

O Summoner 1171

Chapter 1171 The Search For The Lost Soul I

Adrian teleported to the Eastern Continent in search for the lost soul of the eastern rider. He does not know if he will find it intact and hopes that it has not dissipated. If he really wanted to then he could just get a random soul here and present it to the other riders.

The place where the eastern rider fell in battle is located at the northern part of the eastern continent. It is under the territory of the Xuan Wu which means he needs to be stealthy. Among the Four Divine Beasts of the Eastern Continent, the Xuan Wu or the Black Tortoise.

The Xuan Wu is also called the Divine Beast of the Frigid North. It has peak elemental affinity with water and is said to have mastered ice as well. Even Adrian will not be able to block an attack from a divine beast of that caliber unless he has an aid of another divine beast.

What Adrian is curious about is the fact that the Xuan Wu is also said to be a Divine Beast of Death. Due to the cold being synonymous to death, the Xuan Wu is said to be linked to death as well. This is also supported by the fact that those that anger the divine beast would end up in a death like state as if they are frozen, but they are not encased in ice.

Although the Xuan Wu is called The Black Tortoise of Death, it is rather passive and benevolent. The divine beast also tends to use its abilities to protect the northern region where it is revered. It is a region that is actually different from the others as the Xuan Wu created a paradise in the middle of a frozen wasteland.

"I can only use the token that was given to me by the Heihudie Clan. I need information on how to reach the northern part of the eastern continent without being detected." Adrian thought as he walked towards a brothel that has a small black butterfly in the insignia.

Adrian decided to blend in and Polymorphed himself to look like a native of the eastern continent. He is currently located at the southern region as that is also the safest place he can go as he is a friend of the Vermillion Bird or Zhu Que. When he entered the brothel, a lot of people looked towards him but then returned back to what they are doing as they only saw a young kid enter.

"Can I help you, young master? It seems that you are still quite young to avail our services." One of the courtesans stated but Adrian immediately showed her the trinket that the Head Mistress of the Heihudie clan gave him.

"Please follow me." The courtesan stated as she guided Adrian to one of the rooms.

As soon as the courtesan saw the trinket, she no longer had this playful attitude as she immediately became respectful. She guided Adrian towards a room at the far end of the corridor and this room could be said to be the most extravagant of all. She then bowed towards Adrian before saying her farewells as she is not high enough to entertain such an important person.

The room is decorated with a butterfly motif in the shade of purple. It also has paintings of mountains and rivers. The whole room could be said to be decorated to the point that everything makes it alive and beautiful. Everything blends together in harmony, and nothing is unpleasant to the eyes.

"Greetings, revered guest. This humble one's name is Ai Fang. I shall be the butterfly that will entertain you for any thing that you asked. May I know our revered guest's name as this is the first time that I have seen you?" Ai Fang asked Adrian.

Ai Fang is dressed like a courtesan that is off the highest rank. She could be described as very beautiful that has the allure of a refined young woman. She exudes confidence and beauty because she herself knows that she is all that. She still has that calm and humble aura around her that makes it easy to talk to her.

"I was still polymorphed. I am Equinox of the Daemos and Champion of the Twin Gods." Adrian stated as he took off his polymorph and showed his real form.

Ai Fang could be seen a little bit startled as this is the first time that she has seen a demon, but it was that demon. The most important benefactor of the clan that not only saved them from being destroyed back then but also saved their current mistress.

"This humble one could not believe that she will be able to serve the greatest benefactor of the clan. I shall do anything within my power to help the benefactor." Ai Fang stated as she bowed towards Adrian.

"The bow is unnecessary as I only helped your clan because of some circumstances. I apologize if I came in a disguise, but it is needed to make sure that I do not get too much attention." Adrian stated.

"If that is the case great benefactor then take this advice from me. If you are to use a disguise, then please use an older looking disguise because your current one was a bit too young looking. You are quite lucky that the demographic for our brothel is those of a younger age group which is why they did not think you are strange.

Other brothels controlled by the clan tend to have older age groups. Please bear that in mind if you decide to enter another of our clan owned establishments." Ai Fang stated as she gave Adrian good advice should he go to one of the establishments of the Heihudie Clan in the northern region.

"I see. Thank you for the advice." Adrian replied as he only used his default human look that is identical to his appearance in the real world.

"I am happy that I am of service to the great benefactor. Please tell me what does the great benefactor need." Ai Fang stated as she looked at Adrian with a serious gaze which means she is now ready for business.

"I need to go to the northern region where the Horseman of Conquest was vanquished. Can you tell me how to go there without gathering much attention?" Adrian asked.

"If travelling to the northern region is the thing that the great benefactor wants then we can assist you with that. Traveling merchants are currently here in the southern region and they would need guards to escort them to the northern region which is their first destination. The trades between the north and the south are in great number because of the demand for food.

The Divine Beast of the North might have created a paradise in the northern region but that does not mean they can feed everyone living there. We also have some merchants on our side that is headed there so we can just let them escort you to the northern region without getting much attention." Ai Fang stated.

If Adrian was not the greatest benefactor of the Heihudie Clan, then Ai Fang would have interrogated more but he was. They were given strict instructions to never question the motives of the great benefactor unless it is detrimental to the clan. Since their great benefactor wants to go to the site where the Horseman of Conquest was defeated then it does not affect the clan's wellbeing.

"If you can arrange that then I would be extremely grateful." Adrian replied as he did not expect that he would get easy access.

"I also have to warn the benefactor though as the place where the Horseman of Conquest has died became a dangerous place." Ai Fang stated as she felt that she needed to inform him to the best of his abilities.

"How did it become dangerous?" Adrian asked.

"The area has become tainted with the mana of the Horseman of Conquest and the fallen dead spirits of warriors have transformed into Yakshas. It is also under the surveillance of a hidden group that killed the followers of the dark god. We do not have complete information about this group as even the name of their organization eludes us." Ai Fang stated.

"If that is the case then they would find my purpose of being there as very suspicious." Adrian muttered.

"If the great benefactor wants to go there then you will not be seen as suspicious because you can just give the excuse that you are looking for a sword in the Ten Thousand Sword Mound that has risen after the fall of the Horseman of Conquest. A lot of the people in the eastern continent have been trying their luck to find a sword that is tailored for them in that location." Ai Fang added to which Adrian looked at her with disbelief.

"If it is called the Ten Thousand Sword Mound then the dead soul of the eastern rider might have inadvertently created a dungeon." Adrian thought as he slightly smiled as this might be easier than he expected.

Chapter 1172 The Search For The Lost Soul II

Adrian decided to visit the Vermillion Bird while he has the chance. The convoy for the merchants heading to the northern region would depart tomorrow which is why he has time. Adrian went to the bottom of the bell tower where the Vermillion Bird resides.

The southern region of the eastern continent has evolved even further due to the influence of the players that helped it grow. Adrian could see that more and more players are flooding the area because they are hungry for contributions. One player even gained the recognition to become the Priestess of the Vermillion Bird.

Adrian did not meet this player because it seems that she is out and solving problems that are arising in the southern region. If he had the chance, then he would like to meet this player priestess as she is quite famous in the forums for her feats of strength.

