

## O Summoner 271

### Chapter 271 - Returning To The East

Adrian went to Pann's farm and is shocked. The usually grumpy old man that is ever present in the farm is nowhere to be found. The last time that Adrian intruded was not pleasant because he was chased by Capricorns. Needless to say, those monster goats' look does not match their actual speed.

"Where is the old man? He almost never leaves. Did he finally become crazy and started to capture rare beasts from other realms to raise them in his farm?" Adrian muttered as he stood there spacing out. He did not even felt that someone is already behind him.

"Did you really think that the old man finally became crazy?" A voice from behind Adrian asked.

"I mean it is feasible. It is always those cranky people that usually have issues." Adrian replied but he suddenly felt a chill run down his spine.

Adrian slowly turned his head back in order to be sure that it was not the person that he thinks is behind him. He prayed a thousand times in his mind that it would be a different person but his logical mind betrays him. He turned around and smiled widely to the person behind him.

"Good day, Old Man Pann." Adrian smiled like his face became plastered in a smiling position.

Pann did not respond to Adrian's greeting instead he glared at the boy for about thirty seconds. Sweat began to drip from Adrian's face as he became nervous. This is one of the times that he cursed the advance features of Pandemonium because one could tell that he is sweating due to being nervous.

"So what brings you here brat? I am pretty sure you are not here because you miss me." Pann stated in his signature annoyed tone.

"Oh! Come on! Why would I not miss you?! You are like my favorite person here." Adrian stated in an attempt to flatter Pann.

"So what do you need brat? I know you came here looking for me because you want to know something. Stop the flattery because I hate things like that." Pann replied. But when Adrian was not looking, Pann's cheek were red for a split second.

"So the place in the east that we went to. Do you happen to know where that is exactly?" Adrian asked.

"If you are indicating the place where we evolved your dragon then I do know. Why? Do you want to return there?" Pann asked while his capricorns started circling around Pann vying for his attention.

"I need to go there because I managed to see a peculiar flower growing in that vast snowy land. If my hunch is correct then I need that flower. It is for a request that someone gave in exchange for troubling them." Adrian replied.

"You better give up on that idea then brat. They tightened up the security for the east continent ever since we have been there. They even restricted access from merchant ships so it would be difficult for you to enter the legal way." Pann stated while the capricorns lined up to get a pat on the head.

"I can just teleport to that location as long as you point me in the right direction like last time."  
Adrian rebutted.

"You can but they would block off your escape. You can teleport to that location but you will not be able to get out using the method you got in. Since they have no masters of the concepts of time and space, they opted for a roundabout but effective method." Pann replied.

"I can just tear a teleportation scroll that the old man Ascalor gave me to escape." Adrian stated.

"So that brat gives that to you for free now. I cannot believe that stingy brat hands out those important things like candy." Pann replied.

"Oh! It is not for free. He gives them to me in exchange of running errands like gives this letter to this, hand this over to her. In the end, it is a fair deal and a win-win situation for the both of us."  
Adrian replied because he does not want to be misjudge.

"Then you can go there safely. Just do not let yourself be captured and explain yourself to the mystic beast that guards the snow section of the Infernofrost Ridge. It is at the south part of the eastern continent. We have a map of Nebulon so just ask Ascalor about it so that he can lend it to you." Pann stated as he signaled Adrian to go away.

Adrian then bowed in order to say his farewell to Pann. The old man did not even bother to reply but just raised his right hand. Adrian easily got a copy of the map since they have tons of it hidden in storage.

Adrian summoned all his soulbounds before attempting to teleport because he wanted to be prepared. He did not want to get caught easily if they manage to track him just by entering the east continent. The group vanished in a faint flash of light.

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Adrian and his soulbounds are back to the place where Kanlaon evolve. A place where intense heat and bone chilling wind meet. That place is the Infernofrost Ridge which is a famed place in the east that grows really potent herbs for making medicine.

Adrian can now stay warm due to the heat that Kanlaon is emitting. It is also keeping Saena warm so that she can be ready for battle. The group traversed the snowy section of the Infernofrost Ridge but they were met by the guardian which is the Cryophoenix.

"Speak, little demon. Why have you come to my domain?" The cryophoenix told Adrian via telepathy.

"I come seeking a special plant called the Everfrost flower. Is it available in your domain? I would be honored to have just one stem of it. I really need it in order to save the life of someone." Adrian replied.

"I do have what you seek..." The cryophoenix replied.

"Then can I have just one stem? It would be really helpful." Adrian replied while he smiled.

"Unfortunately, there is only one flower that is available right now and it is too precious to give away for free." The cryophoenix stated.

"Fine. What do you want? Get straight to the point because those groggy elders of the east might detect that I am here." Adrian replied a little bit annoyed.

"We want you find the piece that separated the both of us." A voice carrying intense heat stated in Adrian's mind. Adrian could guess that this was the phoenix that resided on the other side of the Infernofrost Ridge.

"You mean both of you were one and the same. Even I think that is very farfetched. You two are like polar opposites." Adrian replied.

"We were separated by a great monk that used a powerful artifact that separated us into two. That monk even used a phony bird to masquerade as our former selves." The cryophoenix stated.

"If that was the case then why did you two not voice your displeasure? I am sure that they will believe you if you say something." Adrian stated.

"If it was that easy then we would have done so. That bastard monk placed a curse on us so that ordinary people and people of the east cannot hear our plight. We can only communicate to you because of your connection to a divine being." The phoenix stated while looking at Kanlaon.

"I see so you can only communicate to me because I am a summoner that has a dragon." Adrian replied.

"Dragons are not that simple because they have a trace of divinity because a goddess birthed them herself. Although your dragon is not that powerful enough yet which is why he cannot tap his divine potential." The cryophoenix stated.

"You are not an ordinary summoner either. You have a wolf that carries a dangerous force inside of him. A bird that can become a divine entity and whatever that thing is that is giving me the creeps." The phoenix stated.

"Fine. Enough with the flattery. What is it do you want in exchange for the Everfrost flower?" Adrian asked as he does not have enough time to idle anymore.

He only has sixteen days left to finish the quest and if he finishes early then he might get a bonus. Adrian thinks that he might get a bonus because it was hinted by the way the Ice Queen Elona spoke. Adrian might ask for a legendary weapon in exchange for the original reward so he wants to finish the quest.

"You must enter the place where the bastard monk hid the item that split us into two. Retrieve it and make us whole again. In exchange, you will have every important herb in this ridge." Both the cryophoenix and the phoenix stated.

"If that is what you wish then I will gladly do it as long as you give me the herb. Where did the monk hid the item?" Adrian answered in a serious tone.

## Chapter 272 - Temporal Rift

### \*QUEST NOTIFICATION\*

#### Find the Artifact

The two guardians of Infernofrost Ridge has tasked you to get the artifact that split their souls into two. The task of getting it will be difficult but the guardians believe that you can do it. Retrieve the artifact and activate it in order to fuse the two back together.

Condition: Fuse the souls of the two guardian birds using the artifact that you will recover.

Reward: All the rare herbs in the Infernofrost Ridge and 100% experience points.

Failure: Lose 5 levels

"Kack! Why is the punishment for failure too great? Those five levels were raised due to continuous hunting from the frozen areas. I even died a few times due to over exhaustion and I will lose that just because of one quest. I should complain to the developers about this." Adrian thought in his mind.

"We shall guide you to the entrance of the place as we will use the energy we stored in order for you to reach that place." The cryophoenix and the phoenix stated simultaneously.

