

## O Summoner 151

### Chapter 151 - Vampires

While Adrian was of in his adventures...

Mina logged back in the game and what greeted her was darkness. She touched her surroundings and concluded that she was enclosed into something. She did not panic and tried pushing the top of what enclosed her first.

Mina actually sighed with relief when she managed to push the cover of whatever enclosed her. Light pierced onto the enclosure when she lifted the cover. Mina raised her body from the closure in a sitting position.

What greeted Mina was walls of a luxurious room. It felt like she was treated as a princess because of the room decoration. The only difference from a colorful princess room was the gothic like aesthetic. The walls are of a dark color and the curtains are red like blood.

Mina did not understand how she came to this place because the last thing she knew was being bitten in her neck. She looked at her body and noticed that even her clothes were different.

She went towards a mirror that was present in the room. Her looks actually shocked her because it changed. She touched her face because it was now different and she actually became more beautiful.

Her hair now reached her lower back and are now crimson red in color. Her eyes are also crimson red. She now looked like a dangerous beauty. Her sleeveless dress was made of something like black spider webs and so was her gloves and long stockings. Her skirt was pink in color and her boots are red.

Although she did look hot, the fashion was a little lacking in her opinion. A little while later, she heard footsteps coming towards the room. She wanted to become battle ready but there was actually no weapons in her inventory. She still had her arms though so she was ready to strike whenever it was dangerous.

The door opened a creaking sound was heard. Mina was ready to strike but then she saw who the person actually was.

"Sister Leticia?!" Mina shouted.

"Warrior Lady?" Leticia said in a nonchalant tone.

Mina was about to disengage but she then remembered what this woman did to her. Mina charged towards her because she wanted to slap the living daylights out of Leticia. Leticia saw the anger in Mina's eyes but she did not move.

When Mina was about to hit Leticia, her hand actually stopped an inch before the latter's face. Mina was stunned because she did not stop her hand. It felt like there was an invisible force that was stopping Mina from hitting Leticia.

"You are not able to hit your progenitor Warrior Lady." Leticia said with a smile and Mina saw the fangs that bit her.

"What did you do to me?" Mina shouted.

"Nothing important. I just made you into my kin. Be glad because you are now a higher ranking species." Leticia said casually.

Mina then calmed herself and looked at her status.

Name: Solstice

Race: Erebian

Species: Vampire (Knight)

Title: The First Vampire, Edelblud Kin

Job: Warrior

Sub Job: None

LVL: 10

Mina named herself Solstice because Adrian named himself Equinox. She wanted to name her character with a bit relevance to her brother. The biggest difference between the equinox and the solstice is that a solstice is the point during the Earth's orbit around the sun at which the sun is at its greatest distance from the equator, while during an equinox, it's at the closest distance from the equator.

"My name is Solstice not warrior lady, little girl." Mina replied.

"I am not a little girl. I am much older than you. In vampire years, you are considered as a newborn. You should show your elders respect." Leticia said while puffing up her chest.

"Okay then. If my term is correct then according to my brother then you are called a loli hag." Mina blurted.

When Leticia heard the term loli hag, a vein popped on the top of her head. Leticia immediately hit Mina's head so fast that the latter could not even dodge it.

"Ouch!" Mina exclaimed while she clutched her head.

"I do not know what this term loli hag is but it seems that it is derogatory to me. I just applied punishment to you. I hope that you do not offend me again in the future." Leticia warned.

Another set of footsteps was then heard and it was also heading towards the room. The person that came in was an old looking man that is wearing a butler uniform. The old man had grayish hair but carried a refined atmosphere.

"Mistress Leticia, the main hall has been prepared." The butler stated.

The butler then saw that Mina was awake and said, "It seems the Young Miss is also awake. Will she join you mistress?"

"Yes, she will join. Please brief her on the way, Alfred. And you follow me." Leticia stated as she exited the room Mina was in.

"Please stand properly, Young Miss." Alfred said with respect.

"You can just call me Mi...Solstice." Mina replied.

"I cannot do that as you are of ancient blood, Young Miss." Alfred replied as he helped Mina fixed herself.

Mina was shocked because she heard that she was of ancient blood. Mina then asked what this meant because this is all new information to her.

"What do you mean of ancient blood?" Mina asked.

"You were converted by Mistress Leticia Edelblud into a vampire. House Edelblud is one of the oldest vampire lineages. The house has stood the test of time. Also, Mistress Leticia Edelblud herself is one of the five remaining Vampire Dukes." Alfred stated as they were still walking towards the main hall.

"What is a Vampire Duke?" Mina asked as she was curious. Adrian told her about this persona thing and different races have different ratings.

"Vampires are divided into nobilities and each rank increases their power. The rankings are as follows: Knight, Baron or Baroness, Viscount or Viscountess, Earl or Countess, Marquess or Marchioness, Duke or Duchess, Prince or Princess, King or Queen. The higher the rank, the higher the power and respect gained." Alfred stated.

Mina was listened attentively because this was important information. She digested the things that Alfred was saying to her. She learned that she is currently in Edelblud Manor that is located inside a secret territory somewhere in the empire.

"Although you are a vampire Miss Solstice, we condemn those who enjoy and indulge in drinking blood. Vampires do not really need to drink blood often but some become addicted. Those addicted are no longer considered as nobles but only bloodthirsty beasts." Alfred stated.

"What I really want to know is why was I chosen by the lol...Leticia?" Mina asked.

"Tis but a simple reason. You are special and I like your attitude. You are adventurous but cautious. You also have this mature air that you always carry. You are different to the others that I thought was candidates." Leticia stated to which Mina felt a bit warm.

"So what do vampires do anyway? What are the special powers we get?" Mina asked as she was curious.

"Right now, you just have to become strong Miss Solstice. You need to reach the Mistresses' level for very serious matters. Vampires are endowed with the special Blood Magic. The Blood Magic you can use is dependent to what family you hailed from." Alfred stated.

"What does the Edelblud family blood magic do?" Mina asked as she wanted to know what her abilities are.

"The Edelblud family has been famed for their mastery over blood to conjure up weapons. They are famed for the hardening of blood for it to become a lethal weapon. You also possess that ability since you are of Edelblud kin. You will be taught later but now is your social debut." Alfred stated.

"Social debut?" Mina asked cluelessly.

Alfred did not answer the question and they stopped walking when they arrived at a large grand door. Alfred opened the door and a grand choir suddenly sang. Mina was flabbergasted as she did not know what was happening. Mina looked at Leticia to see if she could explain but the latter just smirked.

◆◆She knew this was going to happen!" Mina thought.

"Mistress Leticia and Miss Solstice is now entering." Alfred announced.

All of the people in the room looked towards the two who have entered. Mina looked at them and was shocked. The people in the room were not ordinary but actually vampires. All of them have red eyes but only Leticia and Mina have red hair.

"Well come now. Follow me my kin." Leticia stated and Mina felt compelled to obey.

The two of them walked towards to what looked like two decorated chairs. Leticia stopped at a grand looking chair while Mina was told to stand at the chair beside the former's chair. All eyes were on them the whole time. It was not hostile looking eyes but rather eyes full of respect or reverence.

"We shall begin the party but first let me introduce you to our new family member. Her name is Solstice and starting today she is now an Edelblud. Let us warmly welcome Solstice Edelblud" Leticia stated and applause rang throughout the room.

Mina looked at the system notification that surface after Leticia's announcement.

[Your name has been changed from Solstice to Solstice Edelblud.]

Chapter 152 - Godly Poison?

Adrian checked the last two sites that were below level 100 but turned out it was a bust. He did grind experience for levels though as he only had hours left before the experience multiplier disappears. Adrian managed to reach level 99 but had trouble increasing the experience to get to level 100.

Although people say that it is easy to reach level 100, it is actually easy to get to level 99 but takes a bit more effort to get to level 100. Others easily bulldoze this level by getting missions that give one level but those types of missions are scarce. Others hunt for raid bosses and try to get in the top 10 in terms of contribution to get that level bonus.

"Where am I even getting a raid boss? The top guilds practically hunted them to extinction and the official site said that it takes one in-game year to produce one. Should I actually call in a favor for the Evergreen guild?" Adrian pondered.

Adrian was then logged out because he already consumed all game hours. He was just in time for dinner as her mother shouted that dinner was ready.

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During dinner time.....

"Son eat your vegetables. There are kids in this world that do not eat. You should be thankful that you can eat" Adrian's mom warned because he was not touching the vegetables in his plates.

"Okay, mom. Even though eating it will not make them full but I get the sentiment." Adrian murmured.

"What did you just say?" Adrian's mom asked.