"It seems that you only visit me once in a while my friend. I would have forgotten about you if you did not visit me now. Do not tell me that you only visited me because you have something that you need from me?" The Vermillion Bird stated with a playful tone.

"If you do not want then I can just return." Adrian replied playfully.

"I was just joking with you. I know that you are busy with your duties as Champion of the Twin Gods. It is such a pity that you cannot be my priest instead. I am also a bit ashamed that I was not able to help you against the battle with the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse as my hands are tied up here in my territory." The Vermillion Bird stated as it felt that its home is also its prison.

The Vermillion Bird also wants to explore the world and see the new things that sprouted but it has people to protect. It cannot exist without the power of the people's faith as it is a core essence of its existence. It does have the power to communicate and see the world through the eyes of its priestess which is why it likes to send her out in the world.

"I know that you are also caught up in the power struggle of the other Divine Beasts. It is a good thing that you seem to have gained a decent relationship with the northern region." Adrian stated.

"That is only the case because that old turtle is not like the ones in the east and the west. The old turtle likes to protect those dear to him and would rather defend than attack which is why he has the best army in terms of defense. Even the others know that they will lose should they attack his territory.

It is not just me that has an amiable relationship with the old turtle as the others do as well. It just took some time for me to establish it as I needed to recover my power and appoint a priestess to talk to that old guy." The Vermillion Bird stated.

"It feels as though you know them personally from the way you speak about them." Adrian stated as he could deduce the relationship of the four divine beasts from the Vermillion Bird's speech.

"That would be a story for another time as even you are not fit enough to hear the origin of our stories. Why did you really come to my abode my friend? I know that you like to greet me but that is not all, right?" The Vermillion Bird asked.

"I only did come to greet you as I am killing time before I depart for the north. I am searching for the soul of a rather important being. Any information that you have of the Ten Thousand Sword Mound would be very helpful if you have any." Adrian stated as he knows that the Four Divine Beasts could see what their followers see.

"If it is about the Ten Thousand Sword Mound then even my followers that use the sword have gone there to test their luck. That place is both blessed and cursed in my opinion." The Vermillion Bird stated.

"Blessed and cursed?" Adrian exclaimed in confusion.

"It is blessed because it is a special place that could grant immeasurable strength to sword wielders which are many in the eastern continent. It is cursed because it produces Yakshas which are demons created from malice and resentment.

Even I know that a place like that is a great danger because negative energy tends to swallow its surroundings. To make matters worse, it was the place where the Horseman of Conquest is slain. The swords that appeared there are no doubt the countless pitiful souls that the Horseman of Conquest has slain.

Should the grudges of the Yaksha's solidify then they could evolve to become Greater Yakshas. Once Yakshas evolve into Greater Yakshas, they would be able to wander the world and search for

every being that they hold a grudge over. If that is to happen, then a massacre will undoubtedly happen." The Vermillion Bird stated.

"But a fair portion or almost all the ones that the Horseman of Conquest killed were dead for a long time. How could they find those that they have a grudge over if they are also dead?" Adrian asked.

"The eastern continent operates in a different way than those of other continents. In the eastern continent, the weight of one's family is also a burden on the members themselves. They will have to bear the grudges that their ancestors inflict as long as they use their family names." The Vermillion Bird stated.

In the eastern continent, the prestige and honor follow the family names of individuals. Which is why those of high status and honor would never do something that will taint their family name. No one would do it openly, but all secrets will eventually get revealed which is why the young ones are often taught at an early age.

Children from a young age especially the successors are taught how to act so that they will never embarrass their family name. One might say that this is unfair for the child but that is the price they pay for status and wealth. The higher ones are then the more open they are for scrutiny because all eyes are on them.

"Does this mean that most of the notable families in the eastern continent would be massacred if that happened?" Adrian asked.

"Not most. You underestimate the long history of battle in the eastern continent. All notable families will be in the chopping block should that happen because they also carry the sins of their ancestors. One is only able to remove that grudge when they fully denounce their families but no one in the right mind will do that.

A person that has felt comfort ever since they are born will never be able to adapt to the ways of a poor person in a short amount of time. They might be able to survive if they were raised to not rely on the comforts that their family name gives them. But those that were not trained in such shall know how cruel the world can be for those below." The Vermillion Bird stated.

What the Vermillion Bird said is true because even Adrian knows how it is to live in comfort. What kept him grounded is the fact that he was raised to not be spoiled and take things for granted. It might also be the spartan training style that his mother raised him but even he admits that there are some areas he is lacking.

His friends that have been raised with just enough or less than enough before are much better than him in terms of street smarts. Adrian might be trained in some form of combat but is only useful in fights. If he were to suddenly live way below to what he is now, then he knows that he will undoubtedly starve on the side of the road.

He also knows the difficulty of maintaining an image due to his father's business. He had to keep an amiable poker face despite not liking the way people approach him. He had to keep face so that his father would not be embarrassed of him or be told that he was not raised right.

"Do you know if it is really the influence of the death of the Horseman of Conquest for the Ten Thousand Sword Mound to appear?" Adrian asked as he thought it might be the soul of the Horseman of Conquest that created it.

"I know that the east is a spiritual land, but the dead cannot do that easily. Unless they get help from certain powers." The Vermillion Bird stated as it suddenly went silent, and Adrian felt that the air suddenly felt cold.

"Unless what?" Adrian asked.

"Unless they got help from a dark god." The Vermillion Bird stated.

Chapter 1173 The Search For The Lost Soul III

Adrian thought that he heard wrong, but he absolutely heard right. The things that are happening in the eastern continent has immediately been attributed by one of its divine beasts to dark gods. Adrian does not know if it is really one of the dark gods or one of the distorted gods.

From what Adrian knows, only the gods that re in the divine realm use this distinction. Even the Twin Gods do not immediately attribute anything bad when it is towards other gods. Then again, there are numerous semi divine entities in the eastern continent and anyone of them could have been the culprit.

"Are you sure that the things that happened are the work of dark gods or distorted gods? In my knowledge, the eastern continent has some of their fallen gods reincarnating as mortals." Adrian stated as he raised a valid point. And educated the Vermillion Bird about the difference of dark gods and distorted gods.

"Whatever is happening, the eastern continent has become more dangerous than before. The death rate of living beings is increasing due to something, but I do not know what it is. It might also be the result of their greed as there have been numerous treasure wells or inheritance dungeons that spawn." The Vermillion Bird stated.

The Vermillion Bird touched on a subject that Adrian is interested with. The treasure wells are essentially dungeons that house special treasures that could be they key to becoming powerful. Some of the treasures found in such places is a blade that can even cut down an Immortal which is a powerful person in the eastern continent.

Inheritance dungeons are also special dungeons that can pass down techniques and even job classes to those that pas their trials. The inheritance dungeons are even rarer than the treasure wells, but they also produce the largest amounts of deaths. A lot of people would try their luck inside one as even those that are just average people that are heavy risk takers opt to go inside.

"It is not your problem that they go inside to their deaths as it is their choice. They have probably made their choice that living as they are now no different from death. Some might be lucky to stay alive until the inheritance is claimed but a vast majority will definitely die should something like a fate changing item is given." Adrian stated.