"You mean the place where the item is stored is not in this world but in a different realm." Adrian stated.

"We stated that you are perfect for this mission because of your abilities. The place you are going to is not another realm but it is still considered as part of this realm." The cryophoenix stated.

"You will be in this realm but not entirely the same as some things might change or much different than what you expect them to be." The phoenix added.

"Now I am just confused. Can you go straight to the point? I mean I get that being cryptic and such is the way for you higher beings but that is not the case with me. So please just tell me exactly where will I go?" Adrian stated in a slightly irritated tone because he will sacrifice five levels if he fails.

"We told you that you are perfect for this because you will enter a rift in time that will send you to the time period of when we last remember the artifact to be." The phoenix stated.

"The artifact has been lost in time and would probably take you years to find in this time period." The cryophoenix added.

"You are telling me to bend or rather break the rules of our race. If they find out about this then I might as well be detained for how many years. Or worse I might have to become an errand boy." Adrian protested.

"How is being an errand boy the worst punishment compared to detainment?" The phoenix questioned.

"It is a lot worse. A chill just ran down my spine because I imagined it." Adrian replied while he shivered at the thought.

"Just tell me what I need to do. As long as it is a point in time that the artifact disappeared from history then I can get it without affecting the timeline. I will not change the past if I used that approach." Adrian replied as he no longer has a choice but to succeed.

Adrian can no longer reject the mission because if he did so then it would registered as a failure. If that happened then five levels would be automatically cut from him. He had to take the risk and just play it smart so that he would not change the timeline.

"The last known time period that the artifact is about four hundred years ago. There was a great war during that period in the east continent because of all the divine beast weakening. The whispers of the dark god reached the continent which made some of the people lust for power." The cryophoenix stated.

"Fine. Let us depart because wasting time here would mean my deadline draws near." Adrian stated.

The cryophoenix led Adrian and his soulbounds to the point where the two opposing temperatures intersect. The phoenix is also waiting for them there physically because Adrian only talked to it telepathically when he went to see the cryophoenix. Adrian reached the location and he noticed a peculiar rift in front of him.

An ordinary player that is not a Daemos will not be able to see this rift. The rift looks like space is bending in front of him. If one were to describe it to those that cannot see it then it would look like raging water.

Adrian remembers that any person could enter a temporal rift if they were unlucky enough. They would be able to enter it but not the other way around except if they are of the Daemos race. This is one of the reasons why temporal rifts are closed immediately if detected. It seems that the two guardian birds did something in order to conceal the temporal rift.

The phoenix and the cryophoenix then started to use their energies. The elements of fire and ice started to escalate. Kanlaon even felt a surge of power due to this as he felt energized. The energies of the two guardian birds are then focused on Adrian not on the portal.

Adrian thought it was odd but then the idea suddenly hit him that he must not be strong enough to fight wherever or whenever he is going. The system notifications that Adrian received has proven his hunch.

[You have been bestowed the energies of two great beings.]

[For a limited time, your level will be raised to 500 and all stats will become 1000.]

[You will only be granted this boon for the remainder of this quest. Once the player fails or gives up, the power up will dissipate.]

Adrian is filled with immense power due to what the two guardian birds did. He was not the only one though as even his soulbounds became level 500. They did not change their forms but they gained a temporary title called 'Natural Calamity'.

Title: Natural Calamity (Temporary)

Effect: All attacks deal wide area damage regardless if it is a single target attack. 100% of the total damage will be dealt on the surroundings.

Description: A title given to monsters that become so powerful that the world could no longer keep them at bay. Flee in terror when you encounter monsters with this title. Since the title is temporary, it will disappear when the monster returns to his original state.

"So when my soulbounds reach level 500 then they will get that title. I am both excited and disappointed because that would still take a long time." Adrian muttered.

He immediately used Polymorph on Sirius and Saena. Kanlaon turned into his human form while Charon is told to turn invisible. Adrian could guess that he will not join the battle but this mission would be about using his mind.

The two guardian birds look like they are exhausted but could still stand up straight. Adrian's abilities changed because he got temporary titles like his soulbounds which is 'Master of Space and Time'.

Title: Master of Space and Time (Temporary)

Effect: Able to influence time and space just by using your own mana. You are able to bend both to your will as long as you think of it.

Description: A title given to the strongest of the Daemos that can use both time and space magic. You are basically godlike at this point but do not use your power for mischief. Once the title bearer returns to his original level, it will disappear.

Due to the temporary title that Adrian got, he can see that the temporal rift is actually unstable. It could send him back in time but it might disappear once he enters it. Adrian immediately used the perks of his newly gained temporary title. Adrian waved his hand and the unstable temporal rift became stable just enough for him to pop in and out of it.

"I will get going now. I will try my best to find that artifact in no time. You said it can separate souls which means it would surely react to me because I am the Shephard of Souls. I hope." Adrian stated.

"You do not have to worry because our power will react if you are in close vicinity of the artifact. We would have told you about its image but that part of our memory is erased. It seems that we lost some of our memories due to our soul being split." The phoenix stated.

"We do not even remember our real self. All we knew was that we were once the object of other's faith." The cryophoenix added.

"Can you send me a mental image of what the others wore back in that era because I need to fit in? I need to be able to safely pass off as a resident of that time period." Adrian asked.

The two guardian birds then sent a mental image to Adrian but it just came to him as an image from the system notification. Adrian changed his look to fit in the narrative of the east continent. He used the attire of what a sage would use because he has tamed beasts. He even changed his hair to become long and tie it in a ponytail.

"I will get going then." Adrian stated as he entered the temporal rift.

Chapter 273 - Shangri-La

[You have arrived at the City of Paradise, Shangri-La.]

[You have arrived in the past. Any major change that you do in the past will inevitably lead to a change in the present.]

Adrian immediately received this notification once he landed in his destination. He is in an alleyway that has little to no people because it is next to the golden city walls. The temporal rift is located on that very wall so Adrian had to minimize it so that no one accidentally enters it.

Now that Adrian has minimize the temporal rift so that only something like a mosquito could fit, Adrian decided to view the city. Shangri-La, the City of Paradise, it really does fit the title it was given. All the buildings in the city are made from gold as it would sheen whenever light touches its walls.

Tall spires that is reminiscent of ancient Asian structures are reaching the clouds. Peridot did send pictures in their group chat about the beauty of the eastern continent but Shangri-La is just out of this world. The buildings seem to have the influence of Hindu, Chinese and Japanese ancient structures.

If Adrian is to describe it then he would be in a city in the past where they experience their golden age. The sight easily beat any old city of the real world in terms of grandeur and magnificence. Adrian did not stick out like a sore thumb because the clothing he is wearing thanks to Glamour is that of the time period.

The city of Shangri-La would have been perfect but there was a heavy atmosphere that befell the city. Despite the jaw dropping magnificence of the city, there are only a few people running about and most of them are guards. It seems that what the two guardian birds said is true.

"It seems that it really is a time of war. People only go outside to buy necessities while there is heavy security in the city. How am I going to find the monk? Is he even still alive though?" Adrian pondered as he continued walking to a restaurant.

Adrian wanted to ask the general situation from a native so that he can plan. He does not want to get caught up in the war as he is only passing by. The guards noticed Adrian but they only stared at him as if analyzing him. Adrian just feigned ignorance and entered the restaurant.

The restaurant is not bustling with people but it was still half full. Adrian observed the people inside the restaurant and it seems that all of them are warriors. It seems that only those confident of their strength are roaming about.

