

## O Summoner 121

### Chapter 121 - After The Siege Defense

Adrian returned to his group and celebrated because of the successful defense of the siege. They all looked at the ranks they got and was happy. Thankfully, there was a class contribution ranking so that it was fair with support and tank classes. The four friends got first place for each of their respective class giving them the 200% experience points.

Adrian was now level 80. Levin Cloud increased his level to 81. Kabrakan and Peridot became level 84. They were steadily increased their levels thanks to the experience multiplier. Adrian is currently ranked at the summoner leaderboard at Rank 98. There was a woman staring at them as they became shy for acting like kids.

"I assume that our promise is still valid?" Cersei asked while looking at both Adrian and Marlon.

Adrian looked at his best friend and the latter nodded.

"Yes. A promise is a promise." Adrian answered.

"Excellent! Can we go now then?" Cersei said which surprised the group.

"Now? I think I cannot do it today. I have urgent matters to attend to." Adrian replied.

"I need to go back to the church as they need to hear my report." Levin Cloud answered.

Cersei frowned as promising talents are easier to recruit during early stages. She did not want other guilds to discover them. She really wanted them to be recruited or be allies as it would be beneficial to their guild. The guild members beside her are slightly unhappy with the reply because they considered it rude. Still, Cersei was not angry at the two boys so what gives them the right to speak their minds.

"Since we cannot proceed today. Why not three days later? The guild master would be there if we did that." Cersei said with a smile.

"I have no problem with that." Adrian replied.

"Second that" Levin Cloud answered.

Cersei then added the four friends as she got slightly interested with the other two but only enough to monitor them. She then waved goodbye in a flirtatious manner towards Levin Cloud. Peridot then stepped on Levin Cloud's right foot to which the latter yelled in pain.

"Let us go to the exchanging booth." Adrian beckoned to which the three agreed.

Adrian got a whopping 10,547 points due to his participation and overall contribution to the defense. It would have been bigger if they managed to kill the lich and death knight but it was not possible. The good news is that every player that participated was given a thousand points for successfully defending the fortress.

The group reached the exchanging booth and was a bit disappointed with the items up for exchange. The items were either useless to them or low in rank. Adrian though could see that he could exchange five thousand points for a random epic weapon but only once. He could also use another five thousand for a random epic armor but again only once.

Adrian did just that as there was nothing that could catch his eye. He got two epic items but the specs were not all that amazing.

Item: Enchanting Soul Gloves

Tier: Epic

Type: Weapon (Summoner)

Effect:

- Increases the duration of Soulbound Buffing Spells by 50%
- Increases Magic damage by 10%
- User can use the Beguile Skill (1 day cooldown)
- Damage Modifier: 100

Beguile: Doubles the chance of raising a monster's affection. It can also be used to infatuate a monster.

Description: Gloves crafted using the bark on the Beguiling treant. It was made by a craftsman who was jealous of people that was receiving love of small creatures. He crafted it so that he could be loved by the creatures that are wary of him due to his menacing look.

Restrictions: Summoner Level 100

Item: Alabaster Armor

Tier: Epic

Type: Armor

Effect:

- Increases Physical Defense by 50
- Increases Magical Defense by 500
- User can use the Soften Skill (1 day cooldown)

Soften: Physical attacks will deal 50% less damage to the user for ten minutes.

Description: The signature armor of the Alabaster Guards. It gives great magical defense but low physical defense. Used by the Alabaster guards due to the monsters in the area around the fortress. Excellent for tanking magical attacks.

Restrictions: Level 100

Adrian immediately fed it to his weapon and armor. He then received a notification.

[Need four more epic weapons to increase the tier of Twilight Demi-Gauntlets.]

[Need four more epic armors to increase the tier of Asmodian Battle Uniform.]

Adrian then looked at the notification that caught his eye.

[Soulbound Kanlaon has successfully cleared all conditions to evolve.]

[A place that contains both fire and ice attributes are needed to safely proceed with the evolution.]

Adrian was both happy and disappointed. He thought he just needed to level Kanlaon up to seventy five to make him evolve. It seems that a dragon needs a compatible environment in order to safely evolve. If this applied to higher tier soulbounds then Saena also falls into that category. Adrian got a headache just thinking about it.

This notification was the reason that Adrian did not want to immediately visit the Evergreen guild. He asked the others if they were finished exchanging their contribution points. When they all nodded, he asked Levin Cloud to lead the way to the church to get their reward.

The church was just a small outpost but they successfully received the Random Epic Runestone Box. It looked like a small wooden box. All of them opened it at the same time as they had nothing better to do anyway. A small burst of light appeared that dazzled their eyes but only for a second.

Three of them got an epic runestone but one only received a common runestone. Adrian, Peridot, and Kabrakan got Epic runestones while Levin Cloud got the common one. Adrian should have been happy but he was not because the runestone does not suit him.

Item: Overheal Runestone

Tier: Epic

Type: Miscellaneous

Effect:

- Healing any target with a single target healing spell will also heal you with 10% of the amount healed. For area heals, you will receive 1% of the total amount healed.
- If you already have full health, the healing you receive will be converted to a shield that can amount to 30% of your total health.

Description: A runestone said to be made by a fearless cleric who participated in countless wars. She made this so that she could join the frontlines during battles.

Adrian then asked what their runestones are. He reviewed Kabrakan and Peridots and was glad that they could benefit from what they got. Adrian then asked his best friend if he wanted to trade with his runestone with what the latter got. Levin Cloud wanted to reject because he thought Adrian wanted to give him the Overheal Runestone since he benefits from it more.

"I think I could properly use the runestone you pulled. It is a rather special stone if you think about it." Adrian said in a confident tone.

Levin Cloud then agreed to trade stones since his best friend was adamant about it. He thanked Adrian for the great gift. Adrian just told him that it was a small favor compared to what he did for him.

Item: Transforming Runestone

Tier: Common (Growth)

Type: Miscellaneous

Effect:

- A runestone that will transform once it is exposed to the user's mana continuously.
- It can grow until epic rank but only if it transforms.
- Effects will vary depending on the type of mana it is exposed.

Description: A runestone that is said to be useless due to its complexity to transform. The more types of mana it is exposed to will greatly lengthen its transformation time.

Adrian smiled because this runestone was perfect for his race because the Daemos was only able to use Origin Magic. The runestone would transform into a perfect match with Adrian's magic but it would take time. How long it takes is another question as there is no indicator. Nevertheless, Adrian would be happy as long as it had synergy with his magic.

"Oh! I think you have better uses for this!" Adrian said as he gave items to both Kabrakan and Peridot.

When Peridot saw the thing handed to her, she was shocked as it was an epic golem recipe. When the two looked at Kabrakan's gift, Peridot was even more shocked. Kabrakan was given a race change item. Adrian sent the details to Levin Cloud first but he rejected saying it was not compatible with a priest class player. Levin Cloud then told Adrian to give it to his cousin since a tank would benefit more as a bull beastman.

Adrian agreed but told his best friend that if he ever gets something useful for him then he would immediately send it to him. Kabrakan was touched by Adrian's generosity and told him that he owes the latter a great favor. Adrian just brushed that off as they were friends anyways.

"I already told Marlon that I cannot use this recipe though." Peridot interjected.

"I think you should look at it closer." Adrian said.

## Chapter 122 - Infernofrost Ridge

"I cannot accept this as it is too valuable!" Kabrakan said as he tried rejecting the soul fragment.

"I also think I cannot accept this as I cannot use it." Peridot retorted.

"Just accept it you two. It is not like Adrian is actually giving it to you for free. Think of it as an investment. You two become powerful and with that you can help Adrian in his missions." Levin Cloud explained.

"Take it like an early birthday gift of some sort. If you two have good items that you do not need or cannot use but is useful to me then you can give those to me." Adrian insisted as he assessed the gravity of the undead event.

"We need to be stronger for the climax of the undead event." Adrian suddenly said which also put a gloomy face on the other. They realized that death knights and liches were a different level of difficulty compared to normal undead.

"Lighten up all of you. By the way do you guys know an area where there is both ice and fire?" Adrian interjected to lighten up the mood.

The two boys did not know any location like that but luckily someone knows.

"I think the east continent has something like that." Peridot said.

"But I think you need to be level 100 to at least attempt the going to the east continent?" Adrian asked.

"The only reason you need to be level 100 is because of the monsters at sea towards the east continent. You need to be at that level to ward them off. At least that is what is said on one of the forums that I have read." Peridot said.

"But it is said that the monsters at the east continent are level 150. Those are just field monsters!" Adrian said.

"If you can avoid them or have a direct access toward that area then you could probably survive." Peridot said.

"Direct access huh?!" Adrian muttered. He then quickly said, "I just got an idea so see you guys. I will call if I need your help or anything."

Adrian then ripped a teleportation scroll that he took from his inventory. The three of his friends stood there as the goodbye was so sudden. It was Kabrakan who was first to speak.

