

Miroku's Little Brother

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While traveling to find Naraku, Kagome senses a jewel shard and the gang investigates, unknown to them that a group of traveling demon slayers has a "little" surprise for them.

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1 - The Mysterious Monk, Antari

<center>*** Okay, first, this isn't an autobiography or anything; it's just an introduction of my own ideas to the Inuyasha world. I'm again using a new format that I like to call "semi-Japanese". It's where I incorporate basic Japanese words into English text like... well I'll just let you read and find out... I edited this story a bit, but I didn't change too much.*** </center>

The setting opens up on a hilltop where six figures stand. A young miko in strange clothes, an arrogant hanyou with flowing silver hair and small dog ears, a young taijiya with a large bone boomarang, a young houshi with a long golden staff and prayer beads wrapped around his left hand, and a young kitsune accompanied by a small fire-cat youkai.

They were Kagome, Inuyasha, Sango, Miroku, Shippo, and Kilala, the <i>first</i> set of main characters in this story.....

"Hey I think I see a village nearby." Said Shippo who was sitting on Kagome's shoulder do you think we could stop there and get something to eat?"

"Feh, and why are you so hungry all of a sudden?" yelled Inuyasha in his same arrogant tone.

"Some of us are hungry too Inuyasha" said Miroku. "I think we could all use a rest. We haven't stopped

for three days now.”

Inuyahsa stopped and turned to face the houshi. “Look, I'm not stopping `till I find Naraku, Okay?”

“We all understand that,” Sango stated, “but some of us aren't as long lasting as you.”

Inuyahsa just turned back around and crossed his arms. “Hmph! Weaklings!”

“Inuyasha, osuwari!” yelled Kagome.

And just like so many times before, Inuyasha plummeted to the ground at the sound of the incantation, leaving Inuyasha paralyzed, face down on the ground.

Inuyasha shifted as much as he could so he could talk. “Why'd you do that for?!”

Kagome just walked past him with the others and said, “That's for being in-considerate to others again.” Then she and the others walked off in the direction of the village, leaving Inuyahsa there trying to move.

“Hey, wait for me! Don't just leave me behind!” yelled Inuyasha.

The group stopped and Miroku sighed, “I guess we should wait until the spell has worn off.”

“Are you sure the demon will return?” asked a young houshi.

“Yes I'm sure. Please houshi-sama Antari, will you help us?” asked the worried village leader.

“My friends and I will do the best we can.” stated the houshi as he turned to face his commrades.

“Alright, just a basic mountain youkai, like the ones we fought back at home. Let's just hope it doesn't have a fragment of the shikon no tama.”

The houshi, along with a samurai, a hanyou, and two mages ventured to the outskirts of the village and waited for the youkai to appear.

Sure enough, a loud rumble came from the forest and a loud roar could be heard.

“Alright guys, lets get to work!”

“Huh?” Kagome turned and faced the village.

“What is it Kagome?” asked Shippo.

“I sense a shard of the shikon no tama.” Replied kagome, now staring at the edge of the village. “And

it's real close.”

“Nani?” yelled Inuyasha, “Where's it at? The village? The forest? Where?!”

“It feels like it's coming from the village, but it's moving.” Said Kagome who scanned the vilage, looking for the shard.

“Well then let us head to the village and investigate!” shouted Miroku as he and Sango hopped on top of a transformed Kilala.

“Right.” Agreed Kagome as she hopped on her bike and peddeled to keep up with kilala and Inuyasha.

The group arrived at the village and almost ammedialty the villagers started panicing at the site of kilala and Inuyasha.

“Ahh! Youkai! Call the tajiya back to the village!”

At these words, Sango gasped and her mind raced, 'Tajiyi? Could they be survivors of my village?'

Miroku did not notice and stepped off Kilala and ran towards the villagers. “Calm down everyone. True Kilala and Inuyasha are demons, but they mean you no harm.”

“Speak for yourself, I'm after the jewel shard!” yelled Inuyasha as he stood behind Miroku.

“Inuyasha,” sighed the houshi, “It would be wise not to make the villagers fear us.”