Adrian did not realize that they have been chatting for quite some time as the stories of the Vermillion Bird often tells him about the state of the eastern continent. The Vermillion Bird would even show him illusions if the description of events is not clear to him. Only when the Vermillion Bird pointed that Adrian should get going is the time that he left the tower.

Adrian bid his farewell to the Vermillion Bird as he was escorted out of the tower. The Vermillion Bird could be seen as feeling refreshed because it has never found someone it calls a friend. The Vermillion Bird might be surrounded by a lot of people but all of them pray to it. The only one that gives off the same feeling as Adrian is the priestess that it chose.

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"Am I late?" Adrian asked Ai Fang who was clearly waiting for him to arrive.

"You arrived just in time for the departure. Please follow these two who are from our company. We have said that you are an adventurer that our establishment has a contract with. I know that we said that you are an important guest, but we filled out your identity as an up-and-coming adventurer affiliated with us.

The merchant that is the leader of this caravan expects that you will also guard it. For the greatest benefactor, something like that should be a piece of cake for you. Please treat the people in the caravan well as they have a great relationship with the clan as well." Ai Fang bowed as she saw the caravan off.

The two that was introduced to Adrian are a man and a woman who are named Xiaohei and Xiaoyan. They seem to be partners of equal standing as they do not have command over the other. If one were to ask who is in command, then they will definitely look at Adrian as he was given full autonomy to command them by Ai Fang.

The names that they have given seem to also be codenames as their real names are concealed. Even Adrian could not see their real names with Inspect as only the names presented to him are showing in the status panel. The two of them also give off different energies as the male shows off a darker and thicker aura while the female shows a more delicate and refined aura.

Xiaohei is a wielder of a black sword that is covered with talismans. The aura from the sword is fierce and uncontrollable which is why it is currently sealed so that it does not pose any harm to those around it. The one maintaining the seal seems to be Xiaohei as he is proficient in using paper seals and charms.

Xiaoyan does not seem to wield any weapon, but Adrian could see that she uses the paper fan that she is carrying. Adrian does not know where her abilities lie but she must be concealing them for a reason. He decides to not pry into it as they might not even enter battle in the first place due to the heavy guards in the front.

They are only supplementary guards that joined the caravan as they have also business in the north. The real guards of the caravan are a mix of players and NPCs. Adrian and the other two are people that will lend aid to the caravan in exchange for traveling with them.

Being able to travel with the caravan is already a big deal as not everyone could be granted such privilege. The fact that Adrian could join the caravan despite his unknown identity means that the grasp of influence of the Heihudie Clan is immensely large. Not all personnel of the caravan are happy with this though, but they are not ones to disregard a command from the head merchant.

The route that they have planned is relatively safe as they will travel for three days until the first rest stop. It seems that the caravan will also peddle some of their wares on the way which is why there should be an adjustment. A total of one week will be needed to reach the northern region which is already quite fast.

The travel speed that they are going for is not slow as the beasts carrying the goods have great land speed and stamina. The beasts that are loaded with the goods are called the Komodoron which are large lizard monsters the size of buses with six legs. The Komodorons are not lesser dragons, but just naturally evolved lizard monsters located in the southeast region of the eastern continent.

The Komodorons can travel ten times faster than a human, but their speed is greatly reduced due to load on their backs. With loads on their back, they can only travel at half the speed but that is still quite fast. A month of travel time to the northern region is cut to one week because of this.

This merchant caravan is not joking around when it comes to goods delivery as they are quite fast. Adrian talked to one of the players to ask what the requirements are to get the escort mission and they said that one has to have specific stats to join. It seems that Adrian also meets the stat requirement which is why he was able to join.

Adrian also learned that they will be making four stops and they will travel even faster should their cargo lessen per stop. Adrian has no qualms about the stops and even wishes that their cargo will lessen per stop. He wants to reach the northern region as fast as possible while in disguise.

Adrian's very existence could make it difficult for him should his identity be exposed. An Arch Demon coming to the eastern continent is a big deal. He is also a friend of one of the divine beasts which makes him a prime target as well. He was able to stroll in the eastern continent before because Peridot was with her.

Peridot as the sole princess of the Ryujins is a great deterrent to potential threats but that is not always absolute. There seems to be an organization in the eastern continent that is also aiming for the Ryujins. Peridot said that the eastern continent is no longer as organized as it was once.

There are now several people that do not fear the Ryujins as they seem to have the ability to kill them. From Peridot's story, there were couple of Ryujins that came back to the mountain heavily wounded as they were attacked. The eastern continent no longer has a solid power hierarchy compared to before.

Chapter 1174 The Search For The Lost Soul IV

It might be difficult to move in the eastern continent but that does not mean Adrian cannot. Just like now, all he needs to do is keep a low profile and exit once he is done. Being in a merchant caravan to the northern region is a perfect way to hide his identity. He just needs to avoid powerful NPCs that can see through his disguise.

The road that the merchant caravan used is a usual roadway but the monsters in the east could be seen as powered up as well. Just like what the forums said, the world has drastically changed as beasts become powerful while some field bosses started roaming away from their territories.

Adrian finally encountered one such field boss that is in the form of a white furred ape monster. It is called the White Sage Ape and is said to command all ape type monsters in a territory that is a bit far from where they are now. They even encountered the White Sage Ape with some injuries and the group started to go into battle mode.

Just as they thought that the White Sage Ape is their only opponent, a loud roar came towards the west as another large monster started to charge through the forest. The large monster was a giant gorilla with red fur that seemed to emanate great power. This monster is another field boss located near the territory of the White Sage Ape called Crimson Asura Gorilla.

It seems that the two monsters are fighting for territory and the group are only caught in the fight between two powerful monsters. The head merchant decided to not intervene in the fight of the two field bosses as they will only incur the wrath of both should they try and fight them. It seems that the head merchant is only thinking of waiting for the right opportunity as Adrian could see the greed in his eyes.

Adrian knew that the head merchant could be greedy because they have a companion here that can take care of one of the field bosses. It was an aloof looking ronin that casually lies down in one of the caravans. The others might be fooled by the ronin's nonchalant attitude, but Adrian could see the power coursing to the other.

Adrian wanted to peek at the samurai's stats, but he knew that the other party would be able to feel that he was getting inspected. The ronin did not bother Adrian as well which is why he did not inconvenience the other. If they were in a fight, then Adrian would definitely look at the status panel of the legendary level NPC.

Even the two escorts that was hired by Ai Fang said that they are wary of that ronin. The two of them are actually some of the most powerful people in this caravan. They were currently hiding in the trees when the fight of the two simian monsters suddenly reached their location.

Adrian did not need to move as Xiaoyan immediately pulled out her fan and numerous talismans suddenly scattered in the air. The talismans then formed into a barrier that blocked the crashing White Sage Ape. When the White Sage Ape saw that it crashed into a human made barrier, it suddenly said something to the Crimson Asura Gorilla which turned its hostility to the caravan.

"Master, that ape..." Sirius reported but Adrian understood what the White Sage Ape to the Crimson Asura Gorilla.