"Damn. He got teleportation scrolls. He is loaded." Kabrakan muttered.

"He could have given us those too!" Peridot said in a joking manner.

"Those are probably just to get him to the demon's den. He probably does not have teleportation scrolls that will get you to a certain location." Levin Cloud said as even he was surprised by the abrupt goodbye.

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Meanwhile, Adrian went back to the Paradox Planes to talk to Pann. At first, he wanted to talk to Ascalor but he might not agree to send him there. He even yelled out to Pann when Adrian saw him outside tending to a goat fish hybrid of some sort.

"Quiet down you insolent brat! You are scaring my darlings. What are going to do if they cannot produce good milk!?" Pann shouted.

"But you're the one shouting!" Adrian retorted.

A bulge then appeared on Pann's forehead. Adrian quickly asked his question as Kanlaon was a bit irritated. Kanlaon was stating to scratch his scales as if it was itching all over his body.

"Kanlaon need to find a suitable habitat to evolve. He needs an area where there is a frost and fire essence. I think there is some place like that in the east continent." Adrian said.

Pann then looked at Kanlaon and the former wrinkled his brows before saying, "Interesting!"

"He managed to fuse with an element that is a complete opposite of his. Usually, even dragons explode if they do that. It seems that because of his strengthened soul due to being a soulbound provided some protection." Pann said.

"So will you help?" Adrian asked as the look on Kanlaon's face was worrying.

"Fine. You do not have to worry that much. He will live probably." Pann said in a nonchalant tone.

Adrian's eye bulged when he heard what Pann said. He was about to berate the old man but he suddenly whistled with the aid of his hands and a huge shadow was cast on them. Adrian looked at the source of the shadow and was surprised.

The shadow was cast by a whale. It looked like a whale but its body was full of constellations. It even swam in mid-air like the air was the sea. Pann then called the whale and Adrian was able to see its details.

Monster: Cosmic Cetacea

Level: ???

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

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

Description: Also called the Great Fish of the Cosmos. It is not known if it is actually a fish or another kind of creature. They are said to feed on the debris generated by dying planets and are gentle in nature. Although big in size, they do not know how to fight. They usually just swim infinitely in the cosmos. Not much is known about their behaviors as they avoid direct confrontation.

"Bessy!" Pann shouted excitedly while the Cosmic Cetacea gave a cry of joy.

"So how is Bessy going to help us?" Adrian asked in bewilderment.

Pann just had a huge smile on his face. Adrian then got shivers on his spine. Adrian shifted his gaze on Bessy who now had a gaping mouth. Adrian tried to run but it was too late as they were sucked into the mouth of Bessy that looked like a black hole.

"I did not expect it to be like Jonah!" Adrian protested as he was sucked into the belly of the Bessy.

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When Adrian regained vision. He saw Pann patting Kanlaon on the head. Adrian looked around the surroundings and saw they were at a place where fire and ice meet. On the left was a frozen wasteland while on the right was an infernal hell with volcanoes spitting out lava. If this was the real world then it would not be possible to see this sight.

The most confusing thing is that the ice is not melted by the lava nor the lava getting hardened by the low temperature. It was a harmony of two opposing elements that defied all expectations.

Kanlaon though had a jovial expression and was circling the skies.

[You have arrived at the heart of Infernofrost Ridge.]

"It seems I am not the pioneer for this area as I was not even given stats or resistance skills." Adrian thought

"Why am I not affected by the temperature as much?" Adrian asked.

"Obviously, I did something or else your body will experience both a frostbite and a burn at the same time." Pann retorted.

[Kanlaon has now the perfect environment to evolve. Do you want to proceed with the evolution? Yes or No?]

Adrian obviously accepted and Kanlaon did a dance in the air. It looked like the fire and ice was dancing with him as it was getting absorbed in his body. A while later enormous amounts of energy was getting harvested from the Infernofrost Ridge. It would have been perfect but the hidden experts of the east continent noticed the disturbance and headed towards the ridge right away.

"It seems your soulbound is a bit greedy in absorbing the requirements or is he trying to resupply what he lost to control his two energies? It seems we will be expecting some visitors but worry not. They will not stop this old man's curiosity." Pann declared.

Adrian did not know what Pann was blabbering about but he then suddenly felt that there was this feeling of danger heading towards him. Pann though was not even worried even if he had already felt the individuals heading towards them from miles away.

"Now let us see what kind of beauties inhabit this chaotic wasteland." Pann said as he took out an ocarina from who know where and started playing a tune.

The tune was melodious and was very pleasant to the ears. It was even more pleasant for Sirius and Saena as they look like they are in ecstasy. The two even started dancing or swaying their bodies left and right. Adrian who was enjoying the sound heard cries of some sort of creature but does not know where they came from.

A few seconds later, Adrian could see a blizzard blowing from the frozen part of the ridge while a volcano erupted on the fiery part of the ridge. Two birds of different colors started to come towards Adrian's group. He was very afraid as the two birds looked powerful and not something he could take on right now.

He wanted to warn Pann but he was so intoxicated with playing his ocarina that he could not hear Adrian's warnings. In just a few seconds, the two birds was already near the group but to Adrian's surprise they did not attack them. Instead, Pann stopped his music and cuddled to like they were harmless birds.

"Oh! What beautiful creatures you are!" Pann said while the other guests have yet to arrive.

## Chapter 123 - The Guests Arrive?

When Adrian inspected the two birds that arrived, he was shocked that they were strong. They looked really majestic but at the same time they could probably kill Adrian with just a flick of their wing.

Monster: Phoenix

Level: 300

HP: 2,500,000,000 / 2,500,000,000

MP: 1,500,000, 000 / 1,500,000,000

Description: A mythical bird that is said to be able to resurrect itself from its very own ashes. It is said that a phoenix nearing the end of its life will burn itself up. From the ashes it produced, it will

rise up again as a chick. It is said to love areas filled with fire essence as it uses it as a source of nourishment. It has immense vitality which also makes it harder to kill. It is often confused with the godly beast Vermillion Bird.

Monster: Cryophoenix

Level: 300

HP: 1,500,000,000 / 1,500,000,000

MP: 2,500,000, 000 / 2,500,000,000

Description: A mythical bird that is said to be able to resurrect itself wherever cold air brews. It is said that a cryophoenix nearing the end of its life will fuse itself with the north wind. It will then reappear as a chick at a time where immense blizzards sweep parts of the world. It is said to love areas filled with frost essence as it uses it as a source of nourishment. It has great defenses as its body is covered with ice that never melts. If a person sees one, it is usually an omen that an immense snowstorm is about to come.

Pann was enjoying petting the two beautiful birds. Adrian felt a little curious and wanted to pet them too. He really wanted to pet them but the two birds looked unwilling. When he tried getting near them, the two birds were giving him a glare. It was as if they were saying, "Do not even think about it!"

Adrian could only sigh as it seems that even mythical birds have preferences. The two birds are rather curious about Saena though as Adrian could see them taking quick glances at her from time to time. Pann was enjoying the company of the two birds when five individuals came to their location.

"It seems that our guests have arrived." Pann said in an uninterested tone.

"Who are you to say that we are the guest here demon!?" a man wearing a golden suit of armor with dragon motifs angrily said.

"It seems that this demon does not know that he is standing on our turf." A handsome young man riding on a cloud retorted.

The three others are just silent and observing the situation. The other three was composed of an old monk, a seductive beauty wearing a kimono and an elegant beauty wearing a hanfu. Adrian wanted to inspect them using his skill but he dared not to. It might offend them if he was not careful as powerful individuals would be able to detect probing magic.

The five individuals also had strong auras and Adrian felt suffocated. He felt immense pressure because the five before him have higher persona compared to him. Pann had a relaxed expression on his face and it did not even bother him that the two people were releasing their killing intent.

The two men tried getting closer but the two giant birds suddenly released their killing intent. It actually scared the two men and even the three that was just observing. It was obvious that they are scared because they are currently weaker than the two birds. NPCs only grow in level in accordance with the average level of the player base.



"If I am not mistaken, the five of them should be at the same level as Ascalor and the other elders. It seems that Pann is special existence as it looks like he is older than the other elders of our race." Adrian thought.

"You should have told us that you will come to the east continent. It is the least you could do instead of barging towards our land." The woman in the kimono said.

"It seems that the fox is still salty that we the Daemos are the ones to be assigned as the new protectors." Pann sneered at the woman.

"Protectors huh. You could barely protect yourselves from the churches that are hunting you down.💎💎 The woman in a kimono retorted in a condescending tone.

"It was our decision to not cause more disasters. At least we did not fled and left all responsibility to the others to handle." Pann retorted back which made the kimono woman fume with anger.

"Nevertheless, it is only right that you should have told us that your group was going here as we manage this ridge. There are hidden plants and treasures that we cultivate here." The woman in a hanfu said.