The villagers however were busy examining Miroku. Then the village leader appeared, at the word of youkai arriving, and stopped once he saw Miroku.

“Houshi-sama, you have returned?”

Miroku just looked at the village leader with a puzzled expression on his face. “Me?”

“Why yes? Would you not be houshi-sama Antari?” he replied.

“Antari?” Inuyasha spoke up. “His name is Miroku.”

The village leader then studied Miroku further and came to a conclusion. “Your not Antari, but you look just like him. Except you appear older.”

At that time everyone was gathered around Miroku looking for an explanation.

“What do you mean *just* like him” said Kagome. “You don't have any brothers do you Miroku?”

Miroku thought a bit and turned to answer Kagome. “No. I was just an only child. I'm shure Hacchi or someone else would of informed me.”

Sango was about to speak up when a loud roar came from the outskirts of the village. This caused the villagers to go into another panic.

“Ahh! The youkai has returned!”

“Quickly, we must flee!”

“What of the taijiya and houshi-sama Antari?”

The villagers suddenly stopped and thought. “Your right they will save us!”

In the mean time Inuyasha was getting impatient. “Alright, I'm fed-up with all this!” He stomped over to the village leader and grabbed him by the collar. “Tell us where those taijiya went now!”

The village leader just panicked.”They ventured that way, towards the outskirts of the village! Now please, do not hurt me!”

Inuyasha just threw him aside and told the others to come.

Miroku jumped back on top of Kilala and Kagome hopped back on to her bike.

Inuyasha stopped when he reached the top of a hill that opened up into a large clearing with the forest just at the edge.

The trees shook as a large demon pushed his way out of the trees. He stopped as soon as he partially stepped into the clearing.

Inuyasha unsheathed Tetsusiaga and prepared for battle. “Alright, Kagome where's it's jewel shard?”

Kagome arrived and studied the youkai. “It doesn't have one!”

"Nani?!" yelled Inuyasha.

"There is a jewel shard nearby, but it's not in the demon." Answered Kagome as she started scanning the forest.

All of a sudden a person jumped out from behind some rocks and stood only a few feet in front of them. He wore a long brown cloak that concealed his whole body. Even his face was concealed.

He whispered something strange and Miroku recognized it as incantation. All of a sudden, a huge torrent of water shot out from his opened cloak and struck the demon.

The demon staggered, but it still looked unhurt.

The cloaked man then yelled out two people's names and ran back behind the rocks.

The gang just stared as another man stepped out from behind the cover of some fallen trees. He wore a black haori with a brown yukatta. He also whispered something and lightning shot from his hands.

Another stream of lightning shot from behind the demon. Inuyasha gasped when he saw this second attack. 'That lightning..... it couldn't be.... '

The demon howled in pain as the force of the lightning surged through him. His wet body acted as a conductor for the force.

The two attacks then stopped suddenly and the man in the black haori yelled out another man's name and ducked behind the trees again.

This time, a samurai appeared out of the forest. He wore an outfit similar to that of Sango's taijiya uniform, but his armor was that of a normal samurai. He also had a headband tied around his head. On his shoulder appeared to be a normal squirrel.

He ran out in front of the youkai and the squirrel jumped off and attacked him. This was no ordinary squirrel. Its claws became longer and its fangs grew also. It swiped at the demon leaving a long cut on its right arm.

The samurai then charged at the demon, drawing his sword.

Sango gasped as she saw the weapon.

It was a sword that appeared to be made completely out of demon bone.

'That sword, and that uniform..... he couldn't be a survivor from my village, could he?' she thought as she watched him dodge the demon's attack.

The samurai slashed at the demon, cutting off his left hand.

The demon once again howled in pain and thrust his right hand at the samurai, knocking him a good several feet in the air. He landed with a loud thud, but appeared to be uninjured.

The demon came completely into the clearing as the samurai stood and called out another name. The squirrel then came back to him. As soon as it did the samurai spoke again. "Antari now!"

Then, out of the trees ran a young hoshi. Kagome suspected him to be the one the villagers talked

about. `They were right,' she thought, `He does look like Miroku.'