"It seems that level 500 was a safety net because all the warriors here are level 250 and higher. The guards of the city are even level 300. If that monk is still alive then his level might be in the four hundreds." Adrian thought to himself as he cast his glance at all of the people of the restaurant.

"My Lord? I am sorry if I am being rude but pets are not allowed in the store." A female server of the restaurant stated.

Adrian looked at the server and could see that she is wearing a tea ceremony dress. It seems that Adrian entered a tea house. He does admit that the warriors look like refined ladies and gentleman unlike that of the central continent that look like brutes.

"It seems that the aesthetic look of a warrior is different for each continent. Those in the central continent like to look tough by showing bulging muscles or battle scars. Those of the eastern continent are akin to hidden dragons or crouching tigers." Adrian muttered.

"My Lord? Did you hear me?" the female server stated in a mild and gentle tone in order to not offend Adrian.

"Master heard you but those are not pets but his..." Kanlaon was about to finish but Adrian interjected.

"These two are my battle beasts. If you mistake them for pets then they might get angry at you because you offended them. They are only taking on that form so that it would not cause panic in the city." Adrian replied with a smile.

"I am deeply apologetic my lord. I did not know you are a sage. Forgive my rudeness." The female attendant hastily replied as she kowtowed.

"You do not need to worry. My battle beasts are not that short tempered to attack you out of a petty misunderstanding." Adrian replied so that the female server would stop kneeling.

"I am deeply sorry for the rudeness of my employee, my lord. She is very new to this type of work and has yet to develop an eye for extraordinary people." A beautiful lady with over the top hair stated.

The lady wore a red vibrant dress different from the female servers. Her dress has embroidery made of gold flowers. She carried herself with grace and dignity. She looks like one of those rich business owners in the dramas that Adrian's mother like to watch.

"It is not offensive in anyway so you do not deeply apologize." Adrian reiterated.

"Nevertheless, I am still sorry. I will surely train my employees better. As a token of apology, we shall give you a private room and the food serve to you will be free of charge. My name is Diao Chan. Please call on me my lord if you need something." Diao Chan stated as she called another attendant to lead Adrian to the private room.

"Mistress, is it alright to give a stranger one of our expensive services?" The female attendant that first greeted Adrian asked.

"My dear, your eyes have yet to get used to powerful people. Even if all our customers here attack him all at once, they would have no chance. Let this be a lesson to you and cure your inexperience. You still have much to learn my dear." Diao Chan stated in a calm reprimanding tone filled with love.

"He is that powerful. Will he not exact his revenge after he leaves the store?" The female attendant stated in a worried tone.

"You are thinking too much. The lord seems to be the benevolent type because if he is not then you would have dropped dead already. You are lucky that you encountered a benevolent lord this time around or else even offering free services would not guarantee your life. Be mindful, my dear." Diao Chan stated as she turned around to greet her recent guest.

#### Chapter 274 - Diao Chan's Request

Adrian is guided to a room that has the view of the small lake in the middle of the teahouse. Adrian thought that the one who escorted him to the room will be the one who will serve him tea but that is not the case. The attendant that escorted him bowed and left before saying that the food will be there momentarily.

She closed the sliding door and Adrian waited for the food. He observed the surroundings and he could tell that there are talismans embedded in the room that made it soundproof. It seems the



teahouse that he entered is more than meets the eye. The sliding door opened to reveal the person who brought him the tea and food which was none other than the owner herself.

"Thank you for waiting, my lord. It would be an honor for me, Diao Chan, to serve someone as esteemed as yourself." Diao Chan stated in a flattering but restrained tone.

Adrian did not mind because he already guessed that the owner of the teahouse is not ordinary. Adrian called his soulbounds to gather as they are playing around with each other. The snacks that are presented are petite cakes that are colorful and cookies with exquisite design.

Adrian could identify some because he had tasted something that looks like them before. One of the snacks seem to be a mochi that has a sweet bean filling inside. Adrian likes this snack but the cookies were too beautiful to eat so he decided to take a screenshot of it before munching away.

Diao Chan then poured the tea that was prepared in the teapot in Adrian's glass. The smell of the tea permeated the room and it had a calming effect to anyone who smelled the aroma. Diao Chan presented the cup to Adrian and he smelled the tea first before taking a sip.

The taste of the tea could only be describe as divine. It tasted like the tea that his dad was gifted when a friend from the Himalayas visited. Adrian could tell that the tea given to him is very expensive and the teahouse owner has something in mind but he would not be the first one to speak up.

Kanlaon was given juice since he did not like the taste of tea. He shared the juice with his fellow soulbounds. Adrian looked at Diao Chan when Kanlaon did this but it seems that the teahouse owner is not bothered by that interaction.

After Adrian finished his second cup of tea, Diao Chan finally poke her intentions.

"My Lord, Can I shamelessly ask you for a favor?" Diao Chan asked.

"I thought that you would let me finish all the tea first but it seems what you want is urgent." Adrian stated as he already guessed that this would happen.

Adrian might be young but he is very perceptive of his surroundings. He developed this talent because there were some of his classmates that approached him just because of his family's wealth. This is one of the reasons that despite being called a good person by his classmates is that he only has a small circle of friends.

"I can help you but I want something in return." Adrian stated.

"How much do I need to pay for your services? Money is not a problem as long as you can help me achieve it. Or do you want something other than money? Perhaps something only I can give." Diao Chan replied while exuding her femininity.

"I do not need money because I need something that is even more valuable than that. I am telling you this because if you tell me what I want to know then it might endanger your life." Adrian stated in a calm tone trying to erase in his mind the last sentence that Diao Chan said.

"What is it do you want to know, my lord? I will answer it to the best of my abilities." Diao Chan stated as she gave a deep bow towards Adrian.

"I want to know if you know of an artifact that can affect a person's soul. I was told that it is currently located in this city but I do not know where I should start my search." Adrian stated.

Diao Chan looked at Adrian with uncertainty before she finally spoke. "I think you are talking about an artifact that the local church parades which is the Soul Reflecting Mirror. It is said to be a powerful artifact that can calm the soul of those that gaze upon it."

Adrian felt a twitch in his soul when he heard the name Soul Reflecting Mirror. He felt as if he was familiar with this item yet it was a stranger to him. He felt this way when he first saw the spear because it felt like it is calling to him. Just by the mere utter of its name, Adrian could feel that they are connected.

"Is this Soul Reflecting Mirror a Psyche Armament? It should be possible because a Psyche Armament could manifest different abilities depending on the person that manages to unlock its powers. The monk probably used it to separate the soul of the two guardian birds. But why?" Adrian thought as Diao Chan poured another cup of tea.

"Do you have any idea where it is currently being held? It must be enshrined in a location since it is considered somewhat of a sacred treasure to all of you since it is paraded once a year." Adrian asked after he finished his cup of tea.

"I am sorry to inform you that the Soul Reflecting Mirror has been reported stolen since a year ago. The shrine monk are currently offering a reward to some who will return it." Diao Chan stated in a sad tone because she thought that Adrian might back out on his word as the item he wants is not in Shangri-La.

"I think someone from the shrine is spreading misinformation because I can feel that the artifact is here in the city but the energy signature it is giving off is not strong enough for me to pinpoint its location. What do you want in return for the information?" Adrian asked.

"An informant told me that it would not take long for the war to reach our city walls. I want your help in evacuating all my attendants, my lord." Diao Chan stated as she bowed.

