the temperature finally hit fifty degrees Celsius, sparks of something like fireworks were seen.

Adrian sensed the great killing intent flood the room. He ordered all his Soulbounds to be ready for battle. True enough, the boss finally showed itself. The boss is a giant skull that is coated with intense orange and red flames. It even had two flames detached to it that looked like claws.

Chapter 150 - Santelmo

Adrian stared at the boss monster that was in front of him. Adrian activated his evil eyes to see the information on the monster. He then looked at the crown fragment and it was shining. The boss monster also looked at the crown fragment with intent to take it away.

Monster: Santelmo (Boss)

Tier: Epic

Level: 90

HP: 650, 000 / 650, 000

MP: 1, 000, 000 / 1, 000, 000

Description: The name of this creature is said to be derived from St. Elmo's fire. It is an undead made of a ball of fire in fields and swamps. It bounces along and rolls away. It changes into a beast with fire in its mouth. Travelers and fishermen follow it at night. They walk and walk till they are tired out. Then they cannot find their way home. They walk into deep mud and thorny bushes. They get dizzy and become insane. They must reverse their clothes to send it away. Then they can find their way home.

Adrian immediately ordered Kanlaon to launch its breath at it. Since this undead was more of an incorporeal undead then magic attacks would be more effective towards it. Adrian also ordered Sirius to attack using his shadow spikes since it is magical in nature.

Kanlaon spew its breath but the Santelmo evaded by disappearing and then reappearing a few feet away. Adrian was shocked but not amazed. He did not feel the space in front of him fluctuate. This Santelmo used a movement ability that did not disrupt the laws of space.

Sirius then used his shadow domain to stretch his shadow to produce tendrils to lock down the Santelmo. The shadow tendrils shot out but the Santelmo again used his movement ability and evaded capture. Sirius still tried to trap it but the boss was continuously using its movement ability.

[Current Temperature: 52 Degree Celsius.]

The temperature was rising rapidly while the boss was alive and they have yet to deal damage to it. "There must be some way to know where it will show up again." Adrian thought as he observed the boss monster.

Adrian checked every area that the Santelmo will reappear. Adrian also used his Quantum Spacemine to areas that was previously transported from. He will detonate it the moment it returns to those positions.

Kanlaon still fired its breath attack whenever it has the chance but the boss was really slippery.

[Current Temperature: 53 Degree Celsius.]

Adrian is now finally sweating and he could feel the temperature increasing. The enchantment on his clothes could no longer cool his temperature. He was still observing the Santelmo moving about in the cave structure.

He then saw a small wisp of fire with the size of a candle light appear at the ground before the Santelmo appeared. Adrian was still not sure about this but he still tried and immediately set a spacemine when he saw that small wisp of fire.

True to his guess, the Santelmo materialized where that small wisp of fire was located. The spacemine immediately activated and damaged the Santelmo. The skull emitted a pained groan. It seems the boss monster was not accustomed to pain.

[You have dealt 6,424 damage to the Santelmo.]

Adrian smiled because now he knew where the Santelmo will pop up. He had to be extremely observant though because if not then he would not be able to damage the Santelmo. When the Santelmo was damaged, it immediately disappeared from its location.

Adrian also told Sirius and Kanlaon this so they could focus their attacks on the spot it will appear. It appeared behind them and it actually retaliated by spitting a giant ball of fire towards them. All of them evaded but Adrian saw the fireball actually was a homing attack. The fireball followed Adrian even when he already evaded.

[Current Temperature: 55 Degree Celsius.]

Adrian raised his brow because the temperature fluctuation seems to be either one or two. He dared not to let the temperature hit to 60 degrees. He was already losing two per cent of his health per second due to the heat.

Kanlaon was fine because he was a dragon but the others were not. Adrian, Sirius and Saena was dependent on Saena's heal. Due to that Saena's stamina is already down by half. He could see that Saena was tired and it might faint due to overexertion.

Back to Adrian who was still being followed by the fireball, he was backed into a wall. Adrian waited until the fireball would be close to hitting him before he used Blink to escape. This was something he learned in movies where the hero would wait a moment before evading missiles.

Adrian did not notice because he was being chased by the fireball but Sirius managed to wrap the Santelmo in shadow tendrils. It might be because Sirius was the fastest of all of them so he managed to react immediately or he exploited the timeframe when the boss monster launched the fireball.

Kanlaon immediately spewed its breath attack towards the immobilized boss monster. The intense heat and cold breath touched the Santelmo. An explosion so loud that the eardrums of all those inside cave rung.

[Your soulbound Kanlaon has dealt a tremendous 130,475 damage to the Santelmo.]

[The intense clash of temperatures has increased the damage dealt to the Santelmo by 10,575]

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Kanlaon's breath attack was so fearsome to monsters with elemental bodies especially those made of fire and frost. Adrian then heard a shriek that resembled that of a child and an old woman at the same time. He then saw the Santelmo in front of him. It was only three inches away from him.

Adrian tried to Blink away but his reaction was delayed. The Santelmo opened its mouth and swallowed him whole.

[You have been eaten by the Santelmo.]

[Escape from prison. Movement abilities cannot be used.]

[You will receive a fixed 100 damage every five seconds you are trapped.]

Adrian could not even contact his soulbounds. This was a first to feel isolated and he could not hear the feelings of his soulbounds. Adrian then felt empty due to this because he got used to the feeling of being something like an empath towards his soulbounds. They were still connected but they could not feel each other.

Adrian started to attack the fiery walls that kept him imprisoned while his soulbounds outside became fierce. The moment the soulbounds lost their connection to their master, they became frantic. Their eyes that were rather calm became red.

An intense killing intent was directed at the Santelmo by the three soulbounds. Even Saena who was the posh and calm soulbound became mad. She even led the charge towards the Santelmo. Meanwhile inside of the Santelmo, Adrian was banging the walls but he could not damage the Santelmo.

"It seems this is some sort of special space. I either need to find the way out or force my way out with extreme force." Adrian thought as he summoned his twin dagger Psyche Armament. Adrian then started attacking every nook and cranny of the room he was trapped in.

While trapped he was trapped, Adrian was still receiving messages about what his soulbounds were doing.

[Your soulbound Saena has dealt 2,141 damage to the Santelmo.]

[Your soulbound Kanlaon has dealt a tremendous 130,475 damage to the Santelmo.]

[Your soulbound Saena has been dealt 11,478 damage.]

[Your soulbound Sirius has dealt 15,783 damage to the Santelmo.]

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This was the messages that Adrian received and the one that baffled him the most was Saena.

"Saena could actually deal damage? But it seemed that she received more damage than actually dealing damage." Adrian said as he laughed a little.

It did not take long for the Santelmo to be brought down to ten per cent of its health but Adrian's soulbounds' health were also dangerously low. Adrian could still see the health bars of his soulbounds and even he felt pressured.

Adrian used his evil eyes to see any weakness in this room he was trapped in. He looked and looked until he manage to see a black dot that was the size of a pin hole. The room was colored red and orange so this one was the only speck that was of different in color.

He stabbed the dagger on the floor and uttered the name of the skill.

"Soul Seeker" Adrian muttered.

Adrian's body became illusory and he looked like a grim reaper for a second. The Santelmo emitted one last painful shrill cry before it dispersed to nothingness. Adrian dropped from the ground after the Santelmo was defeated.

[The Santelmo has been laid to rest.]

[You have received 300% experience points for clearing this instance dungeon. It has been increased to 900% due to your experience multiplier.]

When Adrian appeared, he was tackled by all his soulbounds and they were crying tears of joy.