

Beast Master 1141

Chapter 1141: Infinite Golem Glitch

Fifteen minutes later, Misty and Rain, the Dryad furniture makers, were at the entrance to the upgraded workspace, staring at the area in wonder.

"This is incredible. So much space. Greetings, Guild Leader Karl, Priestesses. What did you need us for today? Please say that it's a full decoration of all these buildings. Business has been slow lately.

Everyone spent their money exporting items for the Bomgon war, and most of them haven't returned yet, so there's nobody ordering anything." The elder Dryad explained.

Karl smiled at the excited Dryad. "Not all of them. Some of the new residents have their own furniture.

First, we need you to do the orphanage building for as many as you consider reasonable to house inside. If you can make the top floor double dorms, two beds in each of the large bedrooms, one on either wall, the others can be much higher density.

Then, single rooms for how many? Priestess?"

"Just me. We're short on clergy, but the older children help out, and we pay them until they go off to find their own work. It helps get them ready for the world." She replied.

"Alright, a suite for the matron on the main floor, I think. Then suites for the older kids at the top, so they pass by all the younger kids and their supervisors on the way down. We will let Matron Blackclaw sort the sleeping arrangements, but we will need plenty of beds, work benches for school work in the common areas, what else?"

"A nursery. Many will drop off newborns at the Orphanages. Then a convalescent room for the Red Dragons. It is customary that they give birth at an Orphanage, as the Church raises all of our children." The Red Dragon Priestess added.

Misty smiled. "Don't worry, Matron. This will be the greatest Orphanage that you've ever had the pleasure of managing. Will this be the teacher?"

Sapphire shook her head. "I am one of the new crafters for the Guild. I will call on one of my brothers to teach here. A strong male influence helps balance the attitudes of the children and keeps them from acting out."

"If you have trouble recruiting one, tell them that we will provide them with access to the Guild Library. It's not the biggest they'll ever see, but it's better than two shelves in their room." Karl offered.

"That should be enough. Our God approves of spreading knowledge, so teachers aren't too hard to find." Sapphire agreed.

Misty looked over the small town in the cave. "How many of these rooms are in use?"

"About three dozen. Talk to the craftsmen, and they can tell you what they need and what unit they're in. It's all on the Guild's tab." Karl explained.

The two Dryads took off. Misty headed for the orphanage, while Rain went to the sculptors' area to take orders for the upgrading of the houses. Her mother would have her hands full with the big project, but the Dwarves were usually pretty spartan in their requests, so it would mostly be beds that they wanted.

Dwarves even preferred stone or metal couches with cushions on them, instead of wooden.

If there were Demons, it might be more work for her as a Dryad, but she saw a lot of short people.

With that handled, Karl was free to begin the essential tests of his own new skill. First, to see which spells the skill would actually affect.

The Golems came out as four summons. But the Bodyguards were still only two, and it didn't clone the Epic Guard or the Haint either.

That was somewhat limited, but it should give Dana both her Golem and Greater Golem summons at four each.

That was no insignificant force.

In his mind, Rae celebrated. She had just realized that the spell gave her an infinite golem glitch.

If she made enemies explode with [Blood Destruction], she could awaken them with [Queen of the Damned] and use them as Blood Golems. But the spell should double the number, which would leave her with twice as many Golems as enemies.

All she had to do was keep finding more targets, and she could double the world's population entirely with Blood Golems.

Until they started to rot and smell bad.

That would be a problem.

A problem that she could sort out when the time came. It was just a shame that she couldn't teach the Golems or the Blood Golems how to make clothing. They were utterly useless that way.

The Spectral Knights would try if she ordered them to, but they had no sense of art or delicacy. Lousy as tailors.

Better to have them collect materials.

With the testing done, Karl dismissed the extra summons, and then led the Priestesses to the tavern so that he could write out the [Golem Duplication] skill.