"I will help you but only after I ascertain that the Self Reflecting Mirror is indeed the artifact that I am looking for. If it is not the Soul Reflecting Mirror that I am sensing then do not blame for not helping you run away from the war reaching this city walls." Adrian stated in an indifferent tone.

"That would be fine, my lord. I will pray that the Soul Reflecting Mirror is the artifact that you are looking for." Diao Chan stated as she bowed once again.

"Are you not wondering why I would want an artifact in your city?" Adrian asked because he just wanted to know where Diao Chan's loyalty stand.

"I am certain that someone as powerful as you will not look for a petty artifact if it was not yours. I also will not question the motives of our future savior. Before I leave to attend to tend to our preparation to escape. I would like to know our savior's name." Diao Chan stated as she bowed.

"You do not need to know my name because I am merely passing by. I am not your savior because we made a transaction. It is not final that I will assist you. It is up to the artifact if I will save you or leave you be." Adrian replied before Diao Chan left to finish preparations for evacuating.

One would think that Adrian would upset the timeline by saving a bunch of people but he was told by the two guardian birds that no one will escape alive even those that escaped the city. The city of Shangri-La is actually no more in the present world because it has been replaced by Infernofrost Ridge.

#### Chapter 275 - Soul Reflecting Mirror

Adrian ordered Charon to sweep the city in order to detect the artifact. It seems that Adrian could use his soulbounds as his eyes and ears but only Charon fits the stealth type. Adrian could now sense what his soulbounds sense thanks to him being overpowered now.

He tried to search the best area which is the shrine but it came out with nothing. The shrine is so huge that it took a whole day just to scan due to Charon's speed. Adrian could not see if he will finish in time because war is just around the corner.

Diao Chan entered the room once more to entertain Adrian. She wants to earn more brownie points so to speak and Adrian.

"Can you explain what happened when the Soul Reflecting Mirror disappeared?" Adrian asked.

"If I remember correctly at that time, the head monk of the shrine is said to have died due to old age but I do not believe that. The last time that I saw that old man he was still healthy and alive even though I did not like him because of the air he has with him." Diao Chan stated.

While Adrian is talking with Diao Chan, Charon suddenly hit something that repelled him. It seemed some sort of barrier that repels anyone that enters it. Adrian and his soulbounds suddenly disappeared from the room in the teahouse that is in.

Adrian reappeared at a house that is just a few meters away from the shrine. The house is surrounded by a warding magic which makes it appear invisible to others. It seemed that the barrier protecting the house does not let any ghost in even though Charon is considered level 500.

The barrier covering the house is not dome shaped like what he normally sees. The barrier is actually shaped like a box and it is colored blue. Adrian tried touching the barrier but it gave resistance which is strange because the barrier did not feel like it stopped him physically.

"It is as if the barrier itself rejected my soul. Magic using the soul is considered forbidden because it uses lots of sacrifices if the caster will not use his own soul as the medium." Adrian thought as he checked every section of the barrier if it has a weak spot.

Adrian checked every inch of the barrier but nothing. He even tried blinking inside but his soul felt a rejection which made him vomit blood. Amidst the pain that he felt though is a tugging sensation to his soul. He felt this last time but now it is more pronounced because he is closer to the source.

He even felt hot and cold for a brief moment and that was the indication that the artifact is there. Adrian felt that this is supposed to be a quest for him for a Psyche Armament but fate is a weird mistress so it also became a quest to save the two guardian birds.

Adrian thought this is a quest to save the two guardian birds because he saw that death was near for both of them. He can see it as the souls of the two guardian birds are waning and only have little

time left before they die. They say that phoenixes do not die but Adrian knew that death of the soul meant true death.

Adrian did not care for subtlety right now because time is running out for the two guardian birds. Even though the quest to retrieve the mirror did not have a time limit, Adrian knew that his power is on borrowed time.

"If I use Soul Recall and summon a god then I might just serve my head to a silver platter." Adrian thought as he knows that gods do not want others messing things up but Adrian did not know that someone already messed things up.

There was a reason why a Psyche Armament can only be found in the past because someone from the present sent it there. The two guardian birds were not a thing because if history panned out correctly, Shangri-La should still be standing right now. It might have been destroyed to a certain degree but not erased from the map.

Before Eldritch became the Envoy of the Dark Gods, he accidentally fell into a temporal portal. He was looking for the temple of a dark god that can manipulate time so maybe it was not that accidental. That temple is located in the eastern continent which he was the first one to access.

Eldritch managed to find a deranged monk that practiced different ways and aid him in finding a certain mirror. Eldritch was pulled out in the past and returned to the present because anymore will change the entire history of the east if he stayed there longer. The AI in the guise of the dark god that can manipulate time pulled him out or else apocalypse might have come for the east continent.

The gods of the central continent did not interfere because the eastern continent is covered by a veil of created by fallen gods. Even the divining orb that the twin gods possess can only see fog when they direct their attention to the east continent.

"I should make a distraction because destroying a barrier like this is not going to be silent. A loud breaking sound like glass would be heard due to how powerful this barrier is." Adrian muttered to himself and then he remembered that he had a dragon.

"Kanlaon, why don't you greet the citizens of the city with a bang?" Adrian stated with a smile.

Kanlaon then slowly shifted from his human form to his dragon form. He rose up towards the sky and emitted a roar loud enough to divert the attention of everyone in the city. Even those inside their houses opened their windows because this roar is familiar.

Those in the streets began praying for protection while those in their houses prayed for war to not come to their doorstep. Adrian though has already enlarged his demi-gauntlets in order to strike at the barrier.

"Nether Soul Strike" Adrian stated as his claw like giant gauntlets with nether flames hit the barrier.

The sound of the barrier breaking did not emit a glass like breaking sound but instead wails of sorrow. It was not just one sorrowful wail but a thousand. Adrian knew that this is not an ordinary wail because he had a system notification. The sound of the wails were drowned out by Kanlaon's roar but that is only the case for the city inhabitants not Adrian.

[You have destroyed the Barrier of a Thousand Souls. You have freed ten thousand souls of the innocent from the anguish of being used as a power source.]

"It seems that I have a very rude guest." An old monk holding a mirror stated.

Adrian felt a thug when he saw the mirror and it even reacted to him but it seems the influence of the monk is forcing it in the hands of the monk.

#### Chapter 276 - Demented Shaman

Adrian could clearly see that this person dressed in monk robes in front of him is different. He is sure that this monk can sense his power levels but is not scared of him. Adrian then wondered if some of the wuxia novels he read about people being respectful to you as long as you are powerful actually true.

Another idea would be that despite the monk being weaker than Adrian, the monk is confident enough to defeat Adrian or escape. Adrian bet that it is the latter as the old monk's vision did not stay on him but looking at his surroundings. Adrian wanted to be sure so he activated his evil eyes but he felt a backlash.

"This has never happened before because Evil Eye is an epic ocular skill. Unless he has an item that can reflect ocular skill then that it makes it difficult." Adrian stated as he tried using it again but this time he used Soul Essence to empower the skill.

The ocular skill, Evil Eye, managed to break through the skill that causes backlash. Adrian managed to see the details of the old monk. The old monk also looked at Adrian when he used the empowered Evil Eye because this was a first for him to be seen through ever since he got the mirror.

NPC: Chidaide

Title: Demented Shaman, Defiler of Innocent Souls, Fake Monk

Level: 400

"You! Who are you?" Chidaide stated.

"Just someone passing by and getting back what is rightfully mine." Adrian stated as he blinked and made a grabbing motion towards the mirror.

