



## 5. Working out frustrations.

It was so embarrassing. And yet I want to go back for more, I think that pink stuff is addictive. My body is filled with unsatiated lust. Just below the surface frustration is brewing. I need something else to focus on. I guess I'll bring back this tome to the lore master and see if there are any more clues to follow up on.



Yes the tome is written in Daedric, and there is more to it. I know, I know. Do you have anything else for me. I need something.

Peryite, the task master. On the one hand exactly what I need, on the other not helpful at all. Perform tasks? I've performed plenty, what else could I possibly do. So hard to focus, to think. Give me something else to go on, something concrete.

Ambition, violence? Now you're talking, those should provide a perfect distraction. Mine owners in Dawnstar you say. I remember taking care of a chain beast mine at one of those mines. Never did look into the cause though. I'm off to investigate further.



Back in Dawnstar. Let's check in at the Inn, see if the bar tender has any leads.

Still can't sleep? Join the club. Been having my share of dreams. Not exactly nightmares, but not very conducive to a good night's rest either. No rumors, but a specialist job. Capture someone alive. I have exactly the tools needed for that! Somewhere near Whiterun, well that will be my next stop then, after I'm done here.



Cold wind today, not a day to wear my new outfit. In fact, I'm glad I brought an extra warm cloak. Better get on with it. I'll try talking to Beitild, she owns Iron-Breaker Mine where that mine that I destroyed was. Maybe she knows more.

Nothing useful, but she wants me to get Leigelf captured out of revenge. Now there's an idea. I'd do it if those beasts weren't so damned sexist. Without an MCM that's not going to work. But I can go confront him.



I find Leigelf across town at the Quicksilver mine. How to play this? Let's keep the accusation implicit, see how he reacts and take it from there.

Guess that was not very subtle after all. He picked up on it right away. But he does not bother trying to deny it. Out of spite he is still bent on seeing Beitild captured, and tries to recruit my help in doing so. I could actually make that happen. I could arrange that so easily. But should I? Ah, who cares. I'll do it.

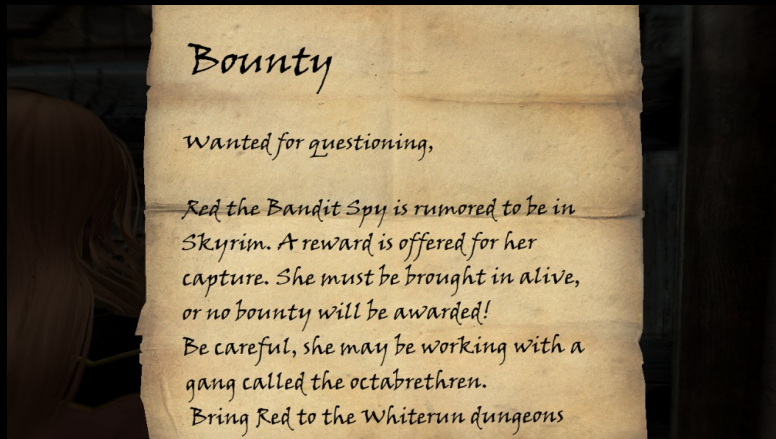


Let's find Beitild. There she is, going on about how great her mine is. Well, let me you show you my mine. Oh, and look, no need for pickaxes; metal comes pouring out at the touch of my hand. Now I'll just hang back and let the chips, or rather chains, fall where they may.



And so it is done. Beitild crawling, then chained to a post for a spell. Whatever, I've suffered worse. Done worse as well. I feel more exhilarated than guilty.

Leigelf gave me a reward, some ore, a spell book and an aspect tome. This one is on the aspect of Mehrunes Dagon, I have no doubt.



All this action has done me good. The thoughts and dreams are still there, but they are less vivid and I'm more rested and less frustrated. I want to keep going and I'm up for a hunt. Let's look into that bounty.

Right, bring in this Red alive. She. Good, that means I will be able to use my beasts to capture her. I'll head to Whiterun, I'm sure I can pick up the trail from there.



"It's getting downright hot". Was the cart driver talking about the weather or me in my new outfit? Must be me. I mean it's a lot warmer here than in Dawnstar, that's true, wouldn't be wearing this otherwise, but not exactly what I would call hot. If he wants me maybe I should ... focus on my mission, yes that's what I should do.

I have no trouble picking up the track, and it leads me straight to a cave just south of Whiterun.



I sneak in and make short work of two lackeys while my summoned beast is dealing with their leader, whom I'm sure is this 'Red' that I'm after.

She managed to kill it? Well, color me surprised, she's more capable than I expected. It matters little though, my next summons is already upon her, and she is now naked and partially chained. This fight is already over, she just doesn't know it yet. She must realize it deep down, but she keeps trying anyways.



Not for long though. This was never really a fight, it's a hunt. She goes down and I now have a neatly chained up delivery for this Holmes.