With some luck, he could get that to advance by a Tier, and turn it into Summon Duplication, or something similar. But the Skill Master ability hadn't activated in a while, and Karl was beginning to suspect that either he had lost favour from it, or it was stuck waiting for a skill that couldn't be advanced yet.

That had happened before, multiple upgrades all at once when a skill advanced. At least, Karl was fairly sure it had been the case with Skill Master itself when he advanced it through the skill tree and then immediately got another advancement.

The first copy, Karl handed to Sapphire, who simply stared at the skill book in wonder.

"This really is a most wonderful skill. I wonder if I can use these skill books to teach advanced classes? What if I taught Lay on Hands to a Warrior? Would they become eligible to become a Paladin? Or if I taught them [Sense Truth] would they become a Crusader?" She pondered.

"Try it right before they go into a Dungeon. Most Class advancements become available the next time you enter a System Linked instance or Trial." Karl suggested.

The Blue dragon sighed wistfully. "With this, we might singlehandedly break the Warrior imbalance and bring the thirst for knowledge back to the world. Teach them that there is more to life than Cleave and Guard."

Chapter 1142: Solving Imbalances

The mere thought that she might rid the world of Warriors who only cared about two skills in their entire skill tree was enough to send the Blue Dragon into blissful daydreams.

It was a lifelong ambition of her branch of the clergy.

Karl worked on another copy of [Golem Duplication] for Dana to use, and then passed it to Rae, with a promise to make her one to sell once he had a bit of spare time. First, he had plans to recruit Blue Dragons to the Library.

"What if I made a collection of Skill Books that are likely to cause advanced classes? You could bring in Librarians to make copies, and then the Blue Dragon Clergy could start an initiative to advance as many warriors as possible.

You could even do it out of Zilaz, where there are so many more warriors with excess resources." Karl suggested.

Sapphire smirked at him. "You're not even trying to pretend that this isn't an attempt to claim more dragons for the Darklight Host."

Karl shrugged. "Sometimes it's fun to play along, sometimes it's just easier to make sure everyone understands."

How do Silver Dragons feel about new spells and skills?"

Both dragons roared with laughter.

"Even more strongly than the Librarians do. The Blue Dragons want to know, and want the hard copy. Silver dragons wish to know the spell, and then they intend to use it." Sapphire agreed.

"So, we need Silver Dragons here as well. That would be a good combination. We could make another Dungeon team, for them to test out and practice new skills to see what will trigger class advancements." Karl suggested.

He could see the possibilities running through Sapphire's mind, then the very moment that a brilliant plan came to her.

"You know... there is no actual rule against asking the Acolytes to join a study. They just need to meet the requirements to advance, right? We could grab all those warriors that the Red Dragons keep around and train as guards for merchants and such."

They are already being trained by the clergy, so there is no harm in making them into something more useful than a basic warrior template." She suggested.

Matron Blackclaw looked vaguely offended. The mercenary guards that the Red Dragon Clerics trained were chosen from the finest fighters among the Orphans, and the Red Dragons did not appreciate others calling them useless.

But Sapphire was already making plans, and wondering if she should call home to the Sholaha and Kopji region temples to gather volunteers.

Between the two nations, there should be at least ten thousand warriors in training at any given time. Even a one percent volunteer rate would give them statistically significant data.

The only issue was that they needed them all to be the same Ranks so that they could send healers with them into test dungeons and properly vet the results.

That was a clergy issue, not a Karl issue.

All he had to do was make sure that there was a variety of skill books for the Blue Dragons to copy so that they could properly test their students and the theory that it only took one appropriate skill to trigger a class change away from the basic group.

Karl knew that there were a few skills that would help warriors advance to a better class, but the ones that Sapphire had in mind were mostly tanking classes. Paladins and Crusaders.

But Karl knew that there should be other warrior type classes, ones that blended with Rogue, Druid, Ranger or other classes.

The issue was that he could only make and teach skills that he already knew, so he needed to help diversify the skills of his beasts before he would be able to teach the warriors really incredible skills.