Chidaide then flicked Adrian's hand away using the force that the latter used. Chidaide did not use a greater force to redirect Adrian's action but instead use some sort of martial art to deflect his hand. A palm strike is then sent towards Adrian's chest which sent him flying a couple meters away.

The energy of the palm strike felt familiar to Adrian because he has been hit by an energy like that before and he remembers it is similar to Eldritch' energy. Sirius returned to his normal appearance and bared his fangs to Chidaide.

Sirius bared his fangs towards Chidaide but his attack did not connect because a mirror suddenly manifested in front of him. The mirror collided with Sirius and it repelled him instead of the fragile looking mirror being shattered.

Kanlaon spew its breath attack towards Chidaide but the latter did not move instead a mirror manifested about one foot away from the latter's body. The mirror absorbed all of Kanlaon's breath

attack and flipped. The same mirror that absorbed Kanlaon's attack also released the breath attack on to him.

Kanlaon would have easily avoided the redirected breath attack but it had a different property from his breath. The breath attack homed in on Kanlaon so he could only fly away to it and evade until the homing magic lost its power. It seems that Chidaide needed to focus when using this homing function so he is staring at Kanlaon in order to hit the dragon.

Adrian just grinned as he can finally execute his plan to lure the old man out of the city. He cannot go all out and level the city if he fought Chidaide. Just his deflected hit alone made a crater with a five meter diameter and that strike was only pure physical prowess without enhancements from his energies.

Adrian made a portal about three diameters long below Chidaide which got the Demented Shaman caught. Adrian closed the portal and teleported with his soulbounds to where Adrian sent Chidaide. Adrian reappeared to a location that is about a hundred kilometers away from the city of Shangri-La.

"Where did you send me? No matter. I was just unaware when you did that magic. I must say for a beast sage to master the art of space manipulation, it is quite a feat. I shall forgive you for being rude to me just now. If you get out now then I will forgive you for your transgressions." Chidaide stated trying to act like a benevolent monk that supports peace.

Adrian laughed due to what Chidaide stated. Adrian could not help it because the old man thought that he is afraid of the latter. Since no prying eyes can be felt, Adrian no longer needed to act like he is from this time period.

"The others might think that you are a benevolent monk if they see you old man but I know what you truly are. You are nothing but a shaman with blood of the innocent staining your hands. I am actually surprised that you can keep up the act despite your obvious bloodlust." Adrian stated and the benevolent smile that Chidaide had transformed into a something evil.

Adrian is about to charge at Chidaide again when he saw the demented shaman activate the mirror and the scene changed. Adrian is no longer at the rocky area that he teleported into. He is now standing at something that looks like a huge mirror.

Adrian could not see the end because all he saw is darkness on the horizon. The floor is made of a reflective substance. Even when punched, the floor showed no signs that it will crack. He did not know where he is until a system notification popped up.

[You are now inside of the Mirror Field of the Soul Reflecting Mirror.]

Adrian tried to remember what happened in detail because he just got suddenly swept inside the mirror. He even tried calling for his soulbounds but they did not respond meaning he is trapped in another location.

Adrian tried teleporting out but it had no effect. He can use movement spells but only limited to the perception of his sight. The one thing that Adrian could not wrap around his mind into is how his Glamour get dispelled. He now looks like his original form which is his demon form.

"I see. No wonder you can freely manipulate space. You are no beast sage but a demon. It makes more sense for you to be able to manipulate space like normal magic." Chidaide stated.

Adrian could now see the real form of Chidaide which is humanoid but not human enough. Chidaide's skin tone is colored red while he also had four arms holding a Vajra. Chidaide also had two of his eyes closed but he had three other eyes that are open. One of the open eyes is located at his forehead while the other two are located at his two shoulders.

"Where did you take me old man?" Adrian asked as the Chidaide.

"I suppose answering the question of a dying demon is fine. You are inside the pocket dimension of the Soul Reflecting Mirror. Our souls are inside which is why our true forms are revealed. It is a pocket dimension where only what is true can be seen." Chidaide stated.

"Last question before you die for your crimes against innocent souls, old man. Did you separate the soul of a divine bird and made them a cryophoenix and a phoenix?" Adrian asked as it seems only truth can be spoken in this dimension and the demented shaman looks to be the talkative type.

"It seems you are mistaken about who is about to die but I have did what you asked of me. It was music to my ears and made me become enlightened when I split the soul of the Vermillion Bird into two. A divine bird asking a demon for help. The irony of things because the people's faith in him shattered when I split the Vermillion Bird's soul." Chidaide stated as he let out a laugh befitting his title of Demented Shaman.

#### Chapter 277 - Four Vajras

Adrian wanted to know if his other abilities are grayed out or unusable. Luckily, he can still use his domain skills which means he has a chance to easily finish this job. The only reason he has not attacked is the aura that the four vajras that Chidaide is holding.

The four vajras is releasing an aura that is peculiar and distinct. Adrian has to test out the waters in order to see what those four vajras can do. He also did not know how long he will be trapped inside this mirror dimension.

He wanted to know if this pocket dimension is everlasting or just until one of them drops dead. Adrian is not even sure if their bodies are sent in this pocket dimension. The thought of having a Psyche Armament that transports their bodies is not ordinary so he is sure that only their souls is pulled to this dimension.

"If my soul is here then my body is either protected by the mirror or some kind of barrier. The only way out is to defeat that demented shaman but he is not making a move." Adrian thought as he stared at Chidaide.

Adrian has already filled the room with his improved version of the Quantum Spacemines. He added the ability to create miniature black holes whenever one explodes. Adrian waited for Chidaide to make his move and the demented shaman did.

The Vajra on Chidaide's upper right arm suddenly glowed in a yellow light. The demented shaman's body then disappeared from Adrian's sight. Chidaide then reappeared beside Adrian and the upper left Vajra glowed in a red light while the yellow light vanished.

Chidaide then sent a punch towards Adrian but the latter is already sent flying even if the former's fist is one foot away from the latter's face. It seems that the Vajra that glowed red could increase force of hits. Adrian is knocked back by a few meters but he managed to block the strike.

Adrian still got damaged even though he was sure he blocked the strike. It seems that red aura is the cause of Adrian getting damaged. The red aura can somehow bypass Adrian's defenses but it was not enough because he only lost 1% of his total health.

Adrian then used Blink to appear behind Chidaide in order to use Nether Soul Strike on him. The red light on the upper left Vajra disappeared and the lower left glowed in a blue light. Adrian's claws that were supposed to directly hit Chidaide missed as the latter suddenly became mist and reconstituted a few meters away.

Adrian tried to attack once more but the same thing happened. Chidaide kept his distance and the blue light of the lower left Vajra disappeared. The Vajra on the lower right glowed in an orange light and a beam is released from the weapon.

The beam went straight towards Adrian but he used Blink to get away. Adrian now knows what each of the power of the vajras are or at least have an idea about it. The one that emits a yellow light could probably increase speed.

The one with the red light can increase the force of any attacks that can knock anyone back. The one with the blue light can make the body incorporeal or turn it to mist which makes physical attacks ineffective. The orange light could fire off beams of orange light that carry off intense heat.

The battle came to a stalemate because no one could land an exact hit on anyone. The battle was something like a hit and dodge. In other words, if nothing changes then the battle will become a war a war of attrition. The winner would be the person who gets tired first and from the looks of it Adrian would be that person.

It seems that this pocket dimension has an effect that makes the user energized or not reduce stamina. The demented shaman is actually not even breaking a sweat or looking fatigued while Adrian is. It is either Chidaide not losing any stamina or the demented shaman being a great actor.