"To think that a monster with Sage as its identifier would actually use schemes that say that we are its backup." Adrian stated as he understood what the White Sage Ape said due to being a high-level summoner.

"Xiaohei and Xiaoyan, prepare for battle. That dumb white ape suddenly said that we are working together with it to take down the Crimson Asura Gorilla." Adrian stated but the two does not easily believe Adrian.

The two did not immediately believe Adrian but they suddenly changed their minds when the Crimson Asura Gorilla looked at them with killing intent. The White Sage Ape looked at the caravan and seemed to say something which infuriated Adrian even more and the former escaped. The White Sage Ape actually passed its enemy to them that did not want to bother their fight.

"Stall the muscle brain while I recover my injuries. Thank you, comrades!" The White Sage Ape stated in its own beast language so that the merchant caravan does not learn of what it did.

"Sirius, Kanlaon and Kimat, hunt down that white ape and shred it to pieces." Adrian commanded as a weakened field boss should be enough for the three of them.

The three soulbounds moved via the shadows courtesy of Sirius. Kanlaon who was resting on Adrian's neck suddenly vanished and the cute looking white cat that was walking near his feet disappeared as well. Xiaohei and Xiaoyan did not notice this as their attention was focused on the sudden field boss charging towards them.

"I might as well contribute to the defense." Adrian stated as he took out some of his talismans as well.

Adrian poured mana into a talisman that had the words 'Great' and 'Protection' written on them and it created another layer of shield to the area where the caravan stopped. Xiaohei and Xiaoyan are shocked because they did not know that Adrian was a Charm Master. They did not know that he was actually a Scribe that is the pinnacle of talisman creating sub job classes.

When the escorts of the caravan saw that there were protections keeping them safe, they immediately took out their bows. It was not uncommon in the eastern continent for people to have the weapon mastery passive skill as they are trained in all types of weapons since young. All of the escorts released their arrows in an attempt to stop the Crimson Asura Gorilla, but it formed a red protective film on its body that made arrows ineffective.

Since the arrows barely did anything to the momentum of the Crimson Asura Gorilla, the monster crashed into the barrier with two of its large fists pounding on it. The strike could be felt as it made the barrier tremble and even those inside felt it. The strength of the Crimson Asura Gorilla is definitely more powerful than the White Sage Ape earlier.

"Protect the caravan!" The head of the escort guards shouted as they all charged towards the Crimson Asura Gorilla.

Since the cargo will be safe, they knew that they need to defeat the enemy before them or else they will not be able to move from their location. Adrian frowned a little as they would surely get injured which will slow down the transport. He took out one of the legendary talismans that he crafted and injected mana into it.

The rampaging Crimson Asura Gorilla that was thrashing the escorts suddenly felt weak as if all of its strength left its body. It wanted to look for the source of this debuff, but it could not pinpoint the origin. The escorts noticed that the Crimson Asura Gorilla slowed down which made them get lots of breathing room and attacks in.

[You have activated the Debilitating Talisman on the Crimson Asura Gorilla.]

[The Crimson Asura Gorilla has been weakened by 20% for two minutes.]

[10% chance of inflicting a critical strike against the Crimson Asura Gorilla.]

"It's incredibly effective. It could not even detect who use it which is perfect." Adrian thought as he is crying internally because legendary tier talismans are difficult to craft.

Adrian rarely used his talismans in his battle because not all of them are usable in tight situations. Most of the attack talismans that he creates are not single target. He does use defensive talismans a

few times to defend against attacks since he lacks defensive spells, but most are not high health shields.

"I should use these Grant Vigor Talismans as well." Adrian stated as he released an equal number of talismans per fighter in the field.

Those that were affected by the Great Vigor Talisman immediately feel that their bodies becoming powerful as strength and stamina returned. They then looked at Xiaoyan with thankful eyes as they know that she was the Charm Master in the group. Xiaoyan understood that they mistook her for the ones providing support and is about to confess but Adrian stopped her.

"Let them believe it as it would be convenient for me." Adrian whispered to her.

"As you wish, great benefactor." Xiaoyan agreed as it was Adrian's command.

The group became more spirited as they faced off against the Crimson Asura Gorilla, but they cannot defeat it easily. Seeing that the group is struggling and about to incur more damages, the aloof ronin suddenly stood up from his bed and walked towards the fight. When the ronin showed himself, the Crimson Asura Gorilla suddenly felt threatened and wanted to escape.

"Ruining my peaceful time and thinking of escaping?!" The ronin stated as he unsheathes his sword and appeared next to the field boss.

Chapter 1175 The Search For The Lost Soul V

The three soulbounds used the shadows to catch up to the White Sage Ape that escaped. The field boss is already injured which is why they no longer needed to run far as it took shelter a few kilometers away. The White Sage Ape knew that it must recover its wounds in order to plot its revenge against the Crimson Asura Gorilla.

The White Sage Ape seethed with anger as it remembered how the Crimson Asura Gorilla trampled on its territory and minions. It was just patrolling its territory when the Crimson Asura Gorilla suddenly waltz inside of it demanding a battle. The White Sage Ape already knew that the Crimson Asura Gorilla was one of the powerful monsters in the region.

Despite knowing this fact, the White Sage Ape accepted the challenge in exchange for the territory of the other. What the White Sage Ape did not expect that it would be a battle to the death. The White Sage Ape is extremely intelligent as it does not have the identifier of Sage in its name for nothing.

The White Sage Ape used all of the abilities and even spells that it knows against the Crimson Asura Gorilla, but nothing phased its enemy. The Crimson Asura Gorilla has already transcended the strength of the White Sage Ape because it actually defeated the other field bosses in the region.

In the end, the White Sage Ape needed to escape and recuperate its wounds, but the Crimson Asura Gorilla did not let it. The Crimson Asura Gorilla followed the White Sage Ape and hunted it down like a madman. It was lucky that it encountered a group of people where they could at least weaken the Crimson Asura Gorilla.

"I shall have my revenge! I will rest a bit and kill that red musclehead!" The White Sage Ape muttered as it used some sort of magic that can restore wounds.

"You will no longer be able to have that revenge though." A voice coming from somewhere stated as the White Sage Ape suddenly looked around.

The depth and power of the voice made the White Sage Ape shudder and be on alert. It then saw a black furred wolf coming out of the shadows, but it was only about five feet tall. The White Sage Ape is relieved as it thought that the voice came from a powerful being, but it only came from a measly wolf.

"Get away from here little dog. I have no time to play fetch with you." The White Sage Ape stated which made Sirius even angrier.

The White Sage Ape did not find Sirius as a threat because of his current height. The White Sage Ape is about ten meters in size and views the five feet tall Sirius as a puny insect but that is a mistake. Sirius could not hold back his anger as the White Sage Ape did something unthinkable to its master.

"You are the reason why our leisure stroll with our master has been interrupted. For that, you shall be punished." Sirius stated but the White Sage Ape just laughed at him.

"So, you are actually one of the pets of those weak living beings there. Sorry if the dog is upset but return to your master because he might be already at death's door fighting that musclehead gorilla." The White Sage Ape stated in a condescending manner.