"Well if you say so dragon lady. We need access to Infernofrost Ridge due to my grandchild's pet." Pann said in a nonchalant manner.

The other four became angry because of what Pann said but they let it slide because the lady wearing a hanfu shook her head towards them. They were also wary of the two guardians of the Infernofrost Ridge as it seemed friendly towards the demon. The five of them might preserve the peace at the east continent but they could not control the guardians of each area.

"Do not worry. After we are done with our business, we will be out of your way." Pann said without even looking at the five of them as he looked at Kanlaon's transformation.

It did not take long for the other five to see the other demon accompanying the rude one. When they saw Adrian, they could feel a mysterious energy coming from him. The old monk seemed to look at Adrian with fear as if he could feel immense pressure from the energies that the young demon houses in his body.

The four of them know about demons thanks to the woman wearing a kimono because she is part of the five asmodian races. She is one of the leaders of the Selvaggian race. She was a fox beast man. Their group is fractured compared to the other five races due to environmental differences.

"It seems the young demon is special. Is he perhaps the one that activated those world messages?" the monk said which Adrian also heard.

Adrian then wracked his brain as he knows that he has only made one world message. The world message that he knows he generated was the new species one. His best friend even asked him about it as he was told that demons could evolve.

"He emanates almost the same energy that one of the asmodian protectors used to have. It is the same but weaker." The woman wearing a kimono uttered.

"Did I generate a world message when I accepted the inheritance? I should revisit those posts about them later to check." Adrian thought.

"If you think about bullying one of our youngsters then be ready for annihilation." Pann warned them as some of them were eyeing Adrian.

The five of them did not even retort Pann's words because the only reason that the demons are being quiet was due to their duty. They also know what would happen to those who get in the way of the demons. It was not a pretty sight as it would always be buried in history as a calamity. The historians even erased traces of what demons did due to the great destruction they left in their wake. They do not want to wake a sleeping dragon.

The woman in a hanfu then shifted her eyes towards a cocoon of fire and ice. She was observing the creature that was absorbing the energies in the surroundings. When she realized what creature it was, she suddenly looked annoyed.

"Tell me demon! What is the meaning of one of our child being in your care!? Be careful of what you say." The woman in a hanfu suddenly demanded.

Pann wanted to answer the question but Adrian did it himself.

"I saved him from being corrupted by a dungeon's mana." Adrian answered confidently.

Even the inhabitants of this world do not know how dungeons pop up. It has been theorized that dungeons sprouted due to the excess mana being produced. A dungeon's mana can also affect creatures to make them submit and protect a dungeon. If Adrian was a few weeks or days later then Kanlaon might have become the dungeon boss or a monster controlled by the dungeon.

Even if Adrian answered the woman's question honestly, it was not enough for the woman. So Pann interjected as he knows that the dragon lady would not accept that reasoning.

"It does not matter where the young lad got him. The important thing is that he raised him well and he became strong. Family is not always indicated by blood relations." Pann said.

The woman in a hanfu wanted to retort but she could not because she had no right like Pann said. The other two men though did not like what they heard. They charged towards Pann with their killing intents as he disrespected them quite enough.

## Chapter 124 - Kanlaon Evolves

The two men who were charging towards Pann was suddenly grabbed from behind by an enormous golden hand. They tried to struggle but was unable to even break free. The giant golden hands came from the old monk and he looked annoyed at the two young men.

"This is why I hate youngsters that are impulsive. They always plunge into their doom." The old monk said.

"You two should stay calm in a situation like this or else both of you will suffer." The woman in a hanfu said.

"They should get punished for their immaturity at least. They do not know how the world works as they had yet to leave the east continent." The woman in a kimono said.

The two then realized that in just another step then they would get either trapped in a raging inferno or trapped in a frozen coffin. The two guardians set their spells around Pann. If anyone was careless enough to get close then they would die without question. Saena though had her eyes sparkle as she thought the two guardian birds were super cool.

"It was almost close. A little bit more and I could have seen something interesting." Pann teased.

The two men that are beginning to calm down became angry. Although, they did not flare up like what they did earlier. They just stared at Pann as if they were piercing swords to his body. The woman in a hanfu once again addressed Adrian.

"If what you say is true demon child then you have no qualms to release one of ours. True Dragons are not meant to be leashed or kept as a pet." The woman in a hanfu said to Adrian.

"If Kanlaon wants to be released then I will release him. But that is not for you to decide. Even if you are a high ranking dragon, you cannot order those younger than you to follow you. Therefore, if we follow your logic then you cannot compel Kanlaon to leave me because you are an elder of his race." Adrian said like a cheeky brat.

When Pann heard what Adrian said, he could not contain his laughter. He did not expect to use the same logic that was thrown at him. This was one of the traits that make Adrian be hated by unreasonable elders but loved by his peers. Adrian might not be the talkative type but he is the logical and very observant type.

Although this would be seen as disrespectful in his culture, he does not mind because the other party was unreasonable. He did not like the notion that because they are older they are correct even if their logic is flawed. Respect is a two way thing not a one way street.

When the woman in a hanfu heard this, she was obviously both embarrassed and in rage. In her mind are thoughts like, "How dare you disrespect me! And you are one hundred years too early to contend with me brat!" The woman in a kimono also had a slight smile but returned to her stoic face. The hotheads though could no longer keep their rage so they went for a verbal assault instead.

"Yah! You better watch your mouth brat!" the man in an armor said.

"If you ever step on the eastern continent again, you will suffer brat!" the young man riding a cloud said.

Adrian did not really care much for their threats as they would be seen as pitiful. If they bully a person that is miles apart from them in terms of strength then they would be seen as childlike in mentality. They would not be able to move against him personally but they could still provide trouble for him. Adrian decided not to poke fun of them any longer and decided to keep quiet.

Kanlaon has already finished absorbing the fire and frost essence from the area. The cocoon of fire and ice was slowly dissipating. Kanlaon's body silhouette could be seen. Adrian could now see that Kanlaon grew twice his size previous size. The fire and ice essence was slowly fading away to reveal Kanlaon's changes.

Kanlaon's scales have changed from their red color to a blue and red color. The inner color was blue while the outline was red. Kanlaon's now had this occasional streak of cold air and fire revolve around him. His head now had ice crystal like spikes and his mane was now made of fire. He was even manipulating the ice and fire in his surroundings as if he was playing with the two elements. (He looks like this [/uploads/scale\\_super/11136/111365328/6932561-2547236402-0%2Aa5Lkp5i3KqVoxjn](/uploads/scale_super/11136/111365328/6932561-2547236402-0%2Aa5Lkp5i3KqVoxjn). I do not own the image but imagine him like this with the color scheme I introduced.)

[Your soulbound Kanlaon has successfully evolved into a Frostfire Dragon.]

[As the evolution was not in the creature's normal evolution route, the player must find alternate evolutions by himself.]

[If a requirement is successfully completed, an evolution route will present itself.]

[Kanlaon skill Fire Dragon's Breath is transformed to Frostfire Dragon's Breath.]

[Kanlaon acquired the title Ruler of Fire.]

[Kanlaon acquired the title Ruler of Ice.]

[Kanlaon acquired the skill Pinnacle Intelligence.]

[Kanlaon acquired the skill Polymorph.]

Skill: Frostfire Dragon's Breath

Tier: Racial Skill

Type: Active

Effect: Spew a breath attack using the mouth. The breath will deal 100% of the user's magic damage. Due to the unique elemental nature of the breath, it could both give frostbite and burn status effect to those hit by the attack. If the target is already affected with both frostbite and burn then they would take double damage instead.

Duration: 5 seconds

Cooldown: 15 seconds

Cast Time: Instant

Skill: Supreme Intelligence

Tier: Epic

Type: Passive

Effect: Able to learn and adapt to any environment. It could now learn magic spells using spellbooks as long as the user has affinity towards them.

Cooldown: 1 day

Cast Time: Instant

Skill: Polymorph

Tier: Epic

Type: Active

Effect: Changes the appearance of the user into a anything the user imagines them to be. Some skills cannot be used due to the difference in bodily constitution. The transformation will not be dispelled even if attacked or attacking. The user is free to cancel the transformation.

Duration: Depends on User

Cooldown: 10 minutes

Cast Time: 5 seconds

Title: Ruler of Fire

Tier: Legendary

Effect: Allows the bearer to learn any type of fire type magic. It also decreases the damage of fire type attacks towards the bearer by half.

Description: This title are automatically acquired by true dragons when they have successfully reached adulthood. This title is one of the reasons that dragons are said to rule over the elements. Dragons with this titles are said to be fierce like a raging fire.

Title: Ruler of Ice

Tier: Legendary

Effect: Allows the bearer to learn any type of ice type magic and its lesser counterparts. It also decreases the damage of ice type attacks towards the bearer by half.