Adrian could only hope that his Enhanced Quantum Spacemines to do a good job. Adrian thought to use the mini black holes generated by the spacemines to trap the hands of Chidaide. He thought that making his enemy unable to fight back would be to his benefit but Chidaide always uses the yellow light Vajra when moving.

Chidaide moved very fast even for Adrian who is now level 500 and a thousand stats in agility. It seems that he now had to use his trump card. He had no qualms killing Chidaide because he is already dead according to Diao Chan. He will not be changing history if he kills the fake monk although the secret house might have been exposed but that is another problem.

"Nether Domain" Adrian stated and the nether mist rolled in.

"Netheros True Form" Adrian added and the nether mist summoned swirled around him.

Chidaide felt this ominous energy and tried to finish off Adrian before his transformation completed. Chidaide went near the swirling nether mist but he felt a pressure that scared him. He felt like he is being watched by something that made his soul quiver.



Adrian does not know but it seems that whatever thing he saw in the Nether Realm is now observing him. He cannot feel it but Chidaide can because he is the current owner of the mirror pocket dimension. Chidaide felt this presence and its gaze is suffocating his very soul so he took some distance away from Adrian.

"What was that!? It felt like a god is staring at me. That was the same feeling I got when the dark god stared at my soul for the very first time. It was not a dark god because they will not threaten the followers of others. Even the gods of this world are not like that when looking at mortal creatures." Chidaide thought as he stared at the swirling sphere of mist.

It seems that the Nether Mist is not affecting Chidaide that much because of the effect of the mirror pocket dimension on his soul. The mirror pocket dimension makes Chidaide's soul become much more powerful to the point that he is almost invulnerable. The only downside is that the effects lessen as Chidaide stays longer in the mirror pocket dimension.

Chidaide will not tell this fact to his enemy even though he is assured of his victory. He did not expect that Adrian would hold out long but he even won against a divine bird inside this pocket dimension so he is confident.

Adrian's form is finally revealed but it is quite different from his previous true form. His new form is rather more buff than usual. The non-existent legs that were there before is now the legs of a wrestler or Adrian has the body of a body builder on steroids.

Adrian's new form looked like a nether version of a diabolon except he only has two horns. Adrian also thought his transformation is strange but it became even stranger. Adrian could not move his body like he wanted to.

Adrian or rather his true form suddenly emitted a beastly roar. He did not know why his body did so but it seems that he is being controlled by something. Adrian's hulking figure charged towards Chidaide.

Adrian's body is about to collide with Chidaide when the demented shaman's body became mist. Adrian's body did not care though as he just charged towards where the mist is reforming. Adrian is shouting in his mind to stop his actions but it is for naught.

Adrian's uncontrollable body actually hit the half reformed misty body of Chidaide which shocked him. Chidaide's body became corporeal once more and he is actually bloody. Adrian's gigantic hands started to pummel Chidaide towards the floor.

The floor that was not cracking due to Adrian's attack before is now easily breaking. Chidaide saw what is happening to the mirror floor and his heart clenched with every crack. It seems that the mirror floor is connected to Chidaide's soul.

Fear started to creep into the demented shaman's heart as he fears what will happen if the floor becomes truly broken. Adrian though could feel that the pocket dimension become unstable. He wanted to stop rampaging but he could not control his body.

[You are currently in a berserk state due to the influence of a higher order being.]

Adrian did not know who this higher order being is but if he does not control himself then the pocket dimension might collapse on them. The Vajra with a red light suddenly glowed but berserk Adrian used an Enhance Quantum Spacemine just at the right time.

(Author Note: Berserk Adrian = Adrian not being able to control his body)

The mini black hole sucked the hand where the red glowing Vajra was. Chidaide became surprised at what happened and the mini black hole was not collapsing. He tried using the blue light Vajra but Berserk Adrian responded by instinct and did the same to that hand as it is sucked by a mini black hole.

"Dark God Eihort! Aid your loyal follower!" Chidaide shouted in desperation and his prayer is answered.

A pale light suddenly came down and shined towards Chidaide that knocked Adrian away. Chidaide's body became covered with multiple eyes while the vajras assimilated with the former's body. There were now eyes on Chidaide's torso, palms and arms. His mouth even disappeared to transform into an eye.

Berserk Adrian then opened his mouth and a sphere of intense energy started to gather. It seems that Berserk Adrian is gathering the nether mist he summoned. The intense energy made the pocket dimension shudder.

Chidaide also started to use his final attack as all the eyes on his body moved all the way to his chest to become a giant eye. He is also gathering energy for his last stand. The energy that he is gathering is also about the same with Adrian's power as it made the pocket dimension shudder. After a few seconds of gathering energy, silence occurred for a brief moment and the piercing sound of the beams fire by the two could be heard.

## Chapter 278 - Collapsing Realm And Soul

All the nether mist that was summoned by the Nether Domain all gathered in to a sphere that is six inches away from Berserk Adrian's mouth. Chidaide also gathered energy as the eyeball on his chest started to shine in a green light that is as powerful as what Adrian is gathering.

Silence crept the area for a split second until beams of different energies are fired by the two opposing forces. Berserk Adrian's attack had a thick color of the nether mist which is black, gray and white while having a purple outer shell. Chidaide's attack is fired by the beam of his chest eye that has a ghastly green color.

The two beams collided at the same time while causing a path of destruction upon their traversed path. The mirror floor cracked immediately even though the beams were not fire directly at it. The point where the two beams intersected is the part that is heavily damaged.

The point on mirror floor where the two beams intersect started cracking and its size kept increasing. It did not take long for spider web like cracks to start appearing all across the mirrored floor. The attacks of each individual is strong enough to crack the floor but combined made it more powerful.

The cracking of the mirrored floor is actually in favor of Adrian because the mirrored floor represents the soul of the current owner of the Soul Reflecting Mirror. The attack that Chidaide released is a double edge sword as it also hurt him.

The confrontation of the two is now up to the person that could use their energies well. The one who could outlast the other would win the confrontation as the one who loses energy first would get their blasted to oblivion. Adrian did not like that he is winning without effort because he is not even controlling his body but a win is a win as long as he is not the loser.

Berserk Adrian is winning because nether energy is volatile and the effect of the nether domain has yet to cease. Berserk Adrian abused the unlimited supply of nether energy and his own innate mana pool to overpower Chidaide. His soul essences also helped as just by damaging the mirrored floor granted him an essence.

Soon, the point where the two beams converged is slowly shifting towards Chidaide. The mirrored floor also finally cracked and revealing a bottomless abyss. The fragments of this mirrored floor started falling to this bottomless abyss and no sound is heard proving that it might be bottomless.

Chidaide started bleeding from his orifices and the beam being fired from his chest eye is slowly waning. Berserk Adrian's nether beam is starting to overpower the demented shaman while breaking the mirrored floor. It did not take long for Berserk Adrian to push with full power that made his beam envelop Chidaide.

The nether beam enveloped Chidaide and the pressure shattered the mirrored floor thereby shattering the soul of the demented shaman as well. The nether beam did not end but Adrian's transformation did but his soul is already sent out of the pocket dimension because Chidaide's soul is already vanquished.

Adrian did not notice that a fanged mouth swallowed Chidaide's soul when the former's nether beam hit the latter. Adrian's true form is released and he returned to his demon form thereby also releasing him from being berserk.

In the outside world, Adrian and Chidaide's body is covered by a clear glass barrier that would deflect any harm towards them while their souls are inside the mirror pocket dimension. Adrian's soulbounds tried destroying the glass like barrier but it was sturdier than they could expect.