Miroku noticed this too, but was shocked at the houshi's next words.

“Allright everybody get back! Kazzana!”

Miroku and the others gasped as they watched the houshi unwrap his right hand and unleash a powerful burst of wind.

“But that's.... my kazzana!” Miroku was speechless. He wondered how this houshi, who happened to look like him, aquired the power of his kazzana.

The youkai struggled as it felt itself being pulled in by the vortex, but it was so weak from the assualt earlier that it was soon sucked into the void.

As soon as it was pulled completely in, the houshi closed up the kazzana in the same fashion as Miroku would.

“You, houshi!” yelled Miroku.

Antari looked up and a sly smile spread across his face as he saw Miroku. “Well seems I've finally found you, or rather you have found me.”

Miroku looked at him, surprised at these words. “Who are you?”

The young houshi just smiled and looked Miroku stright in the eye. “Mother was right, you don't know who I am. Houshi-sama Miroku, my name is Antari. I am your little brother.”

“NANI?!?!”

<center><i>-To Be Continued.....-</i></center>

<center>*** Sorry for the cliff hanger, but I'm nearly done with chapter two. I'll have it up as soon as I'm done though! I also hope you liked the edits and new editions. ***</center>

2 - A Brothers Past

<center>*** Here's the second chapter! I hope it turned out okay! ***</center>

We last off with the gang just after they witnessed a band of taijiya slay a youkai. Part of that group was a young houshi who the gang suspected to be the "Antari" the villagers talked about. Miroku confronted this houshi after he unleashed what appeared to be a kazzana attack just like Miroku's. Him and the gang were confused at the houshi's answer, but shocked at his next words.....

"Mother was right, you don't know who I am. Houshi-sama Miroku, my name is Antari. I am your little brother."

"NANI?!?!!" yelled the gang as they stared in disbelief at Antari.

Miroku was even more shocked. "But..... But that's impossible! I was an only child!"

Antari smiled as he watched his brothers disbelief. His friends' reactions were also amusing. "This kazzana in my right hand should be proof enough." He then started examining his friends. One appeared to be a youkai, but he looked to human to be a taiyoukai, so he thought that he was a hanyou. Next to his brother appeared to be an actual taijiya. He had heard that all the taijiya were wiped out a long time ago, but could this not be one of them? Surveying the rest he came upon a young girl. He gasped as he saw an all too familiar sight. `She has fragments of the shikon no tama!

"You there!" he yelled, stopping the chatter of confusion coming from the group. He pointed directly at Kagome. "How is it that you have acquired those shards of the shikon no tama?"

Kagome looked at him wondering, `Why does he want to know?'

Inuyasha interrupted before she could answer though. "And why would you like to know?"

Antari just calmly responded saying "Because my friends and I are searching for an all-powerful youkai named Naraku. He is rumored to have many fragments in his possession. I had heard that a hanyou named Inuyasha was also searching for the shikon no tama fragments. I believe that is you correct?"

"Huh?" said Inuyasha. "How did you know that I was a hanyou? And what'd mean you were looking for Naraku?!"

"Could it be because of your cursed hand." Interrupted Miroku before Antari could answer.

"Hai. He has cursed my family ever since my grandfather faced him down and was struck by this curse."

"Well that answers the that, now how did you know that I was a hanyou and not a taiyoukai?"

"Because I'm one too."

The man who said this landed next to Antari. He wore an orange haori and a white yukatta. He had long hair that was tied back in a high ponytail. His eye's were cat-like and so were his ears. In his hand was a long spear that Kagome, Inuyasha, and Shippo strangely recognized.

"Shippo what's the matter?" asked Sango as she looked at the shaking kitsune.

"T-that staff..... it belongs to H-Hiten." He said, shaking like a leaf.

"Who's that?"

"He's one of the thunder brothers" answered Kagome who looked at the staff. "Inuyasha and I faced off against them a long ago, before we met you you and Miroku. One of them was a powerful youkai named Hiten, and that was his staff." Kagome pointed directly at the young hanyou.

Inuyasha narrowed his eyes as he studied him. "Who are you and where did you get that staff?"