"Nothing. I just said that I will eat it even if I do not want to. So sis, what happening for you in-game? Is there anything interesting?" Adrian replied immediately.

"Just some shady powers trying to take over Vampires and throwing them to a war against the Werewolves. Fortunately, I can move behind the scenes to hopefully prevent that from happening so that both species will not end up extinct. What about you? Did anything interesting happen?" Mina replied as if it was nothing big.

"Nothing much. I just need to collect something called crown fragments so that a war between the living and the undead does not happen. If I fail then the world will probably be plunged in everlasting darkness and chaos that would definitely make the gods descend to help. Other than that everything is peachy." Adrian casually replied.

"Why do I feel that you people are talking about something very important? Is it from that game of yours that both of you are playing? Adrian's father asked.

"Yup" Both Adrian and Mina replied.

"Is the game really that great? In the news, they said that the players already reached 3.5 billion players which is almost half the population of the world. What is so interesting about it anyway?" Adrian's mom asked as she heard that Pandemonium is really popular in the news.

"Pandemonium is probably popular because it is the craze for young people. For older people, it is probably because they could live out their childhood fantasies and take a break from the real world. I hear seniors also play the game because some use it as recreational activity. A grandpa even managed to hook a leviathan because he became a great fisherman in the game. It is rumors though." Adrian answered.

"Why don't you two try it? You two just enjoy each other's company all day. You just relax in the house or watch television. Teledramas are so early 2000s." Mina stated.

"I would but your dad is too competitive." Adrian's mom joked.

"I am not. It is you who is too passionate." Adrian's father rebutted and all four people laughed. They finished dinner happily.

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The next day came and Adrian already saw Mina already logged in into the game.

"Strange? Why is she already playing?" Adrian thought and then Marlon messaged him.

Marlon: Did you hear the news?

Adrian: What news?

Marlon: The UN already approved the 15 hour gaming time. Although it is only applicable for those with premium gamepods that have 98% sync rate and above. It is applicable because the medicinal agent used for that will greatly lessen the body's stress.

Adrian: So that is why Big Sister Mina is already logged in even though it is quite early. Bro, an extra nine hours is like huge. The gap between pro players and the general public will widen even more due to this.

Marlon: I know right. Also tell Big Sis Mina that my birthday is coming soon.

Adrian: Why?

Marlon: So she could upgrade my gamepod of course!

Adrian just disconnected from chatting with his best friend due to the last remark.

"Crap! My birthday is still next year. Should I sell my gold coins? I need about 50 thousand dollars to upgrade my pod. I currently have about eight thousand gold coins. I should sell five thousand while the exchange rate is still high." Adrian thought as he went to his gamepod and logged back in.

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Adrian logged back in the game and he materialized at the Paradox Planes. He sent his gold coins for exchange so that he could upgrade his gamepod a little bit earlier than planned.

"If I actually stream and get famous then I might just earn it easier but I am not strong enough to stream just yet." Adrian said with a sigh as he walked towards Koronn's house to ask about the progress with the poison.

Adrian arrived once again at Koronn's house and the same thing happened again. He was sucked inside a vortex and landed on a familiar room which is filled with clocks. He saw Koronn with a disheveled look with huge eye bags.

"Did you even sleep, elder?" Adrian asked as he was worried a bit.

"Staying awake for a few days is not a problem but this poison is my problem." Koronn shouted.

"Why is it a problem?" Adrian asked.

"I cannot identify it. The composition is out of this universe. It is as if this poison did not come from our world thereby breaking the balance of nature and making it even deadlier. It is fascinating." Koronn stated like a mad scientist.

"If it is not from this world then maybe it came from a dark god?" Adrian casually asked but even he did not believe it.

Koronn then suddenly looked at Adrian as if he had an epiphany.

"Of course! Why did I not consider that? But where did you hear about the dark gods?!" Koronn suddenly stated.

"I just see these events from time to time." Adrian replied.

"I see." Koronn stated.

"I see what?" Adrian asked.

"I see that you are crazy. You should probably get checked up on the head. It might be a serious sickness." Koronn stated nonchalantly.

"I am not a crazy person. I just see these flashes of events from time to time." Adrian stated as he did not know how to describe cutscenes.

"That is what a crazy person would say. I fear for the champion picked by the twin gods." Koronn stated.

Adrian just rolled his eyes and said, "Anyway back to the poison. Can you test if it came from a dark god?"

"Easy." Koronn answered.

Koronn dropped a few drops of the poison on a petri dish. He beckoned Adrian to come closer which the latter did. When Adrian was really close to Koronn, the latter suddenly used a spell that froze Adrian in his place.

Koronn then suddenly lifted a scalpel to which Adrian suddenly panicked because he thought the former was injecting him with the poison.

"Calm down. I am just taking a drop of your blood. You have higher concentration of Asmodian blood in you. We will need that to test if this poison really came from a dark god." Koronn stated.

"You could have just said so instead of freezing me in place." Adrian thought as he was not able to speak.

Koronn then punctured one of Adrian's fingers and collected a drop of blood before releasing the latter from the time freeze. Adrian was about to complain but Koronn was already observing what was happening to the petri dish.

Koronn swirled the petri dish so that the poison touched the drop of blood. What happened next amazed both Adrian and Koronn. When the poison touched the drop of blood, it emitted something like a cry as if it was a living being that was attacked.

Koronn swirled it again so that all of the poison would go towards the drop of blood. A cry resounded and then a miniature shockwave was emitted that cracked the petri dish. The drop of blood was finally devoured by the poison as if it was a living being.

"This confirms it. This poison is definitely very powerful and possibly came from a dark god." Koronn stated in a serious tone.

"What do you mean by possibly?" Adrian asked.

"Possibly because your blood is not pure Asmodian blood. Asmodian blood is very precious as it has traces of divinity from the twin gods. They are the first creations after all. This poison could either came from a dark god or a mythical monster with terrible poison abilities that has been transformed by a dark god." Koronn stated in a grave tone.

"If it came from a mythical monster that is possess then perhaps we have a chance but if it came from a dark god." Koronn stated but never finished the sentence as he had a very serious look in his eyes.

#### Chapter 153 - Creating Talismans

Adrian was staring at the vial of poison that he retrieved from Koronn. The vial of poison now had a different description compared to it was before.

Item: Poison that probably came from a Dark God?

Tier: Legendary (???)

Type: Miscellaneous

Effect: Able to possibly corrupt the life of beings without divine power by eating the life out of them bit by bit like poison.

Description: A vial containing a poison appraised by Koronn who is an elder of the Daemos race. It could either be a poison secreted by a dark god hiding in the world or from a mythical monster possessed by a dark god. Further test is needed in order to prove the claim.

"Thanks for helping me. I guess." Adrian said with a judging tone.

"What do you mean I guess? I clearly helped you albeit not completely because we have no idea of the origin of the poison is." Koronn stated with a slight blush as even he is ashamed that he did not manage to find the origin of the poison.

"Uhuh. I was the one who even coined that term to you anyway but still I am thankful. This still does not help me in anyway on how I could cure the dying world tree. Any ideas?" Adrian stated.

"You should probably find an elder dryad or elder leshy to help you with that. They would be more knowledgeable than a dryad that has not evolved to a higher existence. But last time I checked, they are either dead or sleeping indefinitely. Good luck with that." Koronn said and then Adrian was sucked in a hole once again.

Adrian then landed on a sitting position outside of Koronn's house. He stood immediately and proceeded to summon his soulbounds. Adrian decided to get help from Evergreen because even his friends do not have a sure way to pass the level 100 threshold. They are in their upper 90s though and just grinding to get to level 99.

Adrian then contacted Cersei as she was the first person he met that is related to the Evergreen guild. Cersei immediately responded as if she was waiting for Adrian to contact her.

Adrian: Do you perhaps have access to a raid boss? I need one so that I could level up. Of course, I would give something in exchange. I hate to owe you guys a big favor.

Cersei: I see no problem with your request. We do have access to one. I can give you a spot for the ten players that will have the top contributions. You just requested it on time as we will raid one three days from now so get prepared.

Adrian: Really! That is great. Thank you very much. I will repay this favor or I will just give you my rewards for the contribution rankings.



Cersei: No worries. We can talk about the payment when we get there. See you in three days in Spiral Peak.

Adrian: Thank you.

Adrian ended the chat and sighed with relief. He now has access to level 100 and just needed to wait for three days and stock up on items.

"What should I do next?" Adrian thought.

Adrian pondered for a while and then suddenly remembered that he has yet to make talismans. He can make talismans that will either have a one-time effect on either friend or foe. He then took his Scribe journal that is collecting dust on his inventory even though dust does not even enter the inventory.

