

To the one who finds this map...

May 9th, 1867.

We are William Mustang and Thienry Henry, two friends united by a bond as strong as iron. Long ago, we traveled together across wide rivers, distant lands, harsh hills and dense forests, where the sun barely touched the ground. We worked relentlessly, endured hunger and cold, and often slept beneath open skies or under damp caves. In those days we trusted no one but each other, and by chance or by luck, we found a treasure unlike any other. Its value was beyond measure, far too precious and too big to carry away. We feared thieves, so we made the difficult decision to hide it in a safe place.

If this map is now in your hands, then destiny has already chosen you: you are on the right path to find the treasure. Be brave, but don't rush, and don't panic because there will be many unexpected events. Keep your mind clear, heart steady and follow our instructions.

Your search should begin where a great pine tree stands towards the east from where you found the map, beside a calm river. From that tree, walk straight ahead, the path will lead you in front of a dark cave. Enter the cave, don't stop for any reason, don't rest, don't turn back because once you stop you will lose your sense of orientation and you won't be able to get out, instead walk steadily until you see sunlight. Once you get out of the cave you will find yourself facing a wide beach. Walk around its perimeter carefully, pay attention to the numerous landslides, and once you see a stone marked with a red cross, you'll know that you reached the opposite side of the island. From the red cross, turn back to the sea and follow the path. Soon you will see three tall palm trees growing close together, as if they were brothers. Go to the middle tree and dig carefully at its roots until you find a flat stone, so bring a shovel. Lift the stone,

beneath it lies an old iron box. Inside the box, you will find a small compass and a note from us. Follow the direction shown by the compass and walk for exactly one hundred steps.

You will arrive at a narrow passage between two large rocks, worn smooth by time and water. Pass through it carefully, the ground there is uneven and slippery, and a single misstep may send you falling. On the other side, you will see a waterfall pouring endlessly into a silent pool, step behind the falling water, there is a hidden passage carved into the rock. At the end of that passage stands a wooden door reinforced with iron. Push it open, the sound it makes will echo more than it should. Beyond that door lies the chamber. The treasure has rested there, untouched since the day we left it behind.

If you have reached this place, then you have proven far more than simple courage. You have proven patience, restraint, and the strength to move forward when every instinct told you to turn back. Few possess these qualities. Fewer still endure long enough to discover whether the reward was worth the cost. What you find within this chamber now belongs to you alone, for you have paid the price demanded by the journey. No claim shall be made against you, and no voice will challenge your right.

Now that we have entrusted you with these directions, there is nothing more we can do. The path ahead is yours, and yours alone. From this moment on, every step you take will carry weight, and every decision will echo longer than you expect. What begins as an adventure may not end as one. And when you return, if you return, you will not come back unchanged. Your body will be exhausted, but that will be the lesser burden. Your thoughts will linger where they should not, your sleep will be light and restless, and your memories will return uninvited. You will find it difficult to explain what you have seen, even to yourself. For this reason, we say without jest that you will likely need a psychologist, for the mind was never meant to bear such trials without consequence.

We admit, without pride and without shame, that bitterness still follows us. We stood where you now stand. We had the opportunity to take the treasure and leave this place forever. Yet something held us back: fear, doubt, or perhaps an understanding we were not ready to accept. Whatever the reason, we failed to claim it, and that failure has followed us through every mile since. We can only hope that you will succeed where we could not. Whether that success brings fortune, peace, or regret is not for us to know. Our part in this story ended the moment we turned away.

May fate be kinder to you than it was to us.

Good Luck!