Hawk scoffed at Karl's thoughts. Warriors were just meat puppets, weren't they? They existed to be taunted from the air, and they couldn't even shoot back.

But Thor had different ideas. Wasn't Sister Rae a stealthy warrior when she started? Her initial abilities were mostly just sneaking up on people and punching holes in them. Maybe that was a Rogue instead?

But surely warriors could be taught to do that too, couldn't they?

Warriors could also use bows, so they could do Ranger things. Just not well.

That was it. Warriors were just the crappy version of all the other physical fighting classes. Wasn't that just too cruel, though? Why would so many people get the worst class? At least give them a better barrier so they could be a good tank or something.

Hawk couldn't argue with that. Warriors were a prey species for sure.

Karl tried not to laugh as the pair slagged the Warriors. Their ideas were helping him plan what he could do to reduce the number of basic warriors, though.

It might only take a single skill for another class that was just compatible enough with them that they would push through on a new path. The new class might not be ultra-rare or powerful, but it should be a step up from the basic classes that were most common.

For example, the whole group of specialty Rogues that they had doing Runecrafting in Zilaz. They had different skills than regular Rogues, and if the base class could create their own solid weapons from nothing, they would gain a distinct advantage with the skills they already had.

At least, situationally.

So, the next thing that Karl needed to do was to either burn some skill points getting random books, or start combining the basic abilities of everyone until he got new skills he could teach warriors.

If he gave them a beast space, it would most likely make them beast Rangers, or something similar to it. But if he gave them a combination of Mental Fortitude and an attack spell, they should be able to become a Battle Mage of some sort.

If they were bright enough.

Not all warriors were stupid. But all mages had to be at least moderately intelligent.

Chapter 1143: Just The Right Skill

He had been focusing on trade skills for so long that Karl had nearly forgotten the potential of the basic skills to other Elites.

Well, people. Since everyone here had a good chance at the system, not just the precious few.

Come to think of it, he didn't really have many basic skills. The beasts each only had a few, and they were very specialized.

But he could try.

He had [Rend] and Rae had [Spear]. She didn't use it often, but she had it.

The two combined fairly easily, and [Crosscut] skill formed in Karl's mind.

That was still a warrior type skill, but a good one. What if he combined [Crosscut] with [Walk on Air]?

That made [Blade Dance], an Epic Grade skill.

Now, that might not give someone a new class, but it really did sound like it might awaken some sort of upgraded warrior at the lower Ranks. The more powerful you got, the less likely Karl thought that it would be that a new skill would improve your class.

After all, the Mythic Tanks had skills like [Limited Invulnerability] and it hadn't done anything for them to get out of the Warrior Class lock.

Well, Deve was the only one who had that skill for certain, and he was a Druid, but the concept was the same.

Karl started to write out the [Blade Dance] skill as they waited for the Dryads to finish their work on the furniture, and found that it was remarkably short. For some reason, warrior skills were always the easiest ones to write. Rend was barely more than a pamphlet in skill book form.

Oh, that wasn't a bad idea. Short books were best.

What if he combined [Gravity Slam] with [Chain Lightning]?

[Lightning Stomp] was a skill that Thor could get excited about, so Karl taught it to him right away, though he wasn't sure that it was the sort of skill that would be far enough from a Warrior's specialties to count.

Just seeing Thor happily stomping around his space with crackling lightning boots on his feet was worth the effort.

He already knew that you couldn't just teach the warriors a wizard spell directly. They wouldn't be compatible. But other physical skills should be a bit more versatile.

This was harder than he thought that it would be.

Mostly because he had no idea what skills would actually work to trigger a class advancement that wasn't just "Spicy Warrior". But still, it was not a simple task.

[You could try teaching them Spicy Tornado. Maybe around themselves with a spinning blade? Warriors seem like they would enjoy Lotus' spinning dances.] Hawk suggested.

[You're probably not wrong. We can try that later, and see if they can use Flaming Vortex after a few tweaks.] Karl agreed.