Come to think of it, I've never had a need for capturing a victim alive before, yet another task they are suited to. Wait, I've just realized that I've already done so many Chain Beast related tasks now that the aspect of Peryite should already have revealed itself. I've only to find and obtain it. Though, given its nature, those are likely going to be tasks as well. Perhaps I'll ask the Lore Master about it when I bring in the aspect of Mehrunes Dagon.



First, however, I'll drop off Red in the Whiterun dungeon and collect the bounty.

Looks like this fellow might be the one I need. I mean need to talk to, not need in any other way...although...no focus on the task... Mr. Holmes, I presume? No, but you work for him. I brought in Red. "Excellent" he cried "Elementary" I responded.

"Sure let's get busy". Wait, I think he really just wants to talk, about helping on the case. "I mean, sure, I like to keep busy." Good save. I'm sure he bought that... Better go now.



Nothing strange happening in the temple of Mara. Pity. Why am I here again? Right, looking for the aspect of Peryite. The lore master mentioned something about pests. Let's go ask around about those. Mjoll's rant is not very useful. Although, farmers, did the Lore Master not mention something about that as well? There's some farms right outside the gates.

Whiterun hold? I guess there are a lot of farms there. Fine, I'll go look there.



Not around this farm, that sounds like a rehearsed line. And that stab at Rorickstead seems more jealousy about how well the farms are doing over there.

But if the farms are doing well, I guess they would be more likely to attract pests. Perhaps it's a solid lead after all.



So this Lund has been complaining about Skeevers. Those certainly count as pests. And, though no one seems to have realized it, we also have a missing person. The plot thickens. Better check out that hut she mentioned.

Poor Lund. As I come to his hut my dark suspicions are confirmed. The place is overrun with skeevers and Lund, well he did not make it. But an area overrun with pests. This must be the place, let's have a good look around.



Looks like the skeevers have been digging in that hay, and they revealed something; a trap door to a cellar. Time to see what secrets this cellar hides.

I recognize that wall carving, I've seen drawings that look just like that. It depicts Peryite. I've found what I'm looking for. But no tome.



Just some empty boxes and a pull chain that does not seem to do anything.

There must be a final task to complete. Something to do with these boxes.

The boxes are empty. Perhaps I need to put something in, like an offering to the Daedra. But we're dealing with an aspect of the Daedra in Chain Beast. So I guess the offering must be something related to Chain Beasts.



I have several things I could try: Chain Beasts **Chains**, those weird **Masks** they use, several **Books** and tomes with spells, oh and of course those **Keys**.

What shall I use?



Let's just try a bit of everything, one item in each of the boxes.

Well that did something. But now what? Of course, pull the chain.



Two small chain beasts appear, a black one and a white one. But no tome.

I feel I'm on the right path though.

Let's try another gift.



There, 3 masks and a key. Try the pull chain again.



Only a black beast this time but it's bigger.

Hard to fight it in such a small space. Bloody thing managed to take me down. But then I killed it and recovered my gear. Better keep Chain Breaker handy though, don't want that to happen again.

Let's try another combination of gifts ... Different beast again.



I'm starting to see a pattern.

It's like a combination lock. As I get closer, the beasts get bigger. First a fox, then a beast, then a gemmed beast and finally a spider.

The black one counts the correct gifts, the white one correct but misplaced gifts.



I've done it. Correct gifts in the correct order. A black spider summoned, but also a chest.

After disposing of the beast I find it holds what I expected; a tome written in Daedric.

Also some lock picks. Guess those would have been very useful if that beast has managed to take me down.



While I'm here, I might as well visit Dragon's reach, see what Jack is up to. Still all work and no play. Another spy? I didn't see any. There were the two bandits, but they seemed like local hires. Low level lackeys, not anyone of interest, not another spy.

Back to the cave to look for more clues.

Should have seen that before, hidden behind that moss, a pull chain. There must be a hidden door nearby.



A secret room and a lot of paper work, this should hint at their plans. Okay, the nine holds, clearly they plan to place a spy in each hold. This note suggests the same. The spy would need some information on their assigned hold to be able to blend in.

The note mentions info on Morthal is not ready yet, so the spy won't be there. We have Markarth, Solitude, Dawnstar, Whiterun, Winterhold college spell book, Windhelm, Riften ... Wait nothing on Falkreath? Why not? The note said only Morthal was missing. Of course, the spy must have already taken it. Must be in Falkreath. But perhaps I should check to be sure.



That Argonian woman is just playing at being a simpleton. They call her 'Iclean', seem to believe that's all she can say, just because it's all she does say. But she's maneuvered herself right into the barracks and sneaks around town at night, getting the lay of the land. She's clearly good at this and I'm no spy. Better go tell Jack and leave it to him.

A spy in Falkreath is grave news, did he just make a joke? A pretty lame one but it seems he has a sense of humor after all. Damn now I want him even more.

Instead of fighting these feelings, maybe I should just embrace them, seek them out?

*Bretny's adventure continues in Chapter 6.*