The young hanyou just gave Inuyasha a look and didn't say anything, until Anatri told him to answer. "Alright, I'll say. My name is Jakar. I am a hanyou as you can plainly see. My mother was a powerful Tiger youkai and my father was a military pikesman. This staff I found while I was journeying with my friends one day. It was broken in half, so I brought it home and some of my friends fixed it."

"So you just found it eh?" said Inuyasha, disbelief in his voice.

"I'm telling the truth!" yelled Jakar, trying to make Inuyasha believe him.

"He's right you know."

Everybody turned and saw the cloaked man from before walking towards them. "I was there with him. My name is Elric. I am a mage with the power to create and manipulate water."

Inuyasha and the others just looked at the mage and saw someone else approaching from behind him. It was the man with the black haori.

“And my name's Sacraine. I'm a mage too. I have the power to create and control lightning!”

“Except he draws his power from that amulet he wears on his neck.” Said Jakar looking at Sacraine. He then looked up at the top of his staff. “I draw my power from my thunder staff.”

“As for me, I don't need any magic powers.”

Again, everyone turned and looked at the person who spoke. This time it was the samurai. He walked up to stand on the other side of Antari until he saw Sango. He stopped and looked at Sango's taijiya outfit.

“That armor. You're a taijiya! A real taijiya!” He looked up at her face and gasped as he recognized her. “Your Sango! The head leader's daughter!”

Sango was surprised and shocked as he said this. “Do you mean to tell me that you come from my village?”

“Hai. I lived in your village, but never became an actual taijiya. They said I was too overconfident and that I didn't think things through. I never got a chance to argue though because the day after you and the other lead taijiya left the village we were attacked by a plague of youkai.” His anger at this memory was appearing evident as he balled his hands into fists. “I tried to help, but they were too strong. They slaughtered everyone. Some of the taijiya gave me a uniform and told me to flee. They also gave me this sword...” He grabbed the hilt of the sword and pulled it out. “I took what they gave me and ran. I didn't know how long I kept running `till I passed out. Then, some villagers found me and I met Antari. I've lived in his village ever since”

“So, you don't know if anyone else survived?” asked Sango, sadness in her voice.

“No. I thought I was the only one.”

“Well, at least I know now that someone else survived.” Sango just turned her gaze to the ground, sadnesss apearent on her face. Kilala walked up to her and mewed. Sango smiled slightly as she watched Kilala.

A small silence came around the group wich was interupted by Antari. “We should head back to the village, it will be night-time soon.”

Kagome looked around and noticed that the sun was starting to set. “Hai, come on Inuyasha.”

Inuyasha gave a final glance at the group of “taijiya” and followed Kagome and the others. Miroku however stayed.

“Mirkou, aren't you coming?” asked Sango. He shook his head. “No, I think I will stay and talk with Antari.”

Sango nodded her head and went to catch up with the others. Miroku turned and faced Antari. “I belive we have some cathing up to do, little brother”.

Antari smiled and told his comrades to return to the village to rest. Then he and Miroku walked to the edge of the forest and rested under a tree.

“How is it that you are related to me?”

Antari, thought back and remembered what he was told. “Well, from what I remember, I was born two years after you were. Mother kept me a secret, because she did not approve of Father's lifestyle.”

“What was wrong with Father?”

“He was a womanizer. Mother admitted that she did fall in love with his charm, but soon after you were born, she left him. They met again about a year later and, well...” He smiled, “You could say it's how I came to be.” Antari, chuckled after that last comment, but his joy was short as new memories came to him. “Is it true? What I've heard, is father really gone?”

Miroku frowned as he remembered his childhood. “Hai. His kazzana overpowered him, and eventually consumed him.” He lowered his head and gazed at the ground. “I witnessed the whole event with my own two eyes.”

Antari appeared shocked at this news, but then returned to his sunken expression. “I see...”

Miroku tried to change the subject to make them forget about their past miseries. “So, what happened to you? Why did I never see you?”