Karl finished [Blade Dance], and Sapphire immediately took the book from him, then used a skill to open it so she could read it without risking using it.

"You know, even if you do use it, you can just make another copy. I was thinking that might make for an advanced Warrior Class. It's intended to be used with a spear, so it might make something more noble than hack and slash." Karl explained.

The Red Dragon Matron laughed. "I like how you two are so in tune that Karl just starts making books while we wait, even though the plan to bring in warrior trainees isn't finalized."

Sapphire shrugged. "It will happen. Now that we can teach them more skills easily, we should be able to change their futures."

Karl nodded, and then thought of a new combination. If he combined [Rampage] with [Fireball] and [Iron Within], the body improvement skill that had started his adaptation away from mostly human, that should make a good skill.

[Elemental's Wrath] Epic Grade Transformation Skill. Ignores 10% of each attack's damage, adds 250 Percent Fire Damage to all attacks, causes [Berserk] increasing strength by 100 Percent.

[We need the Ophelia here.] Hawk noted.

A giant flaming, extra berserk bear would be hilarious.

[Ooh, teach it to Cara! I want to see a berserk Cara!] Remi cheered in Karl's mind.

That was a scary thought.

"Did you have another idea?" Sapphire asked.

"There is a skill called Elemental's Wrath, an Epic Grade Transformation skill. It's a berserk state that adds damage reduction and fire damage. I'm not sure if it's something I should make for the Warriors or not."

Matron Blackclaw chuckled. "You can make it for me if you want. A rampaging Red Dragon might be what it takes to make these kids behave for more than a day."

{Champion Karl Offers Knowledge} Skill [Elemental's Wrath] will be transferred to the strict Matron Blackclaw.

The red dragon began to laugh. "Oh, yes, this is wonderful. Those little brats won't stand a chance during combat training."

Karl frowned. "I am trusting you not to abuse this newfound ability."

The Matron waved off his concern. "I have been responsible for the military training for promising orphans in Drodh for many years. Rest assured that I won't be using [Rampage] to beat children. Well, not young ones. You get my point."

Sapphire snickered softly at the Matron's excitement. "That is what happens when you flip the switch within a Red Dragon. They go from patient orphanage Matron to battle crazed drill instructor in the blink of an eye."

Karl nodded. "I see that now. I will make another copy of the book later, to add to the Library, just in case we need to make more copies for future visitors."

Sapphire smiled. "I will call more of my sisters over to make duplicates for the Dragon Gods' Library. They should be coming with the volunteers anyhow, but I will ensure that they send sisters with the Inscription skill, so they can copy the books."

Lord Drodh was not going to be particularly happy with their training plan. But the Dungeon here was Royal Ranked, so they could test weaker trainees with a better chance of advancing. It was only logical to do the project here instead of in Zilaz.

Though, if it worked well, they could expand it to the Guild Alliance members, and start sorting out their imbalance.

That was nearly a thousand potential volunteers who were already familiar with the eccentricities of the Darklight Host, and eager to make a name for themselves among the Dungeon Teams.

Karl focused on the possibilities as he worked on finding another exceptional combination.

Not the chaos that a rampaging Cara could cause.

She was very happy with her new skill. If Karl didn't want her to have it, he shouldn't have learned it himself.

Shared skills worked both ways.

Chapter 1144: Theme Chosen

The process of picking the perfect wedding theme was not a fast one.

It wasn't that either Dana or Matilda were trying to be difficult, but there were so many options, and every time someone got a great idea of what to add to the ceremony, that changed how one of the ideas would work with the others, and then they had to adjust it all over again.

Fortunately for them, they had Opal on their side.

She could recreate everything that they visualized so that everyone could do a live critique of how it worked.

Dana knew that the ceremony wouldn't be small, as they had many friends and allies. But her idea of reasonable, and Matilda's idea of reasonable, were very different.