Adrian's soulbound just waited when their attacks did nothing as even Sirius' Ragnarok did not scratch the glass barrier. Soon enough, the glass barriers shattered. Adrian gasped for air like he woke up from drowning while Chidaide's body just fell on the ground with a thud.

Adrian regained his control over his body so much so that he started cherishing it by hugging himself. His soulbounds did not question Adrian's action because of their undying loyalty to him. After being comforted by himself, Adrian decided to check on Chidaide as the demented shaman's body is not moving.

"I beat him right but the Soul Reflecting Mirror has yet to come to my possession?" Adrian thought as he kicked Chidaide's body to see if the old man is alive.

If anyone saw what Adrian is doing, he would be frowned upon because he is kicking the corpse of an old man. Adrian is about to loot the old man when a cracked mirror floated above the latter's corpse. The cracked mirror then emitted a flash of light that turned the body of Chidaide into a mist form and sucked the mist into it.

The mist slowly covered the mirror as the cracks became fixed. It seems that the mirror used up whatever's left of Chidaide in order to fix the damage he caused to the mirror. Adrian instinctively reached out for the mirror and it responded in kind.

[The Soul Reflecting Mirror has been obtained and has been registered as a Psyche Armament.]

[Due to the Soul Reflecting Mirror being the quest item, you cannot use it for the duration of the quest. The full abilities will be unlocked once you clear this quest.]

The Soul Reflecting Mirror transformed into a beam of light and pierced Adrian's forehead to become a part of his Psyche Armaments. He decided to leave now but he saw smoke in the distance and that is the location of the city of Shangri-La. It seems that war has reached their gates.

Since the Soul Reflecting Mirror is what Adrian was looking for, he decided to honor his promise towards Diao Chan. It would not make much of a difference because they would still be hunted down or worse. When Adrian saw flashes of lightning in the distance, he teleported with his soulbounds to the teahouse.

Unknown to Adrian that he was still being watched by the higher order being that made him go berserk.

#### Chapter 279 - Heihudie

Adrian directly teleported to the teahouse in order to see the situation. The teahouse is actually quite devastated but he felt something different in a certain area of it. He felt an energy that is reminiscent to life energy but weaker.

The sound of soldiers marching and the occasional spell shots can be heard all throughout. It seems that the citizens are either dead or hiding really well because there are no sounds of screaming people in the city.

"Sirius, help me find the people of this teahouse. That goes the same for you Charon. Saena and Kanlaon will stay guard just in case that we have a lookout for invading enemy soldiers." Adrian stated via their soul link.

Adrian hurriedly looked for Diao Chan and her crew as he does not know how long the city will last from the attacks of the invading army. He can sense that there seems to be a dragon in the sky. The dragon seems to be the azure dragon of the east since it is using lightning to attack the city.

The city could have had a fighting chance if the Vermillion Bird is still together but it is currently split into two. The only ones who could be blamed by the lack of protection is Chidaide but that old man is already dead. Adrian checked each door of the teahouse to see if there is someone hiding there and maybe point him to Diao Chan's location.

If Adrian could not find her then he will just return back into the timeline. He did tell her that he would return to the teahouse so they should wait for him to get back. It is not his fault that they chose to flee rather than bunker themselves inside of the teahouse.

All the searching bore fruit early though as Charon found a secret room below Adrian's room. The entrance is actually below the tea table placed inside the room. Adrian no longer needed to be discreet because time is of the essence so he just tore it up using his hands.

A stairway could be seen so Adrian rounded up all his soulbounds before going down. The way down is not lit but there is a source of light at the end of the tunnel. Adrian saw an enormous empty room with markings of a black butterfly scattered all throughout.

Adrian thought that is weird to have a secret room with nothing inside but black butterfly markings so he used his evil eye. In front of Adrian is actually some sort of barrier with the same butterfly markings. Adrian touched it and is amazed that it looks solid despite it looking more like an illusion barrier.

"It seems that this barrier makes it look like the room has nothing inside of it. It also has traces of the energy I felt that is similar to Life energy." Adrian stated and proceeded to break the barrier using Nether Soul Strike.

Once Nether Soul Strike hit the barrier, it dissipated like smoke and revealed what it is concealing. About twelve people were huddled in a corner tending to a person with injuries. Adrian recognize the injured person and saw it was Diao Chan.

The black butterflies in the room then flew towards Diao Chan and attached themselves to her dress. She also wore this whole butterfly theme outfit that is much different to what she wore when she greeted Adrian. Adrian commanded Saena to treat her as her aides seem to not have a healer.

At first the aides were wary but then they recognized Adrian as the customer that their mistress took a liking to. Adrian commanded Saena to use her most powerful healing ability that was unlocked when she temporarily reached level 500.

"Saena use Perfect Heal" Adrian commanded.

Saena emitted a brilliant golden light that is even calming to the eyes and radiant to the skin. Diao Chan is hit by this light and her pained face disappeared and regained their color once more. It seems that it would take time for her to wake up so Adrian asked what happened.

One of the aides stated that they were attacked while they were preparing for the evacuation. A giant blue lightning came down from the skies and struck the entire city. The city's barrier that protected them from large scale attacks broke immediately without even putting up a fight.

When the barrier is broken, the assailants started flooding the city and attacked anyone in sight. The adventurers resting at the teahouse either joined the fight or fled the city. One soldier from the invading forces managed to reach the teahouse and their mistress, Diao Chan, used her magic to protect them.

It seems that she is from a fallen clan called the Heihudie which is a fallen clan. She can use illusions and other tricks like poison but she does lack firepower. She managed to kill the invading soldier at the cost of being attacked.

They retreated to the secret room and Diao Chan used a barrier to conceal and protect them. The only complication is that she passed out after casting the barrier. They thought that their mistress is done for and they were ready to die with her but Adrian arrived.

"It seems that the enemy soldiers are no longer interested in this place because all the belongings are either looted or broken. So you can be assured that they will not search the place anymore. Let us just hope that the azure dragon in the sky will not know of our presence." Adrian stated.

"Azure Dragon!" All the aides shouted in surprise.

It seems that they were not able to see who attacked them and their faces became pale. They are being attacked by one of the divine beasts in the eastern continent which is the Azure Dragon. The aides told Adrian that it might be the empire devoted to the azure dragon invading them.

"Why isn't the Vermillion Bird doing anything!?" Diao Chan stated in a weak voice as she regained consciousness.

"Because the Vermillion Bird is currently weak and in a dilemma. Anyways, you are now awake so tell me the coordinates of the area you want to be sent to." Adrian answered in a roundabout way because he does not want them to know of the Vermillion Bird's plight.

"Give our respected guest the map so he knows the location that he is sending us." Diao Chan commanded in a weak breath.

The aide gave Adrian a map with a black butterfly insignia as a mark of the location. It seems to be a forest that is about a thousand miles south from their current location. Adrian could speculate that Diao Chan know of his origins.

Adrian decided not to ask anymore as he will be gone in this timeline anyway. He does not need to speculate much and he is just returning the favor. By the looks of it, a few people surviving will not change the timeline much.

Adrian will just attribute saving a few people to an imp's mischievous nature. Take it as a whim and the luck of those who encountered him in the past.

"Everyone, do not move from your position or else do not blame me if you get flung somewhere faraway." Adrian stated that made all the aides group up and clutch each other.