Description: This title are automatically acquired by true dragons when they have successfully reached adulthood. This title is one of the reasons that dragons are said to rule over the elements. Dragons with this title are said to be calm and composed but unpredictable like the weather during winter.

Adrian was very amazed by Kanlaon's transformation. He was amazed even more by the skills and titles he got. Kanlaon could now learn spells like a mage. The most interesting fact is that Kanlaon could now converser with him because Kanlaon's voice resounded in Adrian's mind. Kanlaon utilized their soul link to make that happen.

"Master! It is finally nice to be able to speak with you!" Kanlaon said via their soul link which surprised Adrian because the voice seemed loud.

"Woah! I guess you are too excited that your voice sounded so loud." Adrian replied.

"I am sorry. I am just glad that I can now converse with master." Kanlaon said.

Adrian expected Kanlaon's voice to sound a bit mature but he was surprised that he sounded like a boy in his pre-teens. Adrian though thought it was understandable as it was only recently since Kanlaon hatched. Even if dragons are powerful, it does not mean that all of them are wise and old. Sometimes a village gets destroyed just because of a young dragon's tantrum.

"Beautiful!" the woman wearing a hanfu muttered.

The others could only marvel at Kanlaon's form as dragons in the east continent are rather secretive. All dragons in the east continent was under the protection of the Green Dragon. Dragons in the east continent are usually in their human forms as some believe that their majestic dragon form was too much for human eyes. Regardless, dragons are all the same in terms of laziness because they have indefinitely long lives.

"Young one. Do you not want your freedom? Just say the word and this elder of yours will break you from your shackles." The woman in a hanfu declared while her eyes became slits. Her skin showed some scales and she also sprouted a tail.

"Master, what is that old hag saying? To free me from my shackles or whatever it is." Kanlaon asked in a normal voice for all to hear.

The woman in a hanfu vein popped when she heard that. Pann on the other hand was laughing like he never laughed for years. The woman's other four companions were at a loss on what to say. Adrian though was shocked and thought.

"Is his personality modeled after me? I mean he even looks a bit like me."

## Chapter 125 - Mina Returns

The reason Adrian said that Kanlaon looks like him is because the latter used Polymorph. Kanlaon transformed himself into human form when he uttered the words old hag. Adrian looked at Kanlaon's human form and was surprised that he looks a bit like him but with something mixed in.

"The AI must have copied my appearance and tweaked it a little." Adrian thought.

Kanlaon looks like a ten or eleven year old boy. He has red spiky hair with blue highlights. His eyes are golden and his pupils were still slits. He had pearly white skin like that of a young master. The word to describe him now would be cute but if he grew up then he would become handsome.

Kanlaon's clothes were also modeled like Adrian's Asmodian battle suit but red in color with lesser decorations. Even Pann marveled at Kanlaon's transformation. Pann knew that dragons usually transform into a much older human like those in their twenties. Kanlaon might have been influenced by Adrian's age.

"Okay. We are done here. Bessy!" Pann said and he whistled.

A few seconds later, a mouth appeared in the air and swallowed Pann, Adrian and his soulbounds. Pann was able to say goodbye to the birds but Adrian was caught unprepared.

"See you next time, Flamey and Frosty!" Pann said as he waved the two birds' goodbye.

"What is that naming sense? It is like he is naming a dog." Adrian thought as he was not brave enough to berate Pann on his naming sense.

The five elders of the eastern continent were unable to react to the demons' abrupt escape. They could only look at where the intruders used to be. They all looked at each other to see if anyone of them would do something but they are not masters of spatial magic. They stared at the two guardian birds leaving and enter back into their nest.

A few seconds later, they too went back to their abodes. Some left angered while some left without a care. Their alliance was not because they truly believe in one another but because of mutual benefit. They formed an alliance so that the eastern continent will not experience a crisis not because they liked each other.

When Adrian came to his senses, they were already back on Pann's farm. If one would describe the feeling of travelling via the whale, it would be like sailing on rocking boat. The journey is so bumpy that you will lose consciousness. Also, Adrian could not handle motion sickness on boats really well so that might have a bigger part on him fainting.

Adrian was about to thank Pann but the latter was already busy observing Kanlaon intently. He even ordered Kanlaon to turn back into its dragon form for further inspection. Pann even touched and marveled at Kanlaon's scales and energy.

"He really loves creatures whether magical or just normal." Adrian thought.

A few minutes later, Pann stopped. It would seem that he had enough and let Kanlaon scurry along back to Adrian. Pann then handed Adrian a crate of white fluid in bottles.

"Here you go." Pann said as he handed over the crate containing a dozen bottles.

"What is this?" Adrian asked.

"Capricorn milk. It is nutritious for any kind of creature." Pann replied.

Before Adrian was about to thank Pann for the gift, Pann already put his hand out.

"That would be 50 gold coins." Pann immediately said.

Adrian was astounded because Pann was giving it to him as a gift but the latter wanted to get paid. Adrian though could only sigh and pay because he saw the description and it was indeed really good stuff.

Item: Capricorn Milk

Tier: Rare

Type: Consumable

Effect: Any creature who drinks this would recover from even the most immense fatigue.

Description: Milk said to be the hardest to get due to their fickle nature. If Capricorns are just even a little bit uncomfortable, they will not produce milk at all. Their milk is said to be so good that royalty would flock to any legitimate seller and offering dozens of gold coins just for a glass.

"Well see you then old man." Adrian waved goodbye to Pann.

"Comeback if you get interesting creatures you hear!" Pann replied to Adrian.

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Adrian logged out of the game because of an abrupt message he got from his mother. Her big sister Mina would be arriving at night. Even he was shocked as it was still less than a week. It seems her arrival was early due to an incoming storm in her location so the "adventure group" had to turn back. Instead of waiting on the storm passing by, she just decided to go back home.

Adrian's dad was the one to pick her up from the airport. When she reached the house, she was full of energy as she hugged and kissed her family. It seems she really missed them as she has been away for quite some time. They all enjoyed an evening dinner with Mina telling all about her adventures and what not. Even Adrian told his adventures in the game as his big sister was curious of the game. (Adrian calls her big sister rather than cousin because they grew up together.)

The whole family slept wonderfully as they all enjoyed the happy mood the evening brought them. The next morning Adrian was woken up by a clanking noises. He got out of bed and went to where the noise was coming from. The noise came from next door where his big sister's room was.

He took a peek and saw the previous people who went to their house to install his gaming pod. Unlike Adrian's gaming pod though, the one being installed in her room was more sleek and cooler than Adrian's. Adrian's eyes sparkled as this was the best gaming pod available that would give anyone a 99% sync rate. It was dubbed by the community as the Diamond Capsule due to both its beauty and tremendous price.

"Wow!" Adrian shouted.

"You like it? I thought about it overnight and I really want to experience this game that you have been raving about." Mina said.

"It is called Pandemonium not this game" Adrian retorted.

"Fine. So any tips you could give a newbie like me?" Mina said as she did not want to make a big deal out of the name of the game.

"Since you could move like you are in the real world although your stats would determine that, you will be fine. Think of it like those martial arts that we learned. It can be applied in the game. Do not alter your body too much or you might get unfamiliar with it. Also, just enjoy the game as it would not be fun if put too much thought into it." Adrian said.

"So basically, the game mimics the real me while having fantasy stuff. I am just excited to kick some butt though." Mina said while Adrian shivered as the game might activate Mina's inner sadist.

"Why are you looking at me funny?" Mina asked.

"Nothing! I just thought it was unfair that you got the best capsule while I have the basic one." Adrian said with a wry smile.

"If you want one go get it yourself bub!" Mina teased while laughing as the installers said their goodbyes.

Adrian left the room with a sad act but Mina knows that it was all for show. She would have upgraded Adrian's pod but his parents told her not to. She then set her haloswatch in the gamepod. She then started her new adventure on Pandemonium.

[Pandemonium will now launch....]

[User has yet to make a game avatar. You will be sent to the character creation zone.]

Mina did what Adrian adviced and kept her body proportions. She actually barely did anything and just changed her hair to brown and her eyes to blue. She was then transported to the starting village Genesis.

When she saw the starting village, she was amazed because it was bustling. It even had the smell of a rural village in the countryside. Mina was busy looking to every nook and cranny of the village as her adventurous spirit flared up.

She was only brought back from her escapade by a system notification.



[Please pick a base job class for your character.]

"Did I wander for too long? Adrian did say that the first thing to do is get a job class." Mina said to herself.

She already chose to be a warrior class because she thought that being one of those cutesy mage girls or supporter girls do not fit her. She wanted to get action and get her blood boiling. She headed towards the martial arena where a buffy instructor is currently training NPCs.

She picked a single handed blade and easily passed the test with flying colors. Although before she went to the village chief, she decided to explore more of the village. A decision that will change her adventure in Pandemonium.