Adrian then read the part on how to create talismans. The first step is acquire a piece of enchanted paper. Adrian has about a hundred pieces of those that was given to him by his Scribe Master Aernas. The second step would be the scribe's pen which he also took out from his inventory.

The third step is to understand the runes that you want to embed. Since he is still a beginner scribe, he is limited to three runes that he can inscribe. It is all about matching the perfect ones. Each rune also has different difficulties to inscribe. It takes both talent and hard work to achieve understanding the strongest runes.

Adrian can currently use ten basic runes, three intermediate runes and one advance rune. He can use those because those are what was given to him by Aernas in the study session or test he was given. If he wanted more then he needed to get back to Aernas when he achieved Intermediate Mastery on being a scribe.

The last step and the most important one is embedding the runes on the enchanted paper. Adrian decided to test his talisman making skills and brought out one enchanted paper.

"What should I make? An offensive one? Or a defensive one? According to blacksmiths, it is easier to make an offensive weapon rather than a defensive one so maybe that concept also applies to talismans." Adrian murmured while he shortly observe his soulbounds playing with each other.

Adrian thought of the three runes he could inscribe. It takes about a hundred mana to use one basic rune. Five hundred mana for an intermediate tune and double that amount for an advance rune. Even though Adrian does not want to fail, he also wants to test his limits and start of by using the advance rune.

The advance rune that Adrian can currently use is called Fortify. He wanted to mix it with two basic runes that is Burn and Blast. Adrian started to first write the two basic runes which he had no problems in writing. The Burn rune was shaped like a fire symbol while the Blast rune looked like a mushroom cloud explosion.

Adrian then tried to write the Fortify rune which is shaped like a shield. Adrian does not know what effect this rune will have on two offensive runes but he wanted to experiment. As he was trying to write down the Fortify rune, he suddenly felt that his mind felt heavy.

It felt like a heavy object was suddenly placed above his head. He gritted to the heavy feeling and tried to finish but he suddenly made a mistake on the stroke. A small explosion then sounded and the thing that produced that was the enchanted paper Adrian was writing on.

[You have received 500 damage.]

[The enchanted paper has been eviscerated. Enchanted Paper -1]

Adrian was shocked because of what happened but the heavy feeling was gone when he failed.

"Who knew that writing on paper could be deadly?! The damage I took is nothing to scoff at. Is this what it means with the famous saying that a pen is mightier than the sword? I need to try again but using all basic runes first. Even with my success bonus, I still managed to fail" Adrian stated.

Adrian once again tried. He used the Burn and Blast runes once more and added the Range rune which looks like an arrow. He managed to safely make this one and a talisman was successfully created.

[You have successfully made the Flame Arrow Talisman.]

Adrian immediately checked the details of the talisman he created.

Item: Flame Arrow Talisman

Tier: Common

Type: Consumable

Effect: Consume the talisman in order to release an arrow made of flames that travels in a straight line. If the arrow collides with something then it will explode and deal damage. The first to be hit by the arrow will be dealt with 100% of the player's damage and the others in the two meter blast radius will be dealt with 50% of the player's damage.

Cooldown: 1 minute

Description: A common talisman made by a Beginner Scribe that has yet to make a name for himself.

Although Adrian was a bit offended by the description, he was still happy that he succeeded. This talisman was useful for long range players caught off-guard by melee players. They could just use the rune to create some distance for the melee player. Adrian made nine more of these and one of them was even uncommon.

The uncommon Flame Arrow Talisman has 10% more damage more damage than the common one. Adrian actually tried to double the mana used and it worked but it only increased the talisman tier by one. It was still a good achievement for his first batches of talismans.

Adrian then decided to make a defensive talisman this time. Adrian wanted to use the fortify rune with this one as he might succeed. He could only hope that he could bear the heavy feeling when trying to draw that rune.

The runes Adrian chose was one basic rune, one intermediate rune, and one advance rune. The basic rune is Block which has the shape of a square. The intermediate rune was Projectile which had the shape of a curved arrow and the last was Fortify.

Adrian managed to write the basic rune easily. The intermediate one though, he felt something weighing on his head but it was not that heavy. It felt like he was wearing a hat. When he was attempting the Fortify rune, he felt that immense heavy feeling once more.

Adrian managed to power through and was about to complete the rune but he made a small mistake once more. The enchanted paper once again exploded right in front of his face and he was once again damaged.

"Ahhhh. This is irritating!" Adrian shouted.

#### Chapter 154 - Spiral Peak

A laugh was heard in an open area in the Paradox Planes. The people who saw the person laughing like a maniac did not react as if they were already used of this kinds of event. The person laughing like a madman was non-other than Adrian.

Adrian was laughing maniacally because he finally succeeded in making a talisman with the advance rune. He used the Defend, One, and Fortify skill to finally make a talisman. The talisman was even epic rated. The only problem is that he burned fifty enchanted paper just to make that one. He did get desirable rewards from it though.

[You have unlocked the Persistence Stat. Current Persistence = 1]

[You managed to create an Epic Rated talisman. Intelligence increased by 5.]

"Hahahahahaha. I finally succeeded. I am the victor!" Adrian shouted while those who saw him just avoided their gaze.

Item: One Chance Talisman

Tier: Epic

Type: Consumable

Effect: Consuming the talisman will cover the user with mysterious energy that will help block an attack that will be deadly. The effect will only trigger when the user will receive a fatal attack.

Cannot be overlapped with other talismans with the same type.

Duration: 1 day

Cooldown: 1 minute

Description: An epic talisman made by an amateur scribe that has yet to make a name for himself. He might have lucked out with this one.

Adrian did increase his Scribe mastery but it did not bring him all the way to Intermediate Scribe Mastery. He tried making talismans with basic runes but it was only increasing by a miniscule amount compared to when he made the offensive talismans.

"It seems I would need to grind to advance to an Intermediate Scribe. I cannot do it today because the raid will be tomorrow morning at 8:00. I need to be early for that. Fortunately, there is a fracture that leads directly to Spiral Peak." Adrian thought.

Adrian sealed back his soulbounds and logged out of the game. He needed to be early in logging back in. Thankfully, his family has breakfast at 6:50 in the morning. He could still make it in time or even earlier as long as he is not a sloth when it comes to food.

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The next day...

Adrian logged back in the game at 7:30 in the morning. He wanted to be early because he might have missed something important before the raid. He was taught to be ready for any type of situation as being unprepared would endanger anyone.

He checked all his potions if there was anything missing. Since he could monopolize Jianna's potions, he bought one for each status effect. An elixir that could cleanse any status condition was still not available in the game as it was treated as legendary potions. It is said only the royal alchemist of the empire could brew them.

"Ok. I am all set. I will head off now." Adrian said.

He already cast Glamour on himself. He opted to use Spirit Form Manifestation on Kanlaon while Sirius and Saena are as is. He stepped foot on the spatial fracture leading to Spiral Peak. Adrian also read information regarding Spiral Peak since he logged out early.

Spiral Peak is a large dungeon with fifteen floors but it is said to be currently guarded by Evergreen. Unlike other guilds who just force others to pay, the Evergreen guild has the dungeon token for this one. A dungeon token is a drop for dungeons that are extremely hard to get and it was revealed that the drop rate is 0.001%.

Also the dungeon must enter its extreme cycle. The extreme cycle is when a dungeon becomes three times more difficult and is said to only happen once every three months in game. Spiral Peak is a mountainous dungeon that are filled with monsters that can survive in rocky territory. The boss monster is said to be a Stone Golem.

There is also a raid boss that spawns here which is rumored to be a Rock Drake that only the Evergreen guild has access to because only they know its location. Adrian stepped inside the spatial fracture that led towards the Spiral Peak.

Adrian arrived at the foot of the dungeon. Spiral Peak is a special dungeon that is both a dungeon and an open field. Monsters from the sky can also attack those who trek towards the peak. The peak is where the dungeon boss spawns which is a Stone Golem.

Adrian arrived on the spot and walked towards the path to where the entrance is located. Since the Evergreen has the dungeon token, players not affiliated with them must pay a fine of five gold. Adrian arrived to the entrance in which a group of players has already formed.

Adrian knew they are from the Evergreen guild due to the guild emblem present on their armor. Adrian finally saw Cersei and immediately greeted her. He was a bit shy as Cersei was the only one he personally knew.

"Hello." Adrian greeted shyly.

"Oh! You are here early. That is great. We just need to wait for one more then. It seems our vice guild leader is joining and she is a bit late." Cersei mentioned to Adrian.

The other guild members then tried to size up Adrian as it was someone known by a guild adviser. They looked at him and thought that he was normal because his equipment did not even look like

high tier items. The only thing that is peculiar about him is the large wolf and large bird that is accompanying him.