“Well, mother took me, and traveled far away to village she was born at. There, I was taught the duties of being a houshi.” Antari's gaze ventured towards the mountains as he thought back once more. “I've lived there ever since. Mother passed away when I was 15. I enjoyed the village, I had many friends.”

“What about those people who were with you, were they from your village too?”

“Hai. After I became a houshi, I was entrusted with protecting the village. I was to make sure no youkai entered the village; although, most of my friends are hanyous. My village had few of them, but I had befriended them all.”

A sudden smile appeared on his face as a new memory came to him. “In fact, it was a hanyou that I fell in love with.”

“A hanyou?” Miroku looked puzzled at his younger brother's words. “What was her name?”

“Ekrin. She is a powerful wolf hanyou. She was once a member of a wolf youkai tribe, but was, *discarded*, once their leader found out that she had mated with a human.”

“Mated?!” Miroku looked at Antari in disbelief. ‘did he actually...’

Antari laughed as he saw his brothers shocked expression. “What troubles you brother? Hai, Ekrin and I are mates, but I see no problem in that.”

Miroku's expression softened as he saw his brothers bright expression. “Oh, nothing. It's just, I see that you've found a suitable woman to bear your children.”

“Nani?” asked Antari. He then remembered what his mother had told him about his Father's *training*. “Oh, I see, you think that I just mated with her to have a child, correct?”

“Hai. Besides love, what reason would you have?”

“Mirkou, I do not follow the same customs as you. Mother has taught me to respect women. I don't simply go up to a lady and find nice and ask her to bear my children, I am not like that.”

Miroku frowned at his little brother. “I see, you never received Father's lectures.”

“lie, but from what I have heard, you have.”

Miroku, nodded and the two gazed as the sun's last rays peeked over the mountains.

Suddenly, both felt a presence behind them. "Do you feel that brother?" asked Antari.

"Hai, I sense a youkai approaching."

The two stood up and scanned the trees. They were ready for anything that laid in wait for them. Their confidence was greater than ever. The two brothers were ready to face the unseen threat, together.

<center><i>-To Be Continued....</i></center>

<center>*** Hehe... A cliff hanger. Well I'm working on chapter three. I can tell you now that it's going to be pretty funny! Oh, and to those who don't know, "iie" means "no" in Japanese. ***</center>

3 - Arrival of the Brothers of Fire

<center>***Here's Chapter 3! It might be shorter, but it's pretty funny. ***</center>

We last left off Antari and Miroku after they had discussed their pasts. The two were watching the sunset until....

Suddenly, both felt a presence behind them. "Do you feel that brother?" asked Antari.

"Hai, I sense a youkai approaching."

The two stood up and scanned the trees. They were ready for anything that laid in wait for them. Their confidence was greater than ever. The two brothers were ready to face the unseen threat, together.

They scanned the trees, looking for what ever was out there. Suddenly they saw a shadowed figure rush out of the trees. It shot stream of fire towards them. Antari and Miroku just barely managed to dodge the attack.

Miroku was just about to unleash his kazzana, but Antari stopped him. "Why are you stopping me?"

"Because I know that attack."

Miroku stood confused as he watched his younger brother walk forward towards until he got close to the

shadowed figure. "It's been a while... Jai."

The figure chuckled and he held out his weapon, a long pike with spikes near the blade. The end glowed and fire rose out of the blade like a torch, lighting up the dark night. "Yeah, can't say I missed ya' though."

This person, Miroku saw, wasn't human, he had the ears of a demon and long fire-red hair that was tied back in a low ponytail. His eyes were also red. Miroku wondered how his brother knew this demon.

"Miroku," said Antari, turning to face his brother. "Meet Jai of the Flame. A hanyou, a mage, and one of my longtime friends."

Miroku was a little shocked. This "hanyou" looked like a taiyoukai, and how was he friends with his brother?"

Antari noticed his confusion and stepped forward to explain. "I met Jai when he and his brother attacked my village. I, along with some of my friends, managed to capture him. To prevent him from attacking us in the future..." Antari walked back to Jai and pointed to a neckless that was partially concealed. "We put a special neckless of prayer beads on him., causing him to be subdued whenever I say *the word*"

Miroku noticed that Jai flinched when Antari finished. He wondered what he meant by subdued. He then remembered his brother's words. "Wait, didn't you say that he had a brother?"