## Chapter 126 - Mina's First Day

Mina was still at the starting village and still at level one due to not yet accepting the village chief quest. The reason that other people do not venture to all the areas of the starting village is because there was not much there during beta. Another reason is that those who have gotten something good never talk about it.

In the end, the starting village was dubbed the tutorial village with no interesting content on it. Due to others already reaping the early benefits, there was not much left on the starting village. The event items present there are basically the ones you need time to get. Like Adrian, who spent numerous hours to just tame Sirius.

Although it was not a bad thing as the harder to get then the greater the reward. Since one of the five Asmodian races has been chosen, the script for each race has been changed. The change was subtle so that even newbies who read the forums will not know of the difference.

Mina was wondering on the church of the starting village. If you chose a priest job class character, you would normally go to this church. It would only be after you leave the starting village could you choose what would your church affiliation be. This church was famous for one thing though.

The church was famous because one of the nuns is actually a fifteen year old. The name of the nun is Sister Leticia. She wears a habit so her hair color cannot be seen. Since it was also baggy, her body shape could not be seen. The one thing noticeable would be her crimson eyes. She was also famous for being the sassy nun.

Anyways, Mina is currently inside the church that looks like a rural church in the province. It was made of stone with wooden chairs that look old. The reason she is here because she was observing the paintings and the church's library. Other players are also there but due to other reasons.

She wanted a full grasp of the lore of the game but even in the starting village only basic lore was given. Still that did not discourage her from observing the church. She was then noticed by Sister Leticia due to her being a warrior and not someone who wanted to become a priest.

"This is not an art gallery Miss Warrior." Sister Leticia told Mina while the former was only a few feet away.

"I am sorry. I was just marveling at the paintings and reading some of the copies of the holy books." Mina replied.

"I see. It is quite rare for a warrior to pop here in the church and not ogle at me. If that is what you are aiming for then follow me. Sister Lira! Please handle the church affairs for me for a few minutes." Sister Leticia said.

Mina then followed Sister Leticia to a door that leads down the church. The room they were in was quite big but it was filled with paintings and books that are not allowed to be viewed. They are not allowed to be viewed because the paintings depicted the twin gods along with asmodians and five peculiar races. There were also paintings that depicted the horrors the dark gods inflicted.

"What do you think about the depictions in these paintings?" Sister Leticia asked.

"They are a bit horrifying and bloody." Mina honestly replied.

"This part of the church is restricted due to the outside world banning this knowledge. Anyone who learns of this they brand a heretic. So where would be the best hiding spot be?" Sister Leticia stated.

"The place of those who bans them of course." Mina replied.

A smile was then seen on Sister Leticia's face but the most noticeable part would be the fangs revealed when she smiled.

"I like you Warrior Mina. You are curious yet bold. Adventurous and determined. I have been observing you as you have familiarized yourself with the townsfolk ever since you arrived here." Sister Leticia said.

"Thank you for the praise?" Mina awkwardly replied.

"I will cut to chase then. Be mine!" Sister Leticia ordered as her red eyes glowed in a crimson light while her blood red hair was revealed.

"Uhm...I got to go now then." Mina said as she did not know what to do. She had never played a VR game before. She was only familiar with haloswatch games or desktop games.

Mina was about to dash towards the stairs but she was rooted in place by a red congealed liquid.

"Your human body is a waste of your potential. Do not worry. It will not hurt. Much. I think." Sister Leticia said as she controlled the red liquid to bring Mina to her.

Mina was now kneeling in front of Sister Leticia. Sister Leticia brushed Mina's hair aside and bared her fangs. She did mutter a few words though before biting her neck.

"It is such a humiliation that Lucretia found her champion first. Thankfully, he was not reborn as an Erebian or else I would not have found my perfect champion." Sister Leticia said as she finally bit Mina's neck to which the latter just passed out.

A system notification then appeared on every player's screen.

[The game will now go for a system maintenance. The game will be accessible after 24 hours. All dungeon dives will get a quick save ticket. All crafting progress will be saved. It is recommended for all players to log out in five minutes. We are sorry for the inconvenience.]

Mina was immediately logged out of the game. She then shouted, "What just happened?!"

She then saw Adrian in his wheelchair passing by as he also logged out of the game. She then helped him as he was on his way to practice walking with the exoskeleton. Since Adrian's parents already saw Mina escorting Adrian, they just prepared some snacks for both of them.

"So what did you do inside the game?" Mina asked to start a conversation as she was not accustomed to silence. She also knew that Adrian would not really talk unless asked so she opted to do it first.

"I just helped one of my soulbounds to evolve. Did you know that the quest said sick? So I tried to find sick people to help but the quest meant deathly sick. Do you know how hard it was to find people with deadly diseases?" Adrian complained while holding the training bar and walking.

"Why do you need to find those types of people? Also do you have pictures of your soulbounds. I hear that summoner is a popular class for pet lovers because it is literally a virtual pet caretaker." Mina replied.

"It is one of the requirement to evolve one of my soulbounds. I think I have pictures of them in my haloswatch. Look." Adrian then showed the pictures of his soulbounds in both real form and polymorphed form.

"They are so cute when in chibi forms. They look cool in their real form though." Mina stated.

"How about you? What were you up to in the game?" Adrian asked while he was practice walking.

"Yeah about that. I think I broke my character?" Mina stated which shocked Adrian.

"What! What happened? Tell me everything and I mean everything." Adrian said worried as his big sister already spent a couple of hours in game.

Mina then recounted the story. Adrian was listening intently but an hour flew past with her just talking about the starting village which bored Adrian. Then Adrian's mom brought some refreshments to which Mina still continued her story. She then arrived at the part on what happened at the church which blew Adrian's mind.

"I think your character is not broken." Adrian stated.

"What do you mean by that?" Mina replied with a question.

"I think you just experienced a race change like me. But unlike me, yours was abrupt." Adrian then remembered what his experience was like and said, "Scratch that. Mine was abrupt too. If I see another undead giant wolf then I would pummel it to death."

"Do you mean my character would become different?" Mina asked as she was curious.

"It will. I would not think it as bad since every race in Pandemonium has pros and cons. It is up to you whether to maximize its potential or not. It is not the game that is bad. It is just you not knowing how to play the game well." Adrian advised.

"So what do you speculate will be my new race? I have some speculations but there are numerous types of humanoid creatures that have fangs." Mina said with excitement as she might be playing something new. She wanted to become an adventurer as a second class since those players open new doors instead of using old ones.

"From what you told me it is probably from the Erebian race with the species being Vampire." Adrian answered.

"Oh. Will I get inhuman strength? Become superfast? Shine in broad daylight?" Mina asked non-stop as she could not hold back her excitement.

"Yeah. Not really. It is not like those old movies you watched where the lead male character wanted to expose himself in a festival. It is still a game so skills and stats determine you character. Even I do not know much except that they become more powerful depending on the face of the moon. So do not have very high expectations" Adrian stated to douse Mina's overexcitement.

## Chapter 127 - Evolving Saena I

Adrian logged back in the game and the first thing he did was look at Saena's evolution requirements.

Saena Caladrius Evolution Requirements:

- Heal 100, 000 damage (Completed)
- Heal 50 sick people from their sickness (0/50)
- Level 50 (Completed)

There was only one requirement left and that was to heal fifty sick people from their sickness.

Adrian thought it was easy because he thought it was any sickness. Saena also got a new skill when she reached the level 70 threshold. Adrian believed that Saena was meant to evolve at this level because she did not have this skill at level 50.

Skill: Martyr

Tier: Epic

Type: Active Cleanse

Effect: Absorb a sickness or status debuff from a target. The target will be cleansed of that status debuff but the user will suffer from the status debuff. Can only absorb two at a time. After a certain amount of time, the user will recover from the debuff and could gain a slight resistance to the cleansed status debuff.

Cooldown: 10 minutes

Mana Cost: 200 Mana Points

Cast Time: 10 seconds

"The only problem is now how to treat the sick people. I could just try waltzing inside a medical facility but that would surely backfire. I would probably be treated as an insane person if I told them my bird could cure illnesses." Adrian thought to himself.

Adrian decided to think about it when he encounters a sick person. He used Glamour on himself and polymorphed Sirius. Kanlaon turned into his human version while Saena's new nest was Kanlaon's head. Adrian then remembered to look for skillbooks for Kanlaon at a mage tower. Mage Towers sells skillbooks that are common to rare.

Adrian did try looking at the auction house but fire magic spells were common so those were sold out. The remaining fire spellbooks on the auction are the overpriced ones that nobody buys. Ice spellbooks are quite rare because it is a form of advance water magic. Kanlaon will be able to use water attribute spells but he said that ice spells are much better. Talk about a picky child (dragon).