"It seems that he is a summoner." Someone whispered.

"Yeah. I cannot seem to see his status. Is he concealing it? How rude." Someone whispered.

Adrian did not particularly mind their chattering because in his country there are many people like that. People who like gossiping because they encounter nothing fun in their lives. A beautiful elven man then approached Adrian and talked to Cersei.

"Is this the one you said that will take one of the spots guild adviser?" the elven man asked Cersei.

"Yes. He is a close friend of mine. Please treat him with courtesy." Cersei stated bluntly for everybody to hear.

The elven man seemed a bit shook for a moment but regained his stance.

"My name is Alder. May I inquire yours? As we are going to be comrades for this adventure." Alder stated.

"Equinox and as you can see I am a summoner. Sorry for being shy as I am not much of an extrovert." Adrian replied.

"I see then I hope we can help each other for this raid." Alder stated and bowed before leaving. He then went and mingled with the other guild members.

Adrian did not bother if he was disrespectful or not. He just asked Cersei about the details of the raid.

"So what is the line-up for this raid?" Adrian asked.

"As you can see, thirty people will be part of this raid. Ten are tankers and nine are healers. One summoner and that is Mariposa. The twenty of them are above level 100 while the ten of us are the main artillery that will deal damage to the raid boss so we can get the top contributions." Cersei stated.

Adrian only nodded and checked up his soulbounds conditions. Cersei then asked him about Saena as she did not see this form before.

"Is this that cute bird from before?" Cersei asked.

"Yup. It evolved so it now looks different. She is a healer type soulbound if you are wondering." Adrian replied.

Cersei was about to ask another thing but she saw a familiar beautiful woman walking towards them.

"Vice Guild Leader." Cersei said and did a slight bow.

"No need to pleasantries. Let us head in as we are all here anyway. Equinox nice to meet you again." Mariposa said.

"Nice to see you too." Adrian replied with a slight bow.

The group of thirty then proceeded to venture inside the dungeon. They entered normally but instead of ascending the peak they stood in front of a rock formation. Mariposa then held something like a rock and raised it with her right hand.

The surroundings suddenly shook but it was only a little bit as no one was outbalanced. The rock formation then parted to reveal a stairway leading downwards. Adrian was surprised as he thought they need to ascend to the peak first and clear the Stone Golem but they would descend instead.

"Okay. Tanks go in first and then the ten who need to level up next. Last would be the healers." Mariposa commanded and her dignity as a leader shine as she no longer had that gentle demeanor.

Adrian fell in line and descended the passage. The passage was like a hidden cave with huge stalactites growing on them.

"Be careful with aerial spells as they might hit the stalactites. If you hit one and it falls on you or a teammate then you will be reprimanded." Cersei stated as they calmly walked down the descending steps.

Mariposa then entered and held up the rock once more and the rock formation closed back up as if it never parted in the first place.

Chapter 155 - Calcite Bedrock I

[You have entered the hidden dungeon Calcite Bedrock.]

[Cersei invited you to the Evergreen Raid party. Do you wish to accept? Yes or No?]

[You have accepted the party invitation. Equal experience distribution has been set for the party.]

"A hidden dungeon! This must be a bonus dungeon and that token that looked like a rock must be a drop from the Stone Golem during the extreme cycle. This means that I no longer need to pay since this dungeon is a separate entity from Spiral Peak." Adrian thought as there was not a system notification that prompted him to pay a fine of five gold.

Adrian did not even need to ask as he only focused on the path before him. Sirius and Saena were following beside him. Sirius had his battle ready stance while Saena had an aloof expression. Kanlaon was flying above them and since he was in his soul form, he could pass through the stalactites but his mana was consumed doing so.

They marched until they are in a location where boulders that are five feet in height was seen.

"Stop and get ready for battle." Mariposa stated.

The members of the raid that were above level 100 readied their battle stance while the eight below level 100 was doubtful. Cersei was already chanting something and Adrian already summoned his bow Psyche Armament. Sirius already told him that enemies are near through their soul link.

It seems that Sirius could now speak using their soul link but he could still not utter words.

"What should I do master? Should I bombard them?" Kanlaon asked.

"Nope. You will only move when we are in real danger. It seems we could easily handle it anyways." Adrian replied.

Adrian then inspected the monsters that were camouflaged as rocks.

Monster: Rock Recluse Spider

Level: 105

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

MP: 100,000 / 100,000

Description: An arachnid species that is said to be part stone and part spider. It lazily sleeps all day but wakes up when intruders set forth in their territory. It is slow but it has high health and tough defense.

"Damage dealers get ready to take down the enemies. Tanks be vigilant and soak up the damage. Healers be ready to cast your recovery spells." Mariposa stated as she summoned one of her soulbounds which was a large praying mantis.

Adrian also told Sirius to join the attacks. The Rock Recluse Spider only have their backs made of rocks but their underbelly looked soft. Adrian told Sirius to aim for those parts while Saena will support him.

Sirius immediately dove to the shadows and reappeared with only his head and claws on the underbelly of one of the Rock Recluse Spiders that stood up. Sirius then clawed the underbelly to deal damage and also made spikes of shadows to pierce the underbelly of one.

[Your soulbound Sirius has dealt tremendous 21,321 damage to the Rock Recluse Spider due to hitting a weak spot.]

Adrian was a bit disappointed with the damage because if Sirius were to hit weak spots he should at least deal fifty thousand in damage.

"It is the level suppression. It seems to affect them more. I hope my soulbounds reach level 99 in this raid but that is a wish not a reality." Adrian murmured as he started shooting arrows at the Rock Recluse Spider that the tanks cornered.

"Only use low cooldown skills as the boss for this place is much more difficult." Mariposa commanded.

Adrian only used arrows made of mana to strike at the Rock Recluse Spiders. The tanks were getting the aggro of the spiders. Two tanks and healers are needed per spider. Since Saena is a healing soulbound, Adrian was assigned to the person with just one healer.

Adrian just poured his arrows towards the Rock Recluse Spider. Sirius was also focusing on the Rock Recluse Spider that Adrian attacked. The two tanks that is in Adrian's group had an easy time tanking the enemy because of Sirius attacks that would switch its aggro to him.

Sirius will take aggro because of his high damage and then one of the tanks will use a taunting skill to switch aggro to him. Due to this, the Rock Recluse Spider that they are fighting became confused. It seems their current enemy has low intelligence thereby is easily confused.

It took about ten minutes to kill one Rock Recluse Spider. It was easily handled as the spiders do not have a high attack damage. All the Rock Recluse Spider does is ram its body towards its aggressor or spit out small pebbles towards the tanks which they could easily block.

[You have gained experience points from defeating a Rock Recluse Spider.]

Adrian's group was the first one to finish off one of the spiders. Mariposa's soulbound which is the giant praying mantis is distracting the other Rock Recluse Spiders so that not all of them would charge towards them. It seems that they are also treating this raid as a training exercise as Mariposa would sometimes correct them when they make a mistake.

Adrian was paired up with a Hydromancer which is also the reason of their fast kill. Elemental advantages still play a part even in the most basic mobs. Since the spiders are mostly made of rocks, they are immediately weakened when water is applied as it softens their hide.

When their bodies becomes softer then it is easier to damage them. Adrian would sneak one or two piercing arrows so that it deals massive damage to the Rock Recluse Spiders. The other teams finished about two minutes after Adrian's group and the longest being fifteen minutes. Adrian's Netheros Bane also played a part in weakening the monster as taking 20% of its stats is big.

Adrian's group moved to another enemy and they did the same strategy. Although repetitive, it was a good way for the members of the raid to grow trust. The tanks that are in Adrian's group did not even go down below 90% of their health due to Saena's percentage healing. Coupled with their defense raising skills and Saena's healing, the tanks in Adrian's group are almost immortal. This was also akin to the skill of the tanks so Adrian was convinced that this was a professional tank.

It did not take long for the whole group to clear the whole floor of the Rock Recluse Spiders. The time was not that short because of the sheer number of the Rock Recluse Spiders that numbered up to 30. The drops of the enemies were actually just scraps of stone that was chunked from the Rock Recluse Spider's body. The spiders did not even drop coins just worthless rocks.

"Get ready! The next room is a mini-boss. It is not that powerful compared to these one but it has more attack options. The mini-boss is called the Rock Recluse Spider Queen. Her body is as big as a small hill so be careful getting close to her." Mariposa warned them as if she already knew the dungeon by heart.

"A mini-boss already. We just finished one layer and a mini-boss is already next. This dungeon is more than meets the eye.

## Chapter 156 - Calcite Bedrock II

The raid party went towards the next area by heading down below. They only walked about fifty meters and they already saw the entrance to the next area. The next area was even bigger than the previous one. The ceiling was about 100 feet in height with stalactites still seen scattered throughout.