A magic circle appeared below them and the azure dragon felt a large amount of magical energy from the teahouse. The azure dragon did not bother to look at the source in depth so it just launched a big attack towards the teahouse. Luckily, all of them managed to be transported before the lightning hit their location. The lightning attacked only felt charred remains of the teahouse.

They reappeared in a forest covered with mist unknown to the danger that they have safely averted. The group thanked Adrian for getting them out of that situation. Some even wanted to know his name but Adrian just politely declined to give his name. He does not want to get registered in a history book if the people he save even managed to record it.

"Thank you, my lord. We are eternally grateful to you for helping us. It is not much but please keep this as a token of our appreciation." Diao Chan stated as she handed a trinket to Adrian despite still being weak as she is being aided by her attendant.

Adrian received the trinket that is shaped like a butterfly that is made of a black crystal. Adrian is told to keep it so that whenever he or his descendants need help in the eastern continent then he just needed to present it to any teahouse. Adrian did not know if he would ever use it considering at present he is banned in the eastern continent.

"I should get going then. I have fulfilled the end of my bargain. I hope we would meet again in the future in much better circumstances." Adrian stated but it is just for formality and he did not really mean it.

Adrian teleported back and he is greeted with a sight of pure destruction. He did not need to become sentimental at this scene because this is not the first time he has experienced it. He immediately looked for the temporal rift he hid in order to jump back into the present.

Everything would have become perfect if a blue thunderbolt is not hurled towards Adrian and his soulbounds. Adrian is busy enlarging the portal so Kanlaon had to counter the thunderbolt with his breath attack. Sirius charged at the azure dragon to divert its attention from the group.

Adrian picked up the pace because he could feel the great mass of energy from the sky. He could feel his senses telling him that he would be in great danger if he did not escape now. Adrian forcefully opened the temporal rift.

The rift was a bit unstable but it could hold out. Adrian looked back only to see his soulbounds heavily damaged. It seems that a divine beast lives up to its name as a great beast that could pierce the heavens. Adrian immediately sealed all his soulbounds immediately and dove towards the temporal rift.

The dark clouds rumbled and a great catastrophe of lightning showered the destroyed city once more. This time the city is reduced to ashes and the azure dragon left as there are no traces of the powerful energy it detected.

## Chapter 280 - Vermillion Bird

Due to Adrian forcefully opening the temporal rift, it was not stable enough and showed him details of the past. He saw a vision of a hooded individual helping Chidaide in obtaining the Soul Reflecting Mirror that is sealed inside what looked like a Shinto shrine.

He also saw Chidaide forcefully bonding with the Psyche Armament because it kept rejecting him. Chidaide finally managed to bond with the Psyche Armament but he needed to fuse it with his soul which should not be the case.

The Psyche Armament should be an extension of the soul in order to perfectly utilize it. The way that Chidaide used his soul as an anchor is just sloppy and the results is clear as he died after the mirror dimension broke.

Adrian then saw a vision of Chidaide utilizing the mirror to absorb the souls of innocent people who come and pray to the shrine that the fake monk started. It seems that Chidaide did perform some healings but it was all a show. Adrian is showed visions that Chidaide was only absorbing the sickness and transferring them to children of the slums.

The next vision that Adrian got is Chidaide finally amassing enough power using innocent souls. He used that power to split the soul of the divine beast which is the Vermillion Bird. If he did not do that, his soul would have paid the consequence as a single soul is not enough to split the soul of something born of godly blood.

Adrian saw the spell that Chidaide used and he is already thinking of a way to reverse it. It seemed that the fake monk used the power of the dark god he worship to finish the spell that he used for separating the Vermillion Bird's soul.

Adrian's last vision is Chidaide successfully splitting the soul of the Vermillion Beast and sealing the two split souls below the shrine. He also saw that it was only after Shangri-La was destroyed and a hundred years passed when the two guardian birds was released from their seal.

Adrian is chunked out of the temporal rift before it collapsed and he successfully returned to the present but it seems that the two guardian birds are now weak. The two guardian birds look like they are passed out due to being weak but Adrian could see something different. The soul of the two guardian birds are waning and a simple attack on their soul would kill them completely.

Adrian willed the Soul Reflecting Mirror to activate and it did. The mirror now holds a different appearance since it is now bonded with Adrian. The front part is still a clear mirror without any imperfection but the back has a demon eye looking to and fro like it is alive.

The edges of the mirror is also coated with a dragon scale like texture while having four demon wings at the cardinal directions. It has now taken a different appearance because of Adrian. It is now completely his but he still needs to fix the situation quickly.

Adrian needed some sort of sacrifice to make the spell work and he knew what to sacrifice. He will use the energy that the two guardian birds gave him but he also needed divine intervention. He needed a way to communicate with the twin gods but the veil cast by the divine beasts in the eastern continent is strong.

Although the veil is currently weak in the southern part of the eastern continent, it is still effective so Adrian had to bypass space. He will get notice but he had to complete his quest. It does not matter to him anyway because he is already banned. What else could they do? Lock in away?

Adrian had approximately ten minutes before he gets detected. It was enough time to perform the spell to complete his quest. Adrian willed the mirror to come close to him. He then looked at the sky and blew away the veil that blocked the view of the gods.

A large breaking sound is heard all throughout the eastern continent and the influential powers started to flock towards the location. Adrian started to pray for assistance from the twin gods because they are the most helpful in this situation.

The God of Death Abaddon rules over souls while the Goddess of Life Gaea rules over life so that the two souls will be reborn once fused. The prayer is successful because the twin gods can easily hear their champion as long as they are not hindered.

[You have been blessed by the God of Death Abaddon.]

[You have been blessed by the Goddess of Life Gaea.]

Adrian then activated the mirror as he held the mirror with both his hands.

"From one you became two..." Adrian stated and the mirror divided in to two.

"Your souls purposefully separated from you and now I have come to undo what has been done." Adrian stated and the two mirrors then flew to the two guardian birds that are lying on the ground.



"Surrender your will to me in order to return you to your prime." Adrian stated and the two guardian birds did as he told and gave up resisting the pull of the mirror. It seems that the mirror gave them a trauma so they unconsciously resisted its allure.

The mirror then sucked the two guardian birds inside of it. One mirror radiated a blazing aura indicating that the phoenix is locked inside. The other mirror emitted a frosty aura indicating that the cryophoenix is locked inside.

"By the blessings of the twin gods who rule over reincarnation. I sacrifice the power that you have given me in order to revive you to your past selves." Adrian stated and the power given to him by the two guardian birds disappeared and is absorbed by the mirror.

"May the two halves become one!" Adrian chanted and the two mirrors floating in the air started to slowly spin.

The slowly spinning mirrors then collided with each other but the two mirrors did not break each other. The two mirrors started to fuse instead in order to become one. The fusion of the two mirrors emitted a high frequency sound that also set off a shockwave but Adrian is unaffected.

The shockwave affected the ones charging towards the location instead. The only downside is that the other divine beast opened their eyes from their sleep as they now went to the location of the shockwave. Adrian did not know the headache that is coming towards his way.

Adrian is not thinking of what trouble is coming his way because the mirror started to emit flames that is both hot and cold. The most beautiful thing that Adrian witnessed is that the mirror also started emitting rainbows.

In a burst of flames of different colors, the Vermillion Birds once again takes flight as it emitted a screech of delight that is once again back in the world.

A world message is heard by all of those present.

[The Vermillion Bird has regained its might. Those that revere it will once again gain power.]

Adrian also got another message and it is a new title.

[You have gained the title Friend of a Divine Beast.]