The White Sage Ape thought that Sirius was only joking. The White Sage Ape thought he was here because his master wanted to scare the former, but it did not affect it. While the White Sage Ape said this, it suddenly realized that the wolf in front of it mentioned the word 'they' instead of 'I'.

The White Sage Ape suddenly felt the hair on its body tingle as an immense bloodlust came out of Sirius, but it was not just his. Kanlaon and Kimat are exuding an enormous amount of bloodlust that actually scared monsters in a kilometer radius from them. The two soulbounds hiding in the shadows could not take the insult anymore and came out of the shadows but they have yet to transform in their real monster forms.

The White Sage Ape felt this powerful bloodlust and subconsciously went a few meters away from Sirius as it saw two other beings coming out from the shadows. The White Sage Ape suddenly laughed when it saw the small forms of Kanlaon and Kimat as they do not look menacing at all. Kanlaon looked like a golden snake that is about a meter long while Kimat looks like a small white cat with black tiger stripes.

"To think that you actually made me retreat back in fear, but it was just two puny monsters. A worm and a kitty actually think that they can kill me! No wonder your master sent you this way because he might have sensed his impending death and set all of you free to live. At least he has some heart unlike some beast masters that came to my territory that wanted to make me submit." The White Sage Ape stated with a giant laugh but the three soulbounds have finally snapped.

"What should we do with the monkey, big brother?" Kanlaon asked Sirius as the wind in the vicinity created a small barrier that trapped anyone inside. The White Sage Ape did not feel that a barrier formed because it was subtle and elaborate. A wind mage would shudder once they see this silent spell and would even praise that a genius made the wind barrier.

"At first, I wanted to eat him, but I am going to pass. I do not want to eat a stupid monkey or else I might get its stupidity as well." Kimat stated as he glared at the White Sage Ape.

"It is better to not eat such an idiotic monster my little brothers or else you might get a stomachache. Eating a monster that only has garbage coming out of its mouth will definitely spoil your bellies. We should make sure that no trace of its existence is left because it has insulted our master." Sirius stated which the White Sage Ape heard and made the latter extremely angry.

"You small pests are pretty foul mouthed just because I am not killing any of you. You are lucky that I am injured and do not waste my precious strength trying to even discipline the likes of you. Go away while I am in a good mood or else, I shall kill all of you without difficulty." the White Sage Ape stated.

"I told you that this weak monster cannot feel the power in our bodies or else it would have castrated itself in front of us begging for forgiveness. I have seen a lot of beings do that in front of master when they realize who he is." Kanlaon stated.

"Oh, you mean those guys that think that our master's territory is easy to vandalize. It was fun seeing them travel endlessly in a pit of no depth and fall continuously until master fetches them." Kimat stated.

"Achoo! Is someone talking bad about me?" Adrian stated as he looked around.

"My patience has run out. I shall kill all you because you are too noisy! I cannot even recover my injuries in peace because of you pests!" The White Sage Ape stated as it summoned some type of mystical powers from its hands to reach out towards Sirius.

"Is that so? We are done playing as well as you have insulted not only us but our beloved master. We shall let you experience the tragic death of someone getting torn to pieces." Sirius stated as all three of them suddenly returned to their original sizes.

Sirius, Kanlaon and Kimat showed their true sizes which towered the ten meter tall White Sage Ape. The field boss immediately shrunk in terror upon seeing the power of the three. It suddenly cursed at it lose mouth for even daring to call them pests.

What the White Sage Ape regrets the most is actually insulting them face to face and even slapped its own lose mouth. Some of the monsters in its territory did say that its mouth will be its very downfall. What the White Sage Ape did not expect is that its mouth was already digging its own grave on the ground and is expectantly waiting for the body to follow.

"Seniors! Maybe we can talk something out? I was only incredibly angry because of my injuries. Please do not take my words to heart. If you want, then I can tear off my own mouth." The White Sage Ape stated as it pleaded for forgiveness.

"Is that so? Tear it off then. If you do that then I might think of letting you go." Sirius stated while looking down on the White Sage Ape.

"Why am I so unlucky!?" The White Sage Ape stated as it could not believe that the three powerful seniors in front of it wanted to see if his dedication to what he said is true.

Chapter 1176 The Mute Ape And The Ronin

"Tear your mouth off if you are really sincere. If you do that then I will accept your apology." Sirius stated again.

"Senior, you must be joking as how will I live without my mouth? I can give you my territory if you want it." The White Sage Ape stated instead as it does not want to tear its own mouth off.

"Since it is your mouth that got you into this mess then you should sacrifice it to get you out of it." Sirius stated firmly and waited for the decision of the White Sage Ape.

The White Sage Ape looked at Sirius and knew that he was serious. If it actually rips its own mouth, then it might have a chance to leave this place alive. The White Sage Ape is still reluctant to do this because it will have a difficult time healing its own mouth back.

"If you have trouble with that then let me help you." Sirius stated as he ripped out the mouth of the White Sage Ape with one swipe of his claws.

The White Sage Ape screamed in pain as its own mouth got ripped out. Some parts of its tongue are also sliced off as it looked at Sirius with an open mouth expression. As a result, some of the words coming out of the White Sage Ape are no longer completely understood.

"Yuck! With your mouth gone, I have already accepted your apology." Sirius stated as he swatted the blood on his claws.

"Thask yo seior (Thank you, senior)" The White Sage Ape stated as it begun leaving the area with eyes burning with vengeance.

The White Sage Ape looked at Sirius, Kanlaon and Kimat and swore that it will take revenge on the three of them and kill their master once it recovers and becomes more powerful. It knows that the three are more powerful than it is currently but the gap between them is not that large. The White Sage Ape vowed that it would rip the mouth of the three.

"Where are you going? You are still not finished here. I said I have forgiven you for your insults but that does not mean my little brothers have." Sirius stated which suddenly made the White Sage Ape's thoughts of revenge vanish.

"For me to forgive you, cut off your own arms. If you cannot do that then I can easily assist you with that. I have been becoming great when it comes with my precision of wind magic." Kanlaon stated.

"I feel that your eyes are ugly to look at. Gouge them out and I shall forgive you." Kimat stated.

When the demands of the two are heard, the White Sage Ape suddenly screamed out its frustrations but the three could not understand it completely. In the end, thinking that its own life will not be spared, the White Sage Ape used all of its remaining power and charged towards the group to try and kill at least one of them with it.

Seeing the White Sage Ape charge towards them like a madman, Kimat stomped its paws on the ground and sharp rocks suddenly sprouted from the ground to trap the field boss. The sharp rocks also have bits of the metal element infused in it which is why they are extremely sturdy.

Kanlaon then manipulated all of its dragon balls to surround the White Sage Ape. Each of the dragon balls then released spells for each element that bombarded the body of the White Sage Ape. Kanlaon actually used a small-scale version of the Elemental Catastrophe spell.

The White Sage Ape could not even scream in pain as it could not. It can only grunt in pain as its whole body disintegrated due to the effect of the small-scale version of the Elemental Catastrophe spell. Not even ashes are left from the body of the White Sage Ape as the three never wanted to let the field boss go alive in the first place.

"That is what happens to people that badmouth the master." Sirius stated.