Inside the cavern is a small looking rock hill that is twenty five feet in height. The giant rock hill was unmoving but Adrian knew that this was the mini-boss that they are going to face.

Monster: Rock Recluse Spider Queen (Mini-boss)

Level: 108



HP: 10,000,000 / 10,000,000

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

Description: An arachnid species that is said to be part stone and part spider. It lazily sleeps all day but wakes up when intruders set forth in their territory. It is slow but it has high health and tough defense. Like any queen of a species, its primary goal is to reproduce and create a swarm for it to conquer areas. It can use magic of the earth category in order to protect itself.

"It is three levels above the normal Rock Recluse Spider but it is five times the size of a normal one." Adrian murmured.

"Just bombard it with skills as this mini-boss is not mobile. It will shoot rocks at us like a machine gun when it fires back so the tanks must soak up all the damage. It can also regenerate by inhaling the scattered rocks in the area so be mindful. The only weak spot of this boss is when it exposes its mouth." Mariposa ordered.

The whole group once again did the offensive in their groups of six. Adrian immediately used the second skill of his bow Psyche Armament. His arrows now do piercing thereby negating the armor of the Rock Recluse Spider Queen.

The only limitation of this skill is the Soul Gauge that is currently sitting at 100 stacks of Soul Essence. One arrow with piercing effect cost about five essences and Adrian will not regenerate soul essences when the second skill is active. Effectively, Adrian could only fire twenty arrows with piercing effects towards the mini-boss.

Whenever Adrian shot an arrow, another arrow would follow after it. The arrow was fired by Alder the elven young man who introduced himself earlier. Although he did not state it, Alder looked like he was competing with Adrian as the former will fire his arrow in the same area where Adrian's arrow will hit.

Both of their arrows are magical in nature thus it could damage to the mini-boss. From Adrian's observation, Alder's class is close to a Magical archer. But when Adrian directed his gaze towards him, Adrian could see little creatures with different colors next to Alder.

"It seems he has a hidden class. Those look like elementals. He uses them to empower his arrows with attributes but it seems that he is not aware of them. Still it is pointless to compete, this is not even a competition." Adrian thought.

It did not take long for the Rock Recluse Spider Queen to drop towards 60% health. It then opened its mouth and pebbles that numbered in hundreds were spit out like a machine gun. It can even turn its body around to redirect the attack so that it spreads.

"It will continue to attack for ten minutes. Tankers get ready to soak the damage while the healers will keep you alive." Mariposa commanded.

The tankers then readied their shields and cast their defensive skills. Adrian then saw the opportunity to fire off his Shooting Star skill at the mouth of the mini-boss. Adrian drew the bow to its utmost limit and a bright shining light was collected on the arrow head.

When the Rock Recluse Spider Queen's mouth is in his line of sight, he fired the skill. Like its name, the shooting star blitz towards the mouth of the spider queen. The spider queen did not react in time and closed its mouth. The skill entered the mouth and the spider queen cried and it sounded like scratching a blackboard with your nails.

Those who are annoyed by the sound covered their ears while others just look disturbed. Adrian though was wide eyed because of the insane damage he just dealt.

[You have dealt a devastating 522,783 damage to the Rock Recluse Spider Queen.]

While the spider queen was still in pain and thrashing about, Mariposa ordered her giant praying mantis to attack the mini-boss. The giant praying mantis was as agile as Sirius and made its way to the mouth of the spider queen where it slashed at it with intense bloodlust.

The giant praying mantis was about ten feet tall and its scythe like claws was as big as its body which it has for of them. The wailing spider queen uttered a horrible screech once more and its eyes turned red. It seemed that they manage to trigger its berserk state despite it only being at 55% health.

The spider queen started to speed up towards them and was attempting to ram its aggressors to death. Adrian who saw this immediately sprinted away from the direction the spider queen is ramming.

"Tanks get ready to cast Rebound simultaneously. It would need all of us in order to knock it back." A burly man that had shining equipment stated.

As if taking the orders from their commander, the ten tank players all huddled together with their shields upfront.

"Damage dealers get ready to bombard it when it is knocked back." Mariposa ordered and summoned another soulbound that looked like an armored dragonfly.

"Master, that soulbound that the Insectomancer summoned has some draconic properties." Kanlaon said via their soul link.

"Interesting. It seems she is not the rank one summoner for nothing." Adrian thought.

"Tanks. Get ready to cast on my command." The burly man stated as his grip on his shield became tighter.

The Spider Queen was charging towards the tanks without even thinking of the danger. It was even screeching while doing so. When the spider queen was about one meter apart, the burly man shouted to activate the skill. The timing could not be more perfect as the moment the spider queen's body reached them, the body of the tanks glowed in a golden color.

There was a sound of a collision and then the huge body of the spider queen was sent backwards. Adrian saw this as an opportunity and immediately activated Orion's Wrath which is the third skill of the bow Psyche Armament.

Adrian flew to a height of eighty feet and use twenty Nether Energy to enchant each of his three attacks. The shooting star that shined like a brilliant platinum light became tainted with black and

gray energy. Adrian fired the three Nether Shooting Stars in succession in order to deal immense damage to the spider queen.

Every person in the raid could feel an oppressive energy when Adrian shot those arrows. They even saw a silhouette of horns and wings on Adrian but they were brought back to reality by a shout.

"What are you doing spacing out!? Hurry and use your skills to kill the mini-boss." Mariposa shouted.

All of them also used their damaging skills even the healers. A rain of different colored skill shots bombarded the spider queen and it finally shrieked one last time before the armored dragonfly emitted sonic attacks using its wings to finish it off.

[The party Evergreen Raid has successfully killed the mini-boss Rock Recluse Spider Queen.]

Chapter 157 - Calcite Bedrock III

[Your soulbound Sirius has leveled up.]

[Your soulbound Kanlaon has leveled up.]

[Your soulbound Saena has leveled up.]

The experience given by the boss monster was enough to level up Adrian's soulbounds. Saena is also close to leveling up once again. One more mini-boss and Saena will level up once more by Adrian's estimation. Adrian finally relaxed as his bow was becoming his demi-gauntlets once again but the raid party members are now looking at him differently.

Some are looking with awe while some with discontent looks due to their jealousy of not being useful enough. Mariposa and Cersei though wanted to ask Adrian why his skill was so full of oppressive force but opted not to. Obviously Adrian has secrets of his own and they are still in the development phase in terms of friendship.

Mariposa once again took charge and told the raid party to recollect themselves as there are still four more floors. She did however did not tell the raid group that the dungeon seems to have become difficult. Although they have already cleared this hidden dungeon, the Evergreen guild only managed to clear it five times.

The token to activate this hidden dungeon was a very rare drop from the extreme cycle Stone Golem. Mariposa feared that the hidden dungeon might have entered the extreme cycle which the guild has yet to experience. She could only pray that the layout did not change much and the boss was still a Magma Boa.

She urged the group to hurry and pick up the drops. Adrian did not pick up drops because he told Cersei that he will forfeit his rights for the items as payment for participating. Cersei was about to tell Adrian that he did not need to but Mariposa said yes. In return, should Adrian need raid party members then he will ask Cersei and Mariposa first if he is in need of members.

Cersei wanted to retort Mariposa but the latter only told her to accept Adrian's proposal because he was too adamant about it. Mariposa also secretly told Cersei that she will let Adrian pick an item as a "souvenir" for their raid and the latter also thought that was a good idea. They need to forge a friendship not a one sided relationship.

The rest of the raid party did not inquire of the skill as their commanders did not do so. The healer that was paired with Adrian praised him though as he did great with the mini-boss. The healer was actually a player that chose the gnome race and her name was Miracle. Adrian saw that she had great timing when it comes to healing allies but she is easily flustered.

Adrian accepted the complement and also praised her as it was common courtesy. The drops of the Recluse Spider Queen was a few gold coins, a shield and a silver soul stone. Adrian did not fancy the soul stone as he did not like immobile soulbounds. The Recluse Spider Queen might be a tank but she was more like fortress. It does not fit Adrian's playstyle but he also forfeited his rights for items.

After collecting everything, the raid party continued downwards and they noticed that the temperature actually became hotter. Adrian was fine due to the capabilities of his socketed Gem of Water in his armor. They continued down and could feel that the walls of the dungeon were hot. A few minutes later, they encountered a bridge made of stone and below it a river of magma.

"Be careful traversing the bridge. You will need speed to traverse this one as there are Magma Archerfishes. They will shoot magma towards you if they see you cross the stone bridge. There may be other dangers so always be alert. The trick here is to be quick. Some will ride my soulbounds but these two can only carry two at a time." Mariposa commanded.