"Hai. Jai, where is Kai?"

Miroku assumed Kai was his brother. "He's with me. He just fell behind a little." He responded.

"Hai, because you won't fucking wait!"

The three looked and saw a person standing only a few feet from Jai, trying to catch his breath. He had brown short hair and brown eyes. He looked like Jai, but appeared older. Miroku noticed something different about him though. "Your not a youkai, are you?"

"lie, I'm human. I'm Jai's half-brother, Kai of Fire."

"It's nice to see you again" said Antari looking at the two. "but, what are you doing here? You didn't follow me did you?"

"Sorta," replied Jai. "We picked up you and your friends' scents. Is there a reason your out here, this far from your village." Then a little smirk appeared on Jai's face. "Wait, if you're here, that means your village is unprotected, right?"

Antari's expression grew stern. "Don't even think about it Jai. If you even consider attacking my village I will subdue you right now!"

"Ha! Yeah right! I'd kill ya' before you even got to say tha..." he was cut off when Antari yelled out, "Sustain!" The prayer beads around Jai's neck suddenly glowed and he plummeted face down into the ground. Miroku thought this looked a lot like Kagome's 'sit' commands.

Jai laid face down on the ground cursing and trying to move. "Damn you, what the hell was that for?!"

"To show you your actual say in our argument."

Jai just cussed some more then laid face down waiting for the spell to wear off. Kai stodd next to him and looked down at his paralyzed brother. "You really shouldn't of pissed him off. You know how defensive he is about his village."

“Shut up.”

Kai just shrugged his shoulder's, “I tried.” He then leaned against a tree and snapped his fingers. A spark flashed and a small fireball glowed in Kai's hand. This caused Miroku to wonder.

“Are you a mage?”

Kai looked at him curiously. “Hai. I can create fire, but I have a hard time manipulating it. Mostly, I just use my power on my crossbow.” He then pointed at his back and Miroku noticed the small metal crossbow that was there. “I use my fire power to launch fire lit arrows.”

The two were interrupted by Jai lifting himself off the ground. He grunted and finally got to his feet. “Finally, that stupid fracking spell's gone.”

“Watch yourself Jai.” Said Antari in a taunting fashion. “I might say *<i>it</i>* again!” He then laughed at Jai's anger at not being able to do anything. He just grumbled under his breath and yelled at Kai that they should return home.

“Hai, Jai. Well, I have to leave before my brother takes off without me again.” He turned to leave, but stopped. “What is your name by the way?”

“Miroku, Antari's older brother”

Kai just walked off, but then stopped and whipped around wide eyed at the two. “Nani?!”

“Jai, come on already!”

Kai just stood there gaping at the two, but then turned around and ran to catch up with his brother.

Antari and Miroku stood there for a moment before they made their voyage back to the village.

Night had fallen, and both were tired.

“Brother?” said Miroku.

“Hai?”

“It is good to have met you.”

Antari smiled and the two continued their way into the village.

<center><i>-To Be Continued...</i></center>

<center>*** Chapter 4 won't be up for sometime because I'm gonnabe working on my other fics. Don't worry though, they'll be good! ***</center>

4 - Begining of a New Adventure Part 1

<center>*** Sorry if this cahpter's short, and because it took so long, but I had a lot to do. ***</center>

Night had fallen, and both were tired.

“Brother?” said Miroku.

“Hai?”

“It is good to have met you.”

Antari smiled and the two continued their way into the village.

The morning after was strange for not just the Inu gang, but Antari's friends too. Both groups were still trying to get to know each other. Antari was explaining the origins of him and his friends to the rest of the Inu gang.

“So, your Miroku's younger brother?” asked Sango.

“Hai.” Responded Antari, “but I don't share as many traits as my older brother. Such as his lechery.” Everybody laughed, except Miroku, who looked rather annoyed.

Just then Alphonse walked in. “Hey Antari, I'm hungry. How about we have potatoes?”