Adrian wanted to look at rural villages first as there is a more likely chance of sick people there. He then entered into the fracture for a forest near Whiterock Village. It was a mining village located at one of the Empire's territory. The Empire is called the Corona Empire as it is said that they are descendants of the demigod Appollonius who was the son of the God of the Sun.

The people of the central continent consider this true as they are blessed with the shining sun for most of the day. The northern continent is like a frozen tundra where people are said to live as nomads. The nomads in the north are said to stay at areas where the snow is calm and livestock to get nurtured. There is also the west continent that is said to be an endless sea of sand.

In the west continent, the people there reside in an oasis. Due to that reason, they are a tight knit group that does not take well to outsiders. They can still tolerate outsiders but one mistake and you are gone. They are a close community due to the harsh desert.

The southern continent was a bit different to the others as they are consisting of islands compared to a giant land mass. Each island had volcanoes and maybe even more than one. Due to this, the people of the southern continent are excellent seafarers. They are also known for their abundant plant life due to the richness of their soils.

Lastly, the east continent is seen as the land of mysticism and was rumored to be the birth place of magic. In the eastern continent, an individual's growth is more prioritized than the growth of all people. They go by the survival of the fittest motto but still care for the normal folk. They see it as everything must remain in equilibrium so that everything would be perfect.

Adrian arrived at the forest near Whiterock Village and immediately headed towards the settlement. Thankfully, he was already issued an adventurers identification so he just waltz right through the front door. The first thing he saw was lots of gnomes and dwarves that are carrying sacks of different ores.

The good thing about the empire is that everyone is equal as long you are considered as those of the "human" race. Due to this, the orcs and gnomes that are persecuted in other kingdoms could live in the empire. As there are skills and abilities only accessible to certain races, the empire flourished due to maximizing the usefulness of these skills.

Adrian's first target was the infirmary but he could already see some people coughing badly. His eyes sparkled because he might finish the requirement today and evolve Saena. He immediately ordered Saena to use her skill "Martyr" to an old lady that was coughing to restore her.

"Try to be sneaky and do not let others know you used a skill." Adrian ordered via the soul link.

Adrian sat down a few steps away from the old lady. His plan was for Saena to stumble upon the old lady. Saena would then quickly use her skill when she sees how cute she was acting. Adrian would then apologize for the inconvenience on the old lady. He thought of this perfect plan so that he would not look suspicious.

Saena did a "roger" type of action by trying to put her right wing up to her head. The plan was executed perfectly and Saena was able to use her skill. Adrian did what he planned and was walking with a smile due to the system notification.

[Saena has absorbed the status ailment of a target.]

[Saena has acquired the Tussis.]

Saena was then coughing but not severely. About two to three minutes later, Saena was cured. Although Adrian did not like the effect of the skill, it was a good thing that the skill significantly decreases the time spent dealing with the sickness. For debuffs, Adrian could just apply some potions on Saena for her to recover. Adrian was very happy but was later downcast because he saw that the number did not increase.

-Heal 50 sick people from their sickness (0/50)

"What do you mean!?" Adrian shouted while putting his hands up. The ones who saw his action thought he lost his mind.

Adrian wanted to start berating the developers for being very vague. He then thought that little sicknesses are not considered. He then shivered at the fact that the sickness should be severe or worse. He then thought of another idea and that was to inflict himself with status conditions. It would be difficult due to his passive but there is still a fifty per cent chance.

"I will only do that if I find that there is no longer another way. I am not a masochist." Adrian told himself while nodding to himself.

Adrian then found other target or rather patients to heal. It was a cycle of ups and downs due to numerous failed and unsuccessful attempts. He tried sneaking to an infirmary only to be chased out by an Amazonian helper with a broom. At the end of the day, he barely reached his goal.

-Heal 50 sick people from their sickness (7/50)

"I guess there is no other choice but to become the patient myself. We are in this together right." Adrian said as he raised his fist in the air. The others around him just walked away while avoiding the broom hair attached to his actual hair. A system prompt then appeared in his sights a few seconds later.

[The game will now go for a system maintenance. The game will be accessible after 24 hours. All dungeon dives will get a quick save ticket. All crafting progress will be saved. It is recommended for all players to log out in five minutes. We are sorry for the inconvenience.]

"Might as well log out. I am too tired due to using my brain all day." Adrian said as he sighed and logged out.

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Meanwhile at Atlas Headquarters after the world message was released....

"Sir, should we push the "Emerging from the Shadows" event after the "Undead Event" is finished?" a woman in a futuristic visor asked.

"Since it was activated during the Undead Event, we can only compromise and tie it with the story of the undead. The story for the undead has yet to arrive at a conclusion so we will base the conclusion of that for this event. Ratify all overlapping quest so that important quests will not reach a dead end." The director said.

"Sir, it is the vampires who chose a champion first. Also someone from the village Genesis has a path to become a Jotunn but it is only a thirty per cent chance." A man in a futuristic visor said.

"It does not change even if the Jotunn has chosen a champion. Their invasion would still depend on a level 100 mission for that player if he is lucky to become one. Genesis Village. A village where monsters of the long forgotten past reside. We are quite lucky that the players still think it is something akin to a tutorial. In the end, somethings are just meant to be." The director muttered while the workers are fixated on fixing bugs that might appear.

## Chapter 128 - Evolving Saena II

The maintenance was over and Adrian logged back in the game. Thankfully, his experience multiplier did was not consumed. Twenty four hours in real life is equivalent to three days in-game. If it was consumed then he would have seven days left for the experience multiplier. He was thankful that it was still ten days.

Adrian then had a grim look as he knows it was a tough job finding potential patients. He once again tried going to infirmaries but this time he asked if he could help. He was chased out of the infirmaries that employed professional healers. He then arrived at one of the infirmaries that had a shabby look.

The one who was overseeing the infirmary was an old lady. She had a rather sweet tone like that of a caring mother. She welcomed Adrian with a smile instead of others that had a rather irritated tone.

"What can I do for you? Are you here to check in the young boy accompanying you?" the old lady said in a gentle tone.

"Uhm..I was actually going to ask if you have any grievously sick people. My soulbound can actually take away their sickness." Adrian honestly said.

When the old lady heard what Adrian said, she looked at Adrian straight in the eyes. She wanted to confirm if what Adrian said is true. She also want to know if the adventurer in front of him some kind of ulterior motive. Since this infirmary was used by those who are poor, some people enter this for heinous purposes.

"Is what you are saying really true? Or are you part of some shady organization?" the old lady asked as she was still suspicious.

"Shady organization? I think I need to prove myself." Adrian thought and then said, "Why not let me prove myself? Words will not be enough to be a judgement of my soulbound's ability."

The old lady then looked at Adrian once more from head to toe. The adventurer in front of him looked too young to be a member of any shady organization. She still needed to be sure as she might not know if they change their modus.

"Come with me then." The old lady said with a bit of a serious tone.

"My name is Equinox. What about you Ma'am?" Adrian asked as it would not be polite to call her Ma'am all the time as she was doing a respectable job.

"You can learn my name after you have proven yourself." The old lady replied.

"Wow. This old woman is feisty. She must have been famous in her heyday." Adrian thought as he had a grandma in the neighborhood that had the same attitude. They are usually viewed as strict but once you know them then they usually like you and treat you like a real grandson.

Adrian followed the old lady without saying other words. They passed through a couple of open doors and Adrian was able to see bedridden children. He wore a sad expression because some looked like they were in pain. Some of the children were coughing and were burning up.

Adrian could feel the sadness in the air. The old lady then stopped at a door that was closed. This was the only one different as if it was necessary to separate it from the others. The old lady mumbled some words and a faint yellow light enveloped the old lady and Adrian along with his soulbounds. The old lady then opened the door and Adrian was shocked on what he saw.

The little boy laying on the bed was so thin. He looked like he was always on death's door but Adrian noticed a peculiar lamp. Adrian used his evil eye on it and saw that the lamp was like a portable healing lamp as life energy was being transferred to the little boy to preserve his life.

Adrian knew that such an item was very expensive. It seems that the old lady has some connections but it was not enough to fully sustain the child. She must have been researching a way to help the little boy. She then gestured towards Adrian to try and help the boy to prove the latter's statement.

"Okay then Saena you are up." Adrian gestured to Saena to use her skill.

Saena then flew next to the boy as she thought that landing on top of him will suffocate the boy. A white light then enveloped Saena and she did an inhaling motion. The little boy then exhaled and something like black gas came out of him. Adrian then saw a system notification.

[Saena has been afflicted with miasma.]

[Saena will be unable to do any activity for an hour.]

Saena then looked like she was shivering so Adrian picked her up and told Kanlaon to warm her up. The little boy who was sleeping in pain now looked better. The old lady who was observing the situation looked at Adrian but most importantly at Saena in great shock. She then used her magic to check on the little boy and was shocked that he was healing normally. Any sign of sickness was nowhere to be found.

"Amazing! You must have been sent by the almighty Goddess of Life to save the poor little ones." The old lady exclaimed.