"Sirius can carry one at a time." A voice sounded which their gazes went towards to that who spoke and it was Adrian.

"I mean my soulbound would be able to carry one person. I also think that we must lessen the weight because tanks usually carry heavy armor so it will affect the speed of the soulbounds." Adrian explained.

"That is actually a good idea. This game does emulate the laws of physics to some extent. We should do that. Tanks keep your equipment in your inventory first." Mariposa commanded.

The raid members were shocked because their Vice Guild Leader heeded the advice of an outsider but they followed without voicing their opinions.

"I will go first then." Adrian stated as he hopped on Sirius' back and they traversed the rock bridge that was about five hundred meters.

Mariposa was about to warn Adrian but the latter has already traversed a quarter of the bridge. The Magma Archerfishes showed their heads and tried shooting the magma with their mouths but Sirius already passed them and they reached the end without any difficulties. Sirius then ran back to the group awaiting his next passenger although he did not like the idea of letting someone other than Adrian on his back.

In just a few seconds, they traversed the whole bridge and back. Mariposa had to hand it to the wolf soulbound as it was both strong and fast. Her armored dragonfly and giant praying mantis still needed time to traverse it because they do not have much strength compared to Sirius.

At first the other people were wary of Sirius because they thought he might bite them but the wolf seemed annoyed that they are being too slow. Sirius bit the scruff of Miracles' clothes and flipped

her in the air then she landed on Sirius' back. She was then taken for a fast ride across the stone bridge. She was hanging for her life the entire time they were traversing the bridge.

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All of them made it pass the bridge. Some were grazed by the Magma Archerfishes but it was eventually healed. Some wanted to puke because of the super-fast ride. Those who wanted to puke were secretly admiring Adrian because the young boy looked fine.

Once the tanks equipped their items once again, the party continued on their way. The terrain now changed from the rocky walls to walls that pour in magma and there are even puddles of magma here and there. The raid party now had to be mindful of their location as they might accidentally kill themselves.

A few moments later, monsters are emerging from the bigger puddles of magma. The monsters that emerged are best described as giant frilled neck lizards that are red and orange in color. They are frilled neck because when they saw the raid party, the frills on their neck expanded that made their size larger and more menacing.

Monster: Agamagma

Level: 106

HP: 800,000 / 800, 000

MP: 500,000 / 500,000

Description: Agamagma are giant lizards said to take nest in the hottest of environments especially on volcanoes where there is an abundance of magma which is their food source. If threatened it will enlarge its body size by opening its frill in an attempt to intimidate its opponent. It sleeps in the magma so that it does not die because if its body goes below 10 degree Celsius then it will turn sluggish and eventually lead to its death.

There are currently ten Agamagma which rose from the magma puddles. The raid party once again split into their respective groups and faced two Agamagma's each. The battle was intense but relatively safe. Some of the Agamagmas that become low in health would retreat to a magma puddle and return after restoring some of its health.

Due to this occurrence, the tanks would intercept a fleeing Agamagma and the damage dealers would then finish them off. Not all were lucky though as some of the enemies were faster and would escape before they are killed. The battle lasted about three hours due to the behavior of the Agamagma which led some to lose stamina.

The intense heat coupled with the intense battle made the stamina bars of each member of the raid plummet. Adrian was fine due to his armor's socketed runestone but the others did not fare well. Adrian had to take charge of the battle and Sirius was perfect because this time the enemies could bleed.

"Phantom Rush" Adrian commanded.

Sirius broke free from the restraints of time and space. He then attacked all the Agamagma's that now numbered to twenty. The other raid members could only catch a glimpse of Sirius' shadow or

afterimage. The next thing they know is the Agamagma they are facing are turning into particles of light.

Mariposa was once again impressed by Sirius as she could slightly follow the latter's movements due to her peculiar eyesight. She made a mental note to find what species this wolf that was owned by Adrian was as she was interested in asking her other summoner guild members to get one.

Sirius cleaned up the battlefield relatively easy but he was still tired. Adrian had to give him rest with food and water as high heat environments are not Sirius' forte. Mariposa was about to command the others to rest but she then heard a hissing sound. She was definitely sure this was the boss but it should still be a few floors below.

## Chapter 158 - Magma Titanoboa

A hissing sound was then heard all throughout the dungeon room. All the members in the raid suddenly tensed up and was given a sudden system notification.

**\*EMERGENCY QUEST NOTIFICATION\***

Run For Your Lives

The dungeon mini-boss Magma Titanoboa was awoken from its sleep. Hurry and escape this room as it will pounce on all that is left here.

Time limit: 00: 05:00

Failure: All members of the raid will be wiped out.

Reward: Tempered Skin Buff (Temporary)

The hissing sound suddenly became more apparent. All the raid party members looked towards Mariposa as she did not say something like this was supposed to happen. Adrian thought something was amiss and saw the worry in Mariposa's face.

"Everyone clear the room! Get to the next location immediately. If you have mounts use them! This is a serious order!" Mariposa suddenly commanded.

The raid party members who saw their Vice Guild Leaders expression suddenly summoned their mounts if they have mounts. Only ten members have mounts and one could tell that they are the richer members of the raid as a mount would still cost a lot of gold.

Mariposa had to carry four members including herself on her two summoned soulbounds. It still left sixteen more members to fend for themselves. Adrian wanted to help them but even with Kanlaon, he can only carry ten more and that would leave six to die or fend for themselves.

"Kanlaon! Carry the tanks. They are the ones who do not have a mount." Adrian commanded.

The others were befuddled of what Adrian shouted but was shocked because a red dragon materialized out of thin air.

"That is my soulbound do not panic. Kanlaon can carry ten persons at his back but take off your equipment first to lessen his burden. The other two who are slow must ride on Sirius. Hurry!" Adrian commanded.

"What are you waiting for?! Hurry and get on his soulbounds." Mariposa shouted to which the players snapped out of their daze.

A few moments later, the earth suddenly trembled but all were already running to the next floor. Adrian summoned his sword Psyche Armament and immediately transformed it into its Twin Fang Form for the movement speed buff. Adrian would apply Chrono Shift to himself if he was still slow.

The other three party members who did not ride any mount was two assassins since they were fast enough on foot and Cersei who had a broom that can fly. A big crack sound was heard and Adrian was curious so he looked back. What he saw terrified him!

From the big crack, a huge snake head emerged. The snake head was covered with black scales and magma like lines were between them. The snake head was enough to swallow two people whole and it saw the raid members as food as it chased after them.

Those who looked back to see the source of the sound, wished that they did not. Nobody wants to know the insides of a giant snake. If the game, Pandemonium, taught Adrian one thing, it would be being swallowed whole means you would see the insides of said monster.

Adrian did not even inspect the giant snake as he was running for his life. If he suddenly stops for a moment, it could mean being trapped in a snake belly for a few minutes. He was not curious to know how the insides of a snake works.

It did not take long for the whole group to see the entrance to the next area. All the mounts pushed themselves to their limit and there was clear exhaustion written on their faces. Except for Kanlaon, he relished the heat in the area as he was a fire and frost dragon all at the same time.

After all of them entered the next room, the mounts slumped from the ground. Some mounts even turned into particles due to overexertion. Adrian too slumped on the ground as his stamina bar was already flashing red. Kanlaon safely put down the ten tank players as they re-equipped their armor and weapons.

Sirius and Saena also looked exhausted so Adrian fed them with food and water from his inventory. Due to the stamina bar existing, the sub job class Cook became a hit and many dishes that could greatly restore stamina became hot items. Adrian fed them and also Kanlaon as he also did a great job despite not being tired.

The others finally snapped from their exhaustion when Mariposa suddenly asked a question.

"Is that your dragon, Equinox?" Mariposa asked.

Adrian was expecting this question as he already revealed Kanlaon's form. He decided to not hide it anymore due to the predicament they just experienced. Adrian only replied with one word.

"Yes." Adrian answered.

Mariposa only nodded and expressed her thanks as if not for Adrian's quick thinking then they would have failed the raid. Adrian was stunned because he thought that Mariposa would inquire more but it seems she was mindful of the former's personality. The raid difficulty might have increased but it was still manageable to a certain degree. A few seconds later, a system notification appeared to all of them.

[You have successfully completed the emergency quest Run for Your Lives.]

[You have been given the temporary buff Tempered Skin.]

Buff: Tempered Skin

Effect: The heat from your surroundings will no longer be an element to decrease your stamina.

Duration: Until the player leaves the hidden dungeon Calcite Bedrock.

Many were relieved to receive the buff but someone finally questioned Mariposa about the situation. The one who questioned him was actually Alder.