"A pity. I wanted it to suffer a bit more, but it suddenly turned barbaric and crazy." Kanlaon stated as he wanted for the White Sage Ape to experience an even painful punishment.

"I am already bored. Let us return to master." Kimat stated as he could not see anything exciting anymore.

The three then reverted back to their smaller forms and dove back into the shadows. Since Adrian was not present when the White Sage Ape got killed, no drops were given but he can still earn the experience points. This is a mechanic to make sure that summoners with intelligent soulbounds cannot clear a whole field by themselves and get all drops.

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"Why did it suddenly become chilly, and I feel a bit guilty all of a sudden?" Adrian thought but forgot immediately as notifications appeared in front of him.

[Your soulbounds have defeated the field boss, White Sage Ape.]

[You have gained a great number of experience points.]

"They finished the other field boss off. The battle here also concluded." Adrian stated as he saw the head of the Crimson Asura Gorilla separating from its body.

The look of realization could be seen from the face of the Crimson Asura Gorilla as it realized its own death. With a loud thud, the head of the other field boss rolled down on the ground. This incredible feat is made by none other than the ronin that the others thought was useless.

"Okay, everyone! Load up that corpse as its body could be used as materials. I will sell that in the stop that we will make and will also compensate all of you for defeating it." The head merchant stated but the others felt that they should not get compensated because they did not kill the Crimson Asura Gorilla.

"As expected of my friend! Make sure to use MY share for booze at the stop that we will make." The ronin stated and emphasized that everyone should be compensated.

Chapter 1177 The Aloof Ronin I

Adrian did not see wrong when he saw that the ronin sliced off the head of the Crimson Asura Gorilla in one swing of his sword. The sword style made him remember the style of swordplay that the ranked one warrior player named Blade used.

Although Vayu also uses a swift sword style, the one that Blade uses is more on the quick and lethal. Vayu uses a sword style that is quick yet elegant when seen as if he is dancing with the blade. The two different sword styles might be attributed to the teacher that Blade got when he entered the game despite Vayu being his real-world sword instructor.

Adrian did not question the ronin as he does not seem to question his abilities. He did feel that there are a pair of eyes looking at him when they resumed travel. The ronin must have seen the unique way that Adrian is using talismans unlike the Charm Masters.

Even Xiaohei and Xiaoyan wanted to question Adrian on how he uses talismans as it is different from the way the eastern continent uses it. For Charm Masters in the eastern continent, they use charms or talismans as a conduit of magic power which is why these charms or talismans do not immediately get used up.

Just like what Xiaoyan did when she erected a barrier, the charm that she used became a physical representation of the barrier. Adrian, on the other hand, consumed the talisman immediately and the spell is released. Both usages are great but the one used by Charm Masters have a flaw.

For Charm masters, the charms must be present in the area while they use their spells. It also means that they will not be able to make the charms work unless they are present in the battle. Unlike Adrian's talismans that can be used just by inserting mana, the charms in the eastern continent can only be used by the Charm Masters that created them.

Only the Charm Masters are able to use them because each of them has different ways of creating charms and techniques. This is also a reason why there are schools that teach ways on using charms or talismans. It is also the way for a mage to advance to the job class of Charm Master.

"If I may request something to you great benefactor...can I see one of your charms?" Xiaoyan asked.

"Sister! You know that it is rude to ask for a charm from another user. You are basically saying that they need to spill their secrets or lifework." Xiaohei stated but even he is curious. He was only able to resist the urge of asking since he knows of the ethics.

"I do not mind if you look at it." Adrian stated and even the aloof ronin suddenly had his ears perk up.

Adrian handed the talisman to Xiaoyan, but it was only a rare tier talisman as he does not want to show a higher tier one. Xiaoyan became excited that she will be able to see a talisman that is crafted by the clan's greatest benefactor. She could probably brag this to other Charm Masters.

Although Xiaoyan had an excited attitude receiving the talisman, her expression soon withered to that of confusion. She cannot understand the words written on the talisman as it is not the language used by the eastern continent called Tirscans. The very least that she could do is notice the talisman having only one word written on it.

"It seems that I am actually too uneducated to see the magnificence of your talisman." Xiaoyan stated as she returned the talisman back to Adrian.

"If you are wondering what is written there then it is an ancient runic word. The symbol there represents fire. Should you pour mana into the talisman then it would produce a small flame." Adrian stated which shocked Xiaoyan and Xiaohei. Even the aloof ronin that was just eavesdropping in their conversation suddenly stood up from lying on the carriage.

Xiaoyan could not believe what Adrian said easily as she only knew one way of activating charms in her life. She has yet to see another charm or talisman created by another Charm Master be activated by another. Even the charms that her brother uses cannot be used by her as he has his own style of writing and enlightenment.

"If you are doubting my words then you can try to pour mana into it like I told you. That talisman is only of low tier, and I have many of them." Adrian stated.

Xiaoyan gulped as she poured mana into the talisman as Adrian, Xiaohei and the ronin watched the process. A small amount of mana is poured onto the talisman and a one-foot-tall flame materialized. Since the flame has no designated target, it only burned on the spot it was created. Xiaohei, Xiaoyan and the ronin stood in amazement as they actually saw a small flame materialize like Adrian said.

"The fact that you have created a great innovation such as this means that you have transcended the ways of a Charm Master. Is the great benefactor perhaps an Array Master?" Xiaoyan asked as the job advancement for the Charm Master is the Array Master.

"I am not a Charm Master to begin with. I am a different kind of being that mainly records every mystery in the world. The people back then called us the Wise Ones or the Bookkeepers. I am a Scribe." Adrian stated as Aernas always told him to spread the word of Scribes still existing in this day and age.

When Xiaohei and Xiaoyan heard the word Scribe, they did not react as much but the ronin shuddered upon learning of this revelation. His passive observation of Adrian suddenly turned into that of great interest. He also seemed to want to ask Adrian a question, but he is not that social to just suddenly come up to him and ask. Adrian noticed this but kept quiet as the ronin would come to him urgently if it was really important.

Chapter 1178 The Aloof Ronin II

The first stop came to them, and the escorts could be seen rather tired due to the fact that monsters littered the way. Thankfully, no field bosses wandered their way as that does not happen often. One could say that they were unlucky as that happened to them.

Adrian checked the major city that they arrived at, and it seems to be under the supervision of Kunlun. It seems that the areas managed by Kunlun do not have any problem in the surface. Adrian does not know what is happening under the shadows of this city as it might be rotten as well.

"Hey kid, tell me...can you really create such high-level talismans?" The ronin stated as he looked at Adrian with great interest or is rather interested in his ability to create powerful talismans.

Adrian looked at the ronin and smiled as he knows that he must be in deep need of something for him to talk to him first. Adrian wanted to reply but Xiaohei and Xiaoyan are a bit defensive of him

as they are also there as his guards. The two looked at the ronin and the latter just stared back at them without blinking.

Xiaohei and Xiaoyan could then be seen losing a bit of strength as the staring contest with the ronin is not simple. It seems that they fought using their own minds with the way they engaged each other. Adrian has heard about this as the eastern continent has things such as cultivation and such as a hidden mechanic.