"Uhh... Yeah. You could think of it that way. I have to tell you that we would not be able to heal anyone for about an hour. How did the little boy even get infected by miasma anyway?" Adrian said.

"It was awful. He managed to escape from the clutches of acolytes but his family was not fortunate enough. When I found him near the woods, he was not this thin. After a few days, his health started



deteriorating every day. Thankfully, you managed to help him." The old lady said while shaking Adrian's hands.

Adrian then froze when he heard the word acolyte as it may mean that there may be followers of dark gods hidden in the jungle. Adrian put those thoughts at the back of his brain because helping the children in this infirmary is a higher priority. The old lady then escorted Adrian to a guest room so that they could talk in depth.

The old lady was named Theresa and she was a retired priestess of the Church of Life. She retired due to her old age and wanting to help the poor in her village. She used her past connections for favors but it was still barely passable. Although, she never lost hope and continued helping others.

When the hour was up, Saena continued to heal the other children. Some diseases took ten minutes to heal while some took longer but not as long as the little boy. It looked like he was cursed rather than afflicted with a disease. Miasma is not associated with sicknesses but curses according to the player forums. Adrian was certain that there are acolytes nearby.

Adrian spent a whole day tending and playing with the kids who became healthy. Grandma Theresa was beaming with joy as she could tell the good news to some of the children's parents. He left Adrian to look after the infirmary as she left to tell the parents the good news.

About thirty minutes passed since Granma Theresa left, some thugs just entered the infirmary. Adrian was about to ask what is their business but decided not to. Adrian then saw three thug looking men holding sacks and ropes.

"Where is that old crone? Never mind. Hand over the children brat." A man with a vertical scar on his face ordered Adrian.

Adrian did not even bat them an eye but the children who were playing with him became scared. Adrian's look became ferocious but it was not only him. Sirius too became ready to lunge at them but Adrian ordered him not to. Kanlaon was playing with the other kids and he was huddled in with them. Saena was resting in one of the beds because she was exhausted. She was still ten people short from evolving.

"I am sorry but I am afraid that I would ask you to leave. You people are scaring the kids." Adrian said with a smile but he was hiding his killing intent.

"Heh. What can a brat like you do anyway? You cannot overpower the three of us. Let's go and round them up boys." The man with a vertical scar in his face stated.

Adrian was not afraid because these NPCs are only level 50. They must have been street thugs that are hired by the real mastermind. Adrian focused his magic and used Blink. Instead of using it to himself, he directed it to the three thugs. He blinked them away outside but it seems that it was too much for the current Adrian as he looked tired.

The three thugs became dazed as they were just inside the infirmary but now they were outside. Little did they know that a little dog followed them outside. The dog then smiled at them and a black pool of shadows slowly absorbed the three thugs. They tried to struggle but their mouths were the first to get shut so they would not be able to even scream for help.

Chapter 129 - Saena Evolves And New Quest

When Adrian or more specifically Sirius dealt with the thugs, a system notification appeared before Adrian's eyes.

[You have initiated the secret quest "Hidden Darkness".]

**\*QUEST NOTIFICATION\***

Hidden Darkness

Difficulty: B

Description: A group of acolytes are hiding in the depths of the woods. They resort to human sacrifices for their god. Find them and put a stop to their ploy to get a vessel for their god.

Duration: 10 days

Reward: Unknown

Failure: More kidnappings and Whiterock Village safety will diminish.

Adrian was not shocked by the quest because Grandma Theresa leaving the infirmary was not expected by Adrian. She also told him about the state of the boy. Adrian must have already activated the quest when Saena healed the little boy.

The quest was pushed on Adrian like any story driven quest. If he fails, Whiterock Village would probably lose its energy and it would eventually get ruined. Adrian waited for Grandma Theresa to return so that he could initiate the quest. After about thirty minutes or so, Grandma Theresa returned with some of the parents and other patients.

Adrian healed the fifteen people who came to him for help or more like due to Grandma Theresa being a blabbermouth. Even though the numbers already exceeded the remaining number for Saena's evolution, he still helped them as he was not heartless. He waited for the others to return home and asked Grandma Theresa for some privacy as Saena needed to evolve.

Adrian was lent a room and immediately said yes to the system notification to evolve Saena. Saena was enveloped in a white light and it felt like the air in the room became purified. Thankfully, she did not need an optimal area for evolution like Kanlaon did.

A few moments later, the light dimmed down. The smell in the room became so fresh like morning dew. Saena was no longer the plump ball of bird that she was previously. She was now a bird that was five feet in height. She now has a wing span of three meters and she looked majestic.

She was still white in color but there are three feathers on her head that adorns her like a crown. She looked like a giant crowned pigeon with a white color scheme. Adrian admired Saena as she was now a majestic bird. He was still disappointed that he could not ride on her. Even though he could fly by himself, riding on a majestic creature has a different feeling to it. For Adrian at least.

Adrian looked at the system notifications along with the details of the evolved skills.

[Saena has successfully evolve into a Caladrius.]

[Saena's skill Breath of the Magpie has transformed into Healing Breeze.]

[Saena' skill Martyr has transformed into Salvation.]

[Saena has obtained the title "Small Village Saint.]

Skill: Healing Breeze

Tier: Legacy

Type: Healing

Effect: Every time the Calabrius enters battle, it will purify the surrounding air with the flap of its wings. Heal 1% of the maximum health of all friendly units every three second. This is considered as a basic attack.

Area of Effect: 10 meter radius from the user.

Cooldown: None

Cast Time: None

Mana Cost: None

Skill: Salvation

Tier: Legacy

Type: Active Cleanse

Effect: The Calabrius targets a sick or status debuffed entity and cleanses them of all ailments by absorbing them. The Calabrius will then be unable to do any action for five seconds.

Cooldown: 10 minutes

Cast Time: 5 seconds

Mana Cost: 500 Mana Points

Title: Small Village Saint

Tier: Rare

Effect: Increases the effectiveness of Healing Type Skills by 10%.

Description: A title given to those acknowledge by a village as a miraculous healer. Can be upgraded.

Adrian was very glad that Saena could now heal all of them as long as they are close to each other. She did not need to swap targets like she was doing previously. Now that Adrian has successfully evolved Saena, he was now ready to take on the secret quest given to him.

"Thank you for the hospitality, Grandma Theresa. We should head out now that we have no more business here as my soulbound has evolved." Adrian said with a smile.

"It is us who should thank you. Due to your help, the people in my infirmary are no longer disease free. Feel free to visit again when you have the time. May the Goddess Gaea bless you with immense vigor." Grandma Theresa said as she bid goodbye to Adrian.

Adrian bid farewell to the kids who are still not picked up by their parents. He told Kanlaon that they should go and the dragon became sad as he no longer have time to play. Adrian with his soulbounds accompanying him went inside the forest.

Adrian debated whether to go inside the forest or wait as it was almost night. He then decided to go inside as monsters at the outer edge are only in the fifties. Even if they are empowered at night, Adrian and his soulbounds should be able to get rid of them.

When they entered the forest, Sirius was now able to show himself. Since Sirius attacked the thugs, his polymorph was dispelled. Sirius then decided to hide in Adrian's shadow thanks to his new skill that he acquired.

Skill: Shadow Domain

Tier: Legacy

Type: Domain

Effect: Able to control shadows as long as the user could see them.

Cooldown: None

Cast Time: Depends on the action

Mana Cost: Depends on the action

This skill was great for areas like forests or cities during daytime but is useless at nighttime. As long as there are lights, there would be shadows. Adrian remembered that line from an old cartoon that he used to watch. Due to the presence of his powerful soulbounds, animal like creatures are scared to even approach them. It was only creatures that could not distinguish strength that pounced at Adrian's group.

Adrian and his soulbounds are now deep into the forest and monsters that are sixty and above are now showing themselves. He thought that they were close to the hideout but apparently they could not find it. There was not even a scent of the thugs' employer from their clothes so Sirius could not track it.

Adrian practically gave up as they have been circling the forest for an hour. He decided to rest on a cliff and rest his back on it but he passed through. Adrian fell to the ground and his soulbounds panicked a little but the former told them to stay calm. Adrian ordered them to come to him as he passed by something like an illusion.

Adrian could not believe that even his evil eye was unable to see through the illusion. He then saw the cliff but this time there was a cave. It was not a normal cave as it looked like the cliff was carved. The entrance was a mouth opening to a carving that looked like numerous faces.

Adrian was both creeped out and curios because the carving of the faces looked life like. Thankfully, there were no guards stationed outside the cave. Adrian wanted to waltz in but he could suddenly encounter an acolyte and be surrounded.

Adrian carefully used Soul Form Transformation on himself, Kanlaon and Saena. Adrian just ordered Sirius to be the vanguard and jump from shadow to shadow as the torches are lighting the cave. Adrian then followed after Sirius.