Antari's expression quickly changed from happy to annoyed as Alphonse said this. “Again Alphonse? What is it with you and potatoes?”

“I love potatoes!” yelled Alphonse, sounding proud. “If you love potatoes so much, why don't you make them yourself?” asked Inuyasha.

Alphonse then blushed rather embarrassed and said, “Well..... I don't really know how to make potatoes.”

Just then, an explosion came from outside.

“What was that?” yelled Shippo, cowering behind Kagome. Antari noticed Shippo's fear and quickly explained, “Don't worry Shippo. It's just my friends Jakar and Elric practicing with each other.”

Everyone looked outside and noticed jets of water and lightning shooting across the air. Jakar lept in the air and shot lightning at Elric who dodged and shot a torrent of water back at Jakar.

Alphonse stepped out and watched the two. “Okay ladies, break it up!”

Jakar and Elric both looked at each other, smirked, and shot a stream of lightning and water at Alphonse. Alphonse was shocked for a few minutes before both stopped. Strangely, he didn't seem hurt.

That's when Kagome noticed it. As Alphonse pulled out his sword and started chasing after Jakar and Elric, Kagome went to talk to Inuyasha.

"Nani?" he whispered, "That kid has a shikon shard?!" Inuyasha looked at Alphonse as he chased his friends. He then marched over to Antari. "Hey, `little Miroku', how come you didn't tell us your friend had a jewel shard?"

Antari turned around to face Inuyasha, a bit stunned. "My name is Antari, and how did you know?"

"Because I can see them."

Antari turned and faced Kagome. "I see. Well, Alphonse has a shard of the shikon no tama imbedded in his armor. It gives it more durability than ordinary armor, keeping him protected."

Inuyasha stepped forward and looked at Antari with disbelief. "Where did you get it?"

Antari thought a moment, then said, "Well, we found the shard after destroying this one youkai near my home village. We took it with us and used it on this samurai armor that we had found. Soon afterwards, we gave it to Alphonse."

Inuyasha still looked a bit skeptical, but stopped questioning him. Just then, Alphonse returned, with the squirrel from before.

"What is that?" asked Shippo, pointing at the squirrel. "His name's Foamy."

"Foamy?" Everyone except Antari looked confused at this name. "Yes. His name is Foamy, my pet

demon squirrel!" Everyone still looked confused, but didn't want to ask. Just then Foamy jumped off Alphonse's shoulder and smacked Antari in the back of the head.

"Oww!" yelled Antari, rubbing the back of his head. "Alphonse, control your squirrel!"

Alphonse laughed as Foamy jumped back on his shoulder. "I can't control him! He has a mind of his own." He turned around and walked back outside, leaving Antari to rub the back of his head.

"We should be heading out" said Miroku as he turned to face the group.

"Yeah, let's go already." Inuyasha already walked ahead of everyone with Kagome at his side. He narrowed his eyes at Antari when he noticed him and his friends were following.

"And where do you think you're going?"

Antari looked surprised then a little embarrassed. "Oh, my apologies. I nearly thought that since we are all after Naraku, that we could join forces."

Kagome thought for a moment then had an idea. "Inuyasha, he's right, we could use all the help we can get after all."

"Hmph! Fine, as long as they don't get in my way."

Antari, along with his friends followed behind Inuyasha and the others. Jakar and Elric were talking with Alphonse as Antari ran up to Miroku.

"I have a question brother." Miroku turned and looked at Antari. "Hai?"

"That girl, the taijiya, are you.... Together?"

As if on que, the girl stepped next to Antari and grabbed him by the shoulder. She looked at him politely, but anger was plainly written all over her face. "Actually, were not. Although I wish he would keep his hands to himself for once!"

Miroku just smiled innocently. "Why Sango, whatever do you mean?"

"You know damn well what I mean you pervert!"

Antari noticed the hostility in Sango's voice and quickly backed away. "Whew! And I thought Ekrin had a temper..."

-To Be Continued...

***Short, yes, but a chapter none-the-less. I'll work on chapter 5, but it will take awhile. I have a lot of other stories to work on. ***