"Vice Guild Leader, please tell us what is clearly happening. From your flustered expression earlier, it is easy to see that you did not expect this development for this raid." Alder questioned.

Some were stunned because a lower ranking member of the guild dared to ridicule the Vice Guild Leader.

"You may be the Guild Leader's brother but you should still show some respect." Mariposa rebutted.

Many were shocked because one of the person that was part of the raid was actually the guild leader's brother. Adrian saw their reaction and believed that no one actually knew the status of this Alder person. Adrian has too admit that he was a bit natural in leading from what he observed in the fights. Except for Alder's petty competitive attitude that needed work, he would make an excellent leader.

"And you!" Alder said while pointing to Adrian.

"Me?" Adrian replied while pointing to himself.

"If you had a dragon then why did you not let it battle previously! It would have made things far easier." Alder stated.

Adrian raised his right brow because of the sudden judgement. Adrian was about to reply but Cersei was the first to speak up.

"It did not matter if his dragon joined the fight much earlier than not. From my observations, his dragon is his hidden card or ace in his sleeve. He was already faring well despite not having his dragon join the battle. Also brat, you should not be rude to guests." Cersei rebutted while pinching Alder's cheeks.

"Now brat, I want you to apologize to our vice guild leader and Equinox." Cersei stated and then releasing Alder's cheeks from her grasp.

Alder looked like a kid being scolded by her mother so Adrian could not control himself and chuck a little bit. Alder saw Adrian's reaction but backed down when Cersei was glaring at him fiercely. He had to bite his tongue and apologize.

"I am sorry vice guild leader for being rude." Alder stated.

"Ehem." Cersei intentionally coughed loudly.

"I am sorry to you too, Equinox. I was just too pent up with stress." Alder said while giving a glance to Cersei.



"Good. I hope he did not offend you much, Equinox. This brat is like this during intense moments. He does not handle pressure too well." Cersei stated while giving a wink towards Adrian.

"No worries. I also get why he is frustrated. I also want to know what is the situation really is." Adrian replied with a smile.

After Adrian said that, all eyes then went towards Mariposa. Mariposa then released a long sigh with a downcast expression.

"If my guess is correct then the hidden dungeon entered its extreme cycle. We might have to use all our means to successfully clear this one. We also might make sacrifices but we should avoid that from happening." Mariposa stated in a heavy tone.

"Did the dungeon differ from the normal layout?" Cersei asked.

"Yes. There was no time attack instance in the normal raid. The boss should be a Magma Boa but the thing that chased us was ten times bigger and it was just labeled as a mini-boss." Mariposa replied.

"I think it was called Magma Titanoboa or something. I could remember clearly." Alder stated which he quieted down once more when Cersei stared him down.

"You are right. It seems to be a better version of the original boss of this dungeon. I fear that the true boss of this dungeon is much more fearsome than that mini-boss." Mariposa stated and all the faces of the raid members turned grave.

#### Chapter 159 - Raid The Mini-boss

"Should we continue then?" Cersei asked.

"It is a good option but we have already travelled this far and our guest does not look like he wants to retreat. Am I right?" Mariposa asked Adrian.

"I think that we already reached this far so why not go down fighting instead of retreating like cowards." Adrian replied but his thought was really, "I already used about five hundred gold worth of resources for this raid so I wanted my level."

"I also think it is a waste to not continue. This hidden dungeon would still not change unless it was cleared. We can be called a scouting team or so they call." Mariposa said with a bit of a laugh.

"If anyone wants to back out now then I would not blame you as we are now threading in unknown territory." Mariposa stated but the others had also resolved their hearts.

"If we retreat now then we would be seen as cowards that are more fearful than a guest. That would make the guild lose face. I will not retreat!" the burly man shouted.

"Same here!" A voice shouted.

Bit by bit different voices shouted that they would stay and venture into the unknown. Adrian who saw this seen could only be in awe as the solidarity of the Evergreen guild is strong and unwavering. Although the only thing on Adrian's mind was to clear the raid and not scout the hidden dungeon.

Adrian was very excited to clear his very first extreme cycle dungeon. The others could not see but his face was making that demonic grin of excitement. It seems he has fully awakened his battle maniac trait but he was not aware or rather chose not to accept the fact.

"Alright. All of you check everything and get ready. We will go to the next area after you are done." Mariposa commanded with renewed vigor.

After everyone was done checking their equipment, they set off to find the next room. Thankfully, no enemies sprang forth and attacked them. Also thanks to the buff they got, they could traverse easily and no longer worried that their stamina bar depleted much faster.

It did not take long for them a cavern that was much wider than the one where the Rock Recluse Spider Queen was staying. Adrian observed the cavern and could feel that something was watching them. Even Mariposa tensed up when she entered the room and told everyone to prepare for a fight.

Adrian could not shake this feeling of being watched so he activated his Evil Eye to scan his surroundings. Using his evil eye, Adrian could see the color of all living being's souls. For game characters, their soul was characterized depending on the richness of their color. For players, their soul was different as it was only of one color and that was green.

When Adrian activated his evil eye, he saw a silver soul with a red tinge. Adrian has seen this red tinge before and that was from hostile monsters that wanted to attack him. Although in Adrian's eyes, all souls had the same shape so he could only know the general direction of the entity and not see its full body shape.

Still, Adrian could fire off a shot to scare the boss from its camouflage state. Adrian had to warn Mariposa though as he might trigger the aggro of the boss.

"Miss Mariposa, I know where the enemy is. I just want to give you a heads up before I attack it." Adrian said to Mariposa.

Mariposa was stunned but she could only nod and tell the others to prepare for battle. Mariposa could no longer be surprised about Adrian's abilities because the kid in front of him makes her skin crawl. Adrian then ordered Kanlaon to fire its breath attack to the location where the soul of the enemy was.

Kanlaon fired of its breath attack towards the location Adrian pointed at. The others saw what the cool looking dragon did and was surprised even though they were ordered to be ready for battle. They all thought that the soulbound was acting up and not listening to its master. There have been cases like that reported on the forums to summoners who abuse their soulbounds.

A loud screeching hiss was then heard when the attack of Kanlaon hit something invisible. Adrian received a notification that Kanlaon damaged the monster.

[Your soulbound Kanlaon has greatly damaged the mini-boss Magma Titanoboa by 124,254.]

[The Magma Titanoboa has been attacked and lost its camouflage.]

The Magma Titanoboa finally showed its whole body which glared at the whole raid group but mostly at Kanlaon as it was the one that attacked him. Its body was as big as a one story house and it was atleast a hundred meters long. It really looked like a raid boss.

Kanlaon looked little compared to the Magma Titanoboa. It is said that big snakes are considered as dragons so Kanlaon was sneering at the Magma Titanoboa which infuriated it more. It did not take long for the Magma Titanoboa to lunge its head towards Kanlaon.

Kanlaon effortlessly evaded using his body and even counterattacked with its breath attack.

"What are you guys doing? Attack it!" Mariposa commanded which snapped the onlookers of the battle between two great creatures.

The raid members rained down their attacks on the Magma Titanoboa which confused it for a bit but it still focused on Kanlaon as he dealt the most damage to it. The raid members did not know whether to be thankful or infuriated because they are considered as bugs. Still, they did their best to damage it bit by bit but the snake would only whack its tail towards them.

The tail would then be guarded by the tanks but they would show pained expressions everytime they soak the damage. Saena's heal would the tanks when they soak the damage of the tail whack. She could heal 7% health in an area and she also increased the effectiveness of heals of the other healers.

Adrian inspected the Magma Titanoboa and was surprised by its immense vitality.

Monster: Magma Titanoboa

Level: 110

HP: 29,426,852 / 30,000,000

MP: 450,000 / 500,000

Description: A Magma Boa which underwent a mutation to make it bigger than before. It is much fiercer and much stronger than a Magma Boa. It can now use a camouflage skill that its inferior version cannot. It is the ultimate surprise predator for areas where volcanoes or places with magma.

The mini-boss had monstrous health but scant amount of mana. Adrian no longer contained his hunger for battle and charged towards the Magma Titanoboa. Mariposa was about to say something to him but she can only bite her tongue. She was sure that the young man was sure that he would survive which made him bravely charged in.

Cersei was shocked though and wanted to support Adrian but she was casting one of her long cast time spell. She wanted to summon an icy wind that could potentially weaken the Magma Titanoboa. The tanks that was on Adrian's group could not follow him because all the tanks were supporting the long range players from any stray attacks of the Magma Titanoboa.

Sirius also joined the assault using his shadow domain. He did try biting the snake but its scales were tough that it damaged Sirius instead of damaging the mini-boss. Thorns made of shadows would pierce areas where the scales of the Magma Titanoboa could not protect. Sirius dealt a good enough of damage with this that was in the five figures.