"I really need to visit the summoner tower later and get the skill book Shared Senses. If I use that I could see what Sirius sees as long as I could sense him using the soul link." Adrian thought.

Adrian was afraid to go inside summoner towers or mage towers because there might be some NPCs with higher persona than him. Still, Adrian really wanted to get skill books for him and Kanlaon to increase their battle prowess. A few minutes later, Adrian could feel that Sirius became mad for some reason. Still, Sirius did not act up and controlled his emotions.

Adrian wanted to ask but they manage to catch up to Sirius. Adrian arrived in what seems like an altar but it was not holy. Adrian could smell something foul in the air. He then saw three hooded individuals and five thug looking men dragging along a weak old man.

Adrian wanted to jump to save the old man but his body was frozen. Adrian was again subjected to a cut-scene and was forced to watch the horror the acolytes will commit. The thugs gave the old man to one of the hooded individuals and was given a small bag that produced a clink. The thugs then left after saying, "Pleasure doing business with you".

The thugs then left as if they did nothing wrong and they would probably look for another victim. The old man was then shaking as his head was held by the acolyte. The old man then saw what was under the hood and fainted due to fear. The old man even peed but the acolytes seemed not to mind.

The old man was then placed in the middle of the altar while the acolytes were chanting words. A few seconds later, muscle like tendrils sprouted from the ground and enveloped the old man. The old man woke up as he felt immense pain. His shout reverberated inside the temple but was later muffled as his body was being absorbed by the muscle tendrils.

A few moments later, the old man was no longer there. The face of the old man was then seen on the muscle tendril that absorbed him. Adrian who saw that felt his skin tingle.

"That's extreme even for me!"

## Chapter 130 - Faceless Ones

Adrian finally regained the ability to move his body once again. The three acolytes are finally done with their chant as they were no longer speaking. The muscle tendril retreated back into the altar floor as if it was never there. Adrian decided that this was the perfect chance to strike as the three acolytes knelt down and prayed.

Kanlaon immediately used his breath attack and the three acolytes were caught unaware. The robes of the acolyte started burning and frozen at the same time. Whenever the fire touches a frozen part, a little explosion would ensue. The acolytes screamed in pain as they experience their flesh being burned and frozen at the same time.

The breath attack ended and the robes of the acolytes are no longer gone. When Adrian looked at them, he was shocked. The acolytes had no face and even genitals. The three acolytes' head had no eyes, nose and ears. Their face only consisted of a mouth. Adrian decided to inspect them to learn more about them.

Monster: Faceless One

Level: 70

HP: 54,478 / 100,000

MP: 73,793/ 100,000

Description: Humanoid monsters said to worship the dark god who has a million faces. It is said they were created to give sacrifices to their god. Using the power granted to them by their god, they would be able to assume any being as long as they have sacrificed that being to their god. They may be able to assume anyone's face but they are unable to perfectly copy their victim's personality.

Adrian was once again shocked as he thought they were NPCs but apparently are monsters with humanoid shapes. The faceless ones then started a small chant and three small muscle tendrils pierced their heads. Adrian was caught off-guard as he thought they committed suicide but he was more shocked on what happened next.

The faceless ones suddenly gained faces. The muscle tendril was absorbed by them and the three transformed into three different persons. The first faceless one became a dark elf assassin which suddenly wielded dual daggers. The second faceless one became an orc and it suddenly wielded a greatsword. The third faceless one became the old man that was absorbed before but he was now wearing wizard robes.

The first to charge at Adrian was the orc but Kanlaon intercepted it with his body. The greatsword did not even manage to break a scale from Kanlaon's body but the latter was still damaged due to blunt force. The dark elf disappeared but Adrian ordered Sirius to pounce on it if it ever strikes him.

Adrian enlarged his demi-gauntlets and pounced straight towards the mage like a rocket. Adrian saw the old mage chant after his transformation. Adrian used Assault Charge and Chrono Shift to boost his speed further. Adrian did not expect that it was so effective so he bumped into the old mage rather than strike the latter.

Adrian still disrupted the chant either way but he was stuck in an awkward position. The dark elf assassin suddenly revealed himself and pounced at Adrian. The dark elf assassin thought that its attack would be successful but was caught off-guard by a giant wolf emerging from Adrian's shadow.

Sirius immediately used the opportunity to bite the neck of the dark elf assassin. The force of Sirius' attack sent the two of them about three meters away from Adrian's location. The old mage then used some of its mana to create a force field that extended to send Adrian flying.

Adrian unfurled his wings to which the old mage noticed. The old mage started throwing profanities because they learned what Adrian was.

"Vile demon! You dare disturb our peaceful worship!" the old mage said.

Adrian was surprised but remembered that they were servants of dark gods. They only assumed the faces of these individuals so Adrian did not need to hold back. Adrian activated Quantum Cascade and chose the three transformed faceless ones.

Adrian gathered them into one location and told Kanlaon and Sirius to bombard them with their skills. Kanlaon immediately fired off his breath attack. The three faceless ones once again screamed as two different extreme temperatures were blasting them. Sirius used Phantom Rush to finish off the three since Kanlaon's attack only brought them to very low health.

The three faceless ones perished but Adrian was not happy.

"They did not even drop items or even coins at least." Adrian protested.

More importantly, Adrian did not even see a mission complete notification. A few seconds later, something was sprouting from the altar. Adrian and his soulbounds all looked towards the altar. A new faceless one was born and this one immediately transformed to the orc that they previously battled.

They once again entered in battle. But every time they kill one, another one pops out. It was like an infestation but this one was a headache. They might kill one easily but their stamina is draining with every fight.

"There must be some way to finish this quest without me getting drained." Adrian thought.

Adrian then looked towards the altar and thought about destroying it. He then thought it through and decided it was feasible. The altar was the thing that was continuously summoning the faceless ones anyway.

Adrian used his skill Summon Psyche Armament: Sword. The enlarged version came out since the demi-gauntlets were enlarged as well. Adrian then plunged the sword onto the altar and heard a shrill scream came out of it.

A shockwave then sent Adrian flying but he manage to stabilize himself using his wings.

"One attack seems to be insufficient." Adrian said as he also told Sirius and Kanlaon to attack the altar which baffled the two at first.

Every time an attack landed on the altar, it would shriek as if it was hurt. A few attacks later, the whole place would also shake as if the whole temple was its body. Adrian eventually used all three skills of the armament. With a deafening shriek as if something was dying, the whole cave structure finally started coming down.

"The whole place is coming down!" Adrian shouted.

Adrian then urged all of his soulbounds to run towards the exit. Adrian rode Sirius and Kanlaon held Saena in his arms as they dashed towards the exit. The whole place was falling apart. Rocks were falling from the ceiling hindering them from escaping.

The group was almost hit by a stalactite but Sirius managed to skillfully evade it. Kanlaon though just powered through as the rocks could barely damage him. After a few minutes, the exit showed themselves and Adrian could not be happier. He felt like he was in an action movie and adrenaline was pumping in his veins.

Adrian watched as the carving on the cliff was crumbling as if it was never there. Adrian then heard a ding and looked at the system notification. It seems he managed to successfully complete the mission but he was then surrounded by thugs. The thugs were there to witness the cave structure collapsing.

Adrian though did not see the thugs but the captives that they held. It looks like some of them were beaten up a bit before being delivered. Adrian was seething with anger that he did not even bother waiting for the thugs to recover from the incident. Adrian immediately ordered Kanlaon and Sirius to take care of them.

It did not take long for the two soulbounds to dispose of the thugs. Adrian then ordered Saena to heal the captives so that they could return by themselves as Adrian did not know where they stay. It seems that the thugs are not just from Whiterock Village but others as well because he does not recognize the faces of those who came.

There was still fear in the faces of those captive because Adrian had two great beasts beside him and one was even a dragon. Adrian then told them to get help from Whiterock Village that was nearby and report to them what has happened. The captives generously thanked Adrian and went on their way as soon as daylight began to pierce the heavens.

Adrian though was now only looking at his system notifications.

[You have successfully completed the quest Hidden Darkness.]

[You have also completed the extra quest Clean Up.]

[You have been rewarded the Faceless Mask.]

[You have been awarded 100% experience points. It was multiplied to 300% due to your experience multiplier.]

[Player Equinox has leveled up]

[Sirius has leveled up]

[Kanlaon has leveled up]

[Saena has leveled up]

....

Adrian immediately checked the item as he was curious on what it could do.

Item: Faceless Mask

Tier: Rare

Type: Face Accessory

Effect: Transform into a target. You will perfectly mimic the physiology of the target but upon taking damage, the transformation would be cancelled.

Charges: 10/10

Cooldown: 1 day

Description: A mask that looks like it is made of muscle from a fallen faceless one. Who knows what other people will do with it. Hopefully not something indecent.

"Why does the description look like it is insinuating something?"