"Please do not bully them too much." Adrian stated as he suddenly cut the staring which made the ronin a bit surprised.

"I was only teaching them a lesson to be respectful to their elders as I was talking to you. I guess I should introduce myself first. My name is Kondo Isao, and I am currently a wandering ronin." Kondo stated with a smile.

"I am Equinox. I am a scribe that is currently traveling the eastern continent. The answer to your previous question would be that I can create talismans. If they are high level, then that is also left to chance as I am not a master at that yet." Adrian stated.

Kondo is a bit shocked that Adrian could easily cut off the stand off that he did with both Xiaohei and Xiaoyan. If one actually does that then they have to face off against the force of the three of them. This made him certain that the Scribe in front of him is not a normal person or weak.

Even the two are surprised by this interaction but they attributed it to Adrian being stronger than them. For Adrian, he did feel that something was trying to penetrate his mind, but he only felt a bit of a shake. His brain did feel a bit shaken earlier but he immediately brushed it off as he is used to those.

In terms of mental fortitude, Adrian is one of the best because he has already talked with various gods. He also faces off against his inner demons which makes any Daemos almost impenetrable when it comes to mind attacks. In short, mental attacks are basically child's play for Adrian unless it came from a god itself.

"From the way your name is said, it seems that you are not from the eastern continent. Regardless, I wish to ask for your help in solving this." Kondo stated as he knelt in front of Adrian causing a scene.

"If it is within my ability then I shall help you but please do not suddenly kneel. There are a lot of people looking at us right now and it is making me a bit uncomfortable." Adrian stated and Kondo immediately stood up.

"Then we should move to a bit more secluded place." Kondo stated as Adrian with Xiaohei and Xiaoyan in tow.

Although the concern is not relating the two, they said that they need to be with Adrian as they are his escorts. Kondo also heard this and wants to know what Adrian's real identity is for a Charm Sword and a Charm Master to be his guards. The strength of the two are not by any means weak because they are able to withstand the pressure that Kondo emitted.

They went inside one of the empty caravans where Kondo usually sleeps. Kondo told them that they need to prevent whatever they will speak about which is why Xiaoyan took out a charm and created

a soundproof barrier. Adrian could have done it as well, but he has to warp space to actually do that which might expose that a demon is in the eastern continent.

"The thing that I need your help with is here." Kondo stated as he took out a scroll.

Kondo then opened up the scroll and they all looked at the contents. When Xiaohei and Xiaoyan looked at the content of the scroll, all they see is a blank page. They touched the scroll to see if there are traces of ink in it, but they found nothing.

"It is empty, old man." Xiaohei stated.

"I am not that old yet. If I am old then, you still need your mother's milk. This is the scroll of the Shinto Divine Monk. It holds the recipe of the Elixir of Calling." Kondo stated even though he himself is unsure of it is true because he cannot see the contents itself.

"What is it calling? Will it call the gods for them to bless the person that drinks it?" Xiaoyan asked.

"No. It calls upon the souls of the dead that have wandered into the afterlife." Adrian stated as he could read the hidden letters in the scroll.

When Adrian said the function of the Elixir of Calling, Kondo shuddered as he has yet to say it. If Adrian actually saw the functions of the elixir, then that means that it is real. The ingredients listed in the scroll might have told him which suddenly made Kondo elated.

"Does the great scribe have the ability to see the letters?" Kondo asked.

"I can see it clearly and I have been reading it the moment I laid my eyes on it. Why do you need the Elixir of Calling?" Adrian asked as a sudden notification popped up before him.

Sudden Quest Notification!

Quest Name: Recover the Scroll from Yomi

Quest Description: You have found a scroll that should not belong to the living world. As the Shephard of Lost Souls and Intermediator of Limbo, you must retrieve the scroll and present it back to the ruler of Yomi.

Quest Difficulty: A

Clear Condition: Return the scroll from Yomi to its real owner

Clear Reward: A Favor from one of the Gods of Yomi

Failure: None

Duration: None

Restrictions: Only those that can read the writings of the Afterlife can get this quest.

Note: Should you accept this quest and forcefully get the scroll from Kondo, he will brand you as an enemy for life and the Imperial Family of Yamato will want your head.

"Why do you have this scroll?" Adrian asked Kondo as items from the afterlife should never be touched by mortal hands. Should mortals touch items such as this then they will be shown scenes of the afterlife that can plague their minds.

"This scroll was given to me by important people as I am in search of people that can read its contents. It is needed because someone important needs the medicine written here." Kondo stated.

"I shall help you read its components." Adrian stated.

"Thank you very much!" Kondo stated with great energy, but it did not last long.

"In exchange for my help, I want you to give me the scroll." Adrian stated which made Kondo hesitate.

Kondo was given explicit instructions to return the scroll to the Imperial Family of Yamato as it is a prized heirloom. It was already difficult enough that the imperial family had to hold his own daughter as hostage should he not return the scroll. Although his own daughter is a handmaiden of the princess.

"Unfortunately, I cannot give the scroll to you as I need to exchange it for my heart, but I can compensate you with anything." Kondo stated.

"I should also say this to you then. There is an incredibly limited number of people that can read the words written in this scroll. You could say that you are already extremely lucky to encounter me as you will also need me in order to craft the elixir." Adrian stated.

"I am sorry, but I cannot give you the scroll as it is extremely important. More important than my own life. I am sorry to have bothered you." Kondo stated as he stood up.

"The largest amount of time for a soul to be permanently stuck into the afterlife would be four hundred days. Should it exceed that time then they will no longer be able to return. I shall give you that advice since I admire your dedication." Adrian stated as Kondo exited the caravan to get some air.

Chapter 1179 The Aloof Ronin III

Adrian denied the quest this time as he does not want to be hunted in the eastern continent. He would have accepted the quest if Kondo agreed with the exchange, but he did not. Adrian felt sorry for Kondo as he knows that what he wants to achieve is almost close to impossible even with his help.

"If we can inquire on what the Elixir of Calling does?" Xiaoyan asked as she is naturally curious.

"It should not be a problem to tell you what that elixir does as only the scroll should not be here in the mortal realm. The Elixir of Calling does what it is called as it calls upon those that are affected by what we call the Great Sleep. It calls upon the souls of those that are wandering in the afterlife even though their mortal body has yet to expire." Adrian stated.

Adrian wanted to say those that are in a comatose, but the game system referred to it as the Great Sleep instead. Xiaohai and Xiaoyan are shocked upon learning of this as there is no known cure for the Great Sleep. The only known method for this would be to have a Mystic Shaman send their souls to the afterlife to fetch them.

The Great Sleep is a disease of the soul in Pandemonium as a result of a sudden shock to it. The Aspect of Sleep Hypnos is said to be the twin of the Aspect of Death Thanatos which is why sleep is often referred to as a gentle death like state. It is said that our souls travel to the afterlife when we sleep and our souls could also be trapped there.

"If this elixir is created then the great benefactor would be incredibly rich. A lot of influential people are affected by this Great Sleep, and I even heard that the Princess of the Yamamoto clan is also affected by it." Xiaohei stated.