Adrian fused his Twin Fangs together to make a single sword and used Geoforce to enlarge it.

Adrian then plunged this at a section where its scales did not protect. A pained screeching hiss was once again and the Magma Titanoboa turned its head towards Adrian.

The Magma Titanoboa opened its mouth and struck where Adrian plunged his sword. The raid members who saw this could only shout in horror as they saw that the strike was faster than before. They thought that Adrian was done for but Kanlaon and Sirius was still attacking the Magma Titanoboa.

They then saw that Adrian appeared a few feet away from the strike of the Magma Titanoboa. They were shocked once more because the mini-boss actually missed. What they did not know was Adrian activated Blink at the last second so he evaded the attack by a hair's breath.

Even Adrian was feeling the rush of adrenaline because he was nearly bitten and crushed to death by the mini-boss. Adrian did find out something important though and that was the snake damaged itself greatly with this attack. He now has an idea on how to finish the raid on the mini-boss early.

He shared this news to Mariposa via the chat but the latter could only frown. She believes that no one in their party other than Adrian could do something crazy....courageous like that. She is not looking down on her guild members but she knows their capabilities and so are their limitations.

Mariposa only replied with thank you for the information and asked the speedy members if they could do what Adrian had done. When they heard this, they could only shake their head as even they will likely fail to dodge that attack or even react in time. There was definitely one thing on their mind now and that was they invited a monster instead of a cute looking young boy. He was even smiling while facing a monster several more times bigger than him.

#### Chapter 160 - Does He Even Need Help?

Adrian was basically soloing the boss if you consider his soulbounds as his personal skills. Saena even left the tanks and started healing Sirius and Kanlaon due to them being hit by attacks of the Magma Titanoboa. Adrian did not want to use Sirius' signature skill as there was still the dungeon boss that needs to be raided.

Adrian was also switching aggro with Kanlaon as they would confuse the Magma Titanoboa on who will it target first. This was very useful but Adrian would usually be the one to be attacked by the lunging skill of the Magma Titanoboa. The most important fact is that Adrian actually uses the attack of the Magma Titanoboa to attack itself thereby giving him more aggro.

The giant fire snake was basically mad at Adrian that it prioritized him for even if Kanlaon was fishing out the most damage. Just Adrian alone was whittling down its health by a lot. The other raid members could only gasp in amazement.

Even Mariposa had to agree that Adrian was like an unpolished version of Eldritch or Frey. Those two monsters could solo a boss by themselves that is why they are called monsters. Hou Yiwei is also called a monster but he was a monster in PVP rather than boss raids. The divine archer would probably snipe you to oblivion before you can even be in his line of sight.

Mariposa had to admit that Cersei's eyes could not be questioned. She always had this sixth sense to see people of talent. Unknown to Mariposa that a devil god was the one who told Cersei that Adrian was special. Anyways the raid members were once again stumped for a while before Mariposa shouted at them once again to continue attacking.

They unleashed all their low cooldown and medium cooldown skills because this was a mini-boss not the boss. The tanks though felt like they were punching bags as their taunts did not even work on the mini-boss. They felt powerless and useless to help the summoner that was in the front lines.

The occasional tail swing to tanks all made them lose half of their health. The healers would then patch them up as they too could only do that much. They could not even heal Adrian who was in the front line making them more ashamed of themselves. Adrian was moving faster than their healing could be cast on him.

Saena was the perfect healer for Adrian as his soulbound was as agile as he was. She was also containing a secret weapon but Adrian was saving that up for the boss that they would fight. The Netheros Bane that weakened the mini-boss was finally stacked to full which made the movements of the Magma Titanoboa more sluggish than before.

A wave of iridescent sword energy was then released from the giant sword Adrian was holding. Adrian even added Nether Energy on the attack which added black and gray streaks of light on the sword wave.

"Soul Searing Crescent Wave" Adrian muttered.

The sword wave travelled towards the Magma Titanoboa but it immediately used a skill. The scales on it became much shinier and it even glowed. Adrian recognize this as some type of hardening skill but this was not able to stop the sword wave from damaging the Magma Titanoboa.

The three colored sword wave passed through the Magma Titanoboa and it released a pained hiss unlike before. The unique property of this skill was that it deals damage to the soul of an enemy. If you do not have skills that could protect your soul or any magical defensive skill then it was basically unavoidable.

At some point, the sound produced by the Magma Titanoboa was hissing cries instead of threatening hisses. It was basically being bullied by this monster in human skin. The dragon was also bullying it to death because its breath attack was basically killing off its body parts. The alternating temperatures made parts of its body numb to the point that it can no longer regenerate it.

The Magma Titanoboa finally accepted its fate but it did not go down without a fight. Its clear eyes became red and it entered its berserk state. It thrashed wildly and attacked randomly that it headed its way towards the other members of the raid party.

The raid party members saw this and the tanks braced for impact. Mariposa even summoned another soulbound that looked like a giant beetle that had metallic plating's as a carapace. It was also huge that it had the size of a giant truck but it was still small compared to the Magma Titanoboa that boasted a huge size.

The metal beetle released a skill that summoned something like a barrier made of dozens of hexagons. The metal beetle also firmly planted its feet on the ground as if it was bracing for impact. The armored dragonfly and giant mantis switched heavily on the offensive as the mini-boss was just charging wildly.

The tanks also braced themselves for the impact as the charge was fast. The damage dealers was still spamming all they could in an attempt to weaken the advance of the Magma Titanoboa. Adrian though had to ride Sirius in order to catch up as he was thrown off balance from the body of the mini-boss.

The mini-boss had only 30% of its health left and it was still decreasing due to the damage of the skills that it was no longer evading. The Magma Titanoboa opened its giant mouth when it was nearing the raid group but Kanlaon swooped in and fired its breath at the opened mouth.

A series of explosions sounded and the charge of the Magma Titanoboa stopped its charge but the momentum it created did not. Its long body still crashed towards the barrier made by the metal beetle. The barrier cracked and then shattered like glass but the tanks were ready and casted their Rebound Skill simultaneously.

They managed to stop the attack from reaching the damage dealers but the tail of the Magma Titanoboa acted like a whip and damaged some of them. Fortunately, they did not die but they were out of commission for the moment due to the heavy damage they took. The healers focused their healing on the damage dealers that were injured.

Adrian finally reached the Magma Titanoboa that was squirming and twitching uncontrollably. Adrian finally activated the final skill of the sword Psyche Armament. While the Adrian was empowering the skill with soul essences and nether energy, he ordered Sirius and Kanlaon to deal as much damage as they can so that Adrian could kill it with one skill.

Saena flew over to the injured in order to be useful while Sirius and Kanlaon used their skills at the Magma Titanoboa. As if oblivious to the pain, the Magma Titanoboa stood up and hissed loudly as if a last attempt to sound menacing. Its mouth was full of sores and injuries so it did look more horrifying than ever.

Adrian raised his sword up in the air and a giant sword materialized on top of the Magma Titanoboa's head. Unlike the previous time that Adrian used this skill, the giant sword look different. The sword was now covered with a tyrannical aura of black, gray and white light. Those that saw it was even affected by it as it released a suffocating pressure.

The healers even stopped their skills for a second because of the bone chilling aura. Even the Magma Titanoboa that went berserk was screaming as if it knows that death was nearby and coming to collect him. The Magma Titanoboa froze for a whole second when it felt this.

The Magma Titanoboa's red eyes became clear as it searched where that aura was coming from in an attempt to kill the caster before it killed itself. When it then saw Adrian, the Magma Titanoboa gathered all its ferocity and it dove its giant head towards Adrian's location. Adrian who saw this could only smirk at the action of the Magma Titanoboa.

The tip of the sword that was pointed at the sky was then suddenly pointed to the ground. Adrian then plunged the sword on the ground and the giant sword dangling on the head of the Magma Titanoboa also plunged downwards. Before the mouth of the Magma Titanoboa reached Adrian, the latter already completed the skill.

"Soul Avenger" Adrian stated with a smirk.

The giant sword finally pierced the body of the Magma Titanoboa and it even created a shockwave that knocked back everything in the area. The intense shockwave even reached the raid groups location as clouds of dust filled their vision.

When they regained vision, the person standing in that area where the Magma Titanoboa was none other than Adrian. His sword was dematerializing due to skill restriction and he was even covered in dust. Mariposa and the others was speechless of the skill that they just witnessed.

Mariposa described it as a Sword of Damocles that fell from the heavens and smited the Magma Titanoboa from existence. She was utterly speechless and even the others could only blankly stare at Adrian. Despite the other being higher leveled than him, they believed that even they stood no chance against him.