When Xiaohei said that the Princess of the Yamamoto Clan is afflicted by it, Adrian put two and two together. The person that Kondo might want to save must be the princess of the clan that he is serving. Still, it would be impossible for him to complete the elixir by himself.

"If the great benefactor is kind enough to tell the ingredients for the elixir, then our clan might be able to get it for you to produce." Xiaoyan stated as money is needed in anything that involves getting powerful.

"If you can get this then we might be able to create it." Adrian said as he said the ingredients.

When Adrian muttered the ingredients, the color of the faces of the two started to whiten. Just thinking of getting the ingredients made them lose their souls. The ingredients Adrian said would make anyone walk into a death trap.

The ingredients that Adrian said can only be taken from the four divine beasts. A piece of the shell that came from the Black Tortoise. A fang that came from the White Tiger residing in the west. A dragon scale from the Azure Dragon in the east. A feather from the Vermillion Bird in the south.

All the ingredients that Adrian said are taken from the Four Divine Beasts of the Eastern Continent. Only a madman or someone incredibly powerful could pull that off. Those that wanted the things from the four divine beasts would need to trade their life in getting them.

Adrian did not say that that in order to craft the said elixir then one would need someone to channel the energy of death. The elixir can only be created by a being that can call upon the energy of death to combine all the ingredients. It was an elixir that did not even need to have an alchemist to craft it.

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Kondo looked rather glum as he did not expect that something that he pursued could be attained by sacrificing the scroll. He would have done so if he was the owner of the scroll, but he was just someone entrusted with it. He then walked to a rather shady area of the city and came in front of a beggar.

"Take this note to the Intelligence Officer of the Yamamoto family. Make sure that no one knows what is inside or else you know what will happen to you." Kondo stated as he gave five gold coins along with the note to the beggar.

"No worries. You do know that we of the Beggar Sect always keep secrets to the grave when it comes to our premium customers." The old beggar stated as he suddenly vanished.

The note that Kondo gave details of his interaction with Adrian. He also said that the scroll will be the repayment of the elixir, but he knows that they will never exchange it. Kondo still has one last chance as he can talk to the Black Tortoise himself as he can present himself as a person that is under the Yamamoto family.

It is said that the Black Tortoise has a vast amount of knowledge, and it should be able to help them without exchanging for the scroll. Kondo believes that the Black Tortoise will be able to solve his problem but the words that Adrian said carries a heavy weight in his mind. Without even knowing who the elixir will be used for, Adrian gave him a warning of four hundred days.

"Two hundred days has already passed since the princess has been afflicted by the Great Sleep. If what the scribe says is true, then I only have two hundred days left to fetch her soul. We must reach the northern region as fast as possible." Kondo stated as he started to become active.

The aloof ronin that was passive before is now actively participating in the battles that he previously slept on. The travel speed to the northern region became much faster as a result because of this. They were already on the outskirts of the northern region before they knew it.

Chapter 1180 The Ten Thousand Sword Mound I

The Ten Thousand Sword Mound is located just outside of the northern region. Just as the people describe it, it is a tall mountain that has thousands of swords plunged into it. One might even say that it looks like an old battlefield where a lot of swordsmen have died.

Adrian bid farewell to Xiaohei and Xiaoyan as he already reached his destination. The two still has something to do in the northern city which is why this is where they part ways. Kondo also bid farewell to Adrian as it is not bad to stay in friendly terms.

With the snow falling down on the Ten Thousand Sword Mound, it added to the eeriness of the mountain. Even Adrian could feel the intense negative emotion in this mountain, but he did see an interesting thing. Adrian managed to see a person get ownership of a sword.

The sword seemed to resonate with the person and pulled it. When the individual pulled out the sword, a monster called a Yaksha suddenly appeared to challenge the one that pulled the sword. When that individual defeated the Yaksha, the spirit or resentment that stayed on the sword suddenly got purified.

The Yakshas seem to be monsters that are created due to the resentment of the original owners of the blade. Once the blade finds a new and respectable owner, the grudges and resentment that are held in the blade have vanished. The spirit attached to the blade then transcends to the afterlife without negative emotions.

Adrian watched this happen and saw that the heavy atmosphere in the Ten Thousand Sword Mound got reduced by a small amount. What he did not like is that the Yakshas have already materialized in the higher parts of the mountain. The Yakshas have already manifested out of their sword despite no one their swords out.

"If this continues then it might not be wrong to say that the prediction of the Vermillion Bird will come true." Adrian stated.

The Vermillion Bird predicted that the Yakshas in the Ten Thousand Sword Mound might overflow into the outside world if the area is not purified. Adrian thought of this as well, but he could feel a very negative energy on top of the mountain. He wants to check it out, but he must find the soul of the eastern rider first.

Adrian released Sirius, Charon and Saena to look for the soul of the eastern rider. Adrian picked those three because they are the most sensitive when it comes to detecting spiritual entities. Adrian also joined in on the search as he summoned his scythe primordial armament.

Adrian's existence started to fade in and out of reality as the passive of the armament kicked in. He would become intangible and invisible as long as he does not enter battle. If one were to look at Adrian, then they might actually mistake him for the grim reaper coming to collect their souls.

Adrian searched the lower part of the Ten Thousand Sword Mound for a few hours yet yielded no results. He would need to actually climb to the middle part and search there but is reluctant to do so. In the middle part of the Ten Thousand Sword Mound, the Yakshas have already manifested and attack anyone they meet.

Adrian could not rely on the invisibility that is given to him by the armament there as the Yakshas could see through it. Alas, he has no choice but to do so as that is the only place that he has yet to search. With his three soulbounds in tow, he climbed to the middle area of the Ten Thousand Sword Mound.

The city governed by the Black Tortoise could be described as out of this world. The northern region of the eastern continent is a land filled with snow except for the area governed by the Black Tortoise. One would see a mystical city floating on the clouds as the lake beneath it is connected to four rivers passing through the city in the sky.

One would say that the rivers are actually pouring out water but that is the opposite. The rivers are actually flowing up towards the floating city. The lake below the city is its greatest water source and a great defensive landmark for invaders.

The city could be accessed via flying but those that cannot use the large flight of stairs that the residents of the city have built. It is said that the stairs are actually powered by mystical energy as it was pulled from the ground. Rumor has it that the Black Tortoise itself did such a feat so that the ladder can crumble should the residents need to protect themselves from invasions.

Kondo entered the city in a humane way as he walked the large steps. He already knows that the Black Tortoise is keeping an eye on him because he feels a presence on the back of his neck. This lingering feeling of being watched is also the same feeling he gets when the Azure Dragon peers into him.

He is the head guard of the Yamamoto Family that is protected by the Azure Dragon. It is also one of the few families that have the divine beast's blessing. It also means that he himself has the blessing of the Azure Dragon although smaller in comparison to the one in the main family.

Kondo felt that he was waling on the stairs when he suddenly saw himself in an area filled with nothingness. He noticed that he was standing on top of a lake and a giant being greeted him when

he looked up. Kondo immediately knew who or what this being is and proceeded to show respect by kneeling.

"Stand up child...I have already been aware of your presence since you have step foot in my city. Tell me, what does a child with the blessing of the Azure Dragon want of an old tortoise like me." The Black Tortoise stated.