Even Nachtia thought that it might be wise to invite the entire Golden Divine Academy to the wedding. When they had a church wedding, they typically invited the entire church in their city. So, dragons typically got married with five to ten thousand people in attendance.

It wasn't a big ceremony unless they were leaders of the church, but it was expected that everyone would take an hour or two out of their day to support the couple with their presence.

They also cast a group blessing on the ceremony to bring good luck and fertility.

That part was another point of contention.

Given the amount of divine favour that their group attracted, if she really did agree to the blessing, how long would it be before she was pregnant? Was she ready for that? And what species would the children even be?

Not that she had a particular basis, but she had long found that Karl's cat demon transformation was much more comfortable to sleep next to, and she wasn't sure how she felt about the chance of having kittens.

Or would they be fox kits? A hybrid?

Matilda thought that the whole issue was funny. She was Dana's age when she had her first clutch, and she had turned them over to the Red Dragons to raise, as was custom for all High Priestesses at the time.

That way, they didn't grow up in unearned privilege, or gain an unseemly attitude thanks to a parent's wealth.

"You know, that is an option. We've got an orphanage at the Drodh Guild House now. You could have the Red Dragons raise your kittens, so you wouldn't have to stop travelling with us.

They would be right there, and the dragons don't deny you visitation. Everyone knows who is a child of clergy and who is an actual orphan anyhow." Rae suggested.

"Wait, back up. Since when do we have an orphanage at the Guild House?" Dana asked.

Rae shrugged. "About three days now? Time flows differently there than it does here. Karl arranged it after we left because he needed people to work the shops for the new crafters in the expanded workshop village.

He's even got Leatherworker and tailors coming to slave for me."

Tessa gave Rae a disapproving look, and the spider relented.

"Do the work of crafting the boring stuff for me." She amended.

"Where did they even find tailors up to your standard?" Ophelia asked.

Rae puffed up in pride. "The city governor talked to a friend in Nerud, and they sent over a whole group of spider beastkin for us. They will know how to work with proper materials, for sure."

Dana sighed. "Let me get this right. You found out that Karl was bringing in more craftsmen to make items for the Guild store, and then had him talk to the City's Governor, who brought in a whole group of workers from another nation, on the other side of the continent, just because you thought that spider beastkin would be better at working with spider silk?"

Rae smiled, showing her pointed teeth. "He really is good to me. They even found a whole group of Overlords so that they can make the pretty stuff that all the Alliance members want.

That gives me all the time I need to decorate my Dana for her wedding."

She was quite pleased with this setup. She had sent over one hundred different design patterns for them to get started with, as well as one thousand bolts of silk. If they started to run out, she would adjust her supply plans.

But a hundred different dress and suit designs should be enough that only ten people in the Alliance had the same basic design, and they could customize each of them as they worked, so they wouldn't all be identical.

The plan was coming together wonderfully. It wouldn't be long before the whole world was cocooned in her silk.

Cara laughed a little at her sister's thoughts, then held up some white roses with blood-red tips on the petals that seemed to bleed down the side.

"Oh, those are good for the tables. Excellent call, Cara." Tessa complimented.

The flowers were a specialty of the Red Dragons, and they would go well with the red wedding gown that Dana had decided on.

Going ultra-traditional with the red gown and veil had been deemed both excellent luck and appealing to Dana. The only change she wanted from tradition was a thinner veil so that she could actually see what was going on, and not just what was right at her feet.

Dana cleared her throat. "So, are we agreed? Black and White for the Darklight host as the main theme, and then red and gold for the bridal party? Reversed for the bridesmaids."

Everyone nodded in agreement, and the final plans were started.

They had a dress for Dana already. Now, they needed them for everyone else.

Rae briefly wondered if they should make Cara transform for the ceremony, or if she was fine in beast form. Opal would naturally be coming as a butterfly, but she was already sparkly.

But Cara was black and white, so she did fit the theme. They could just throw her in a bubble bath with Lotus to get her clean.

Weddings were complicated.

Dana wasn't worried so much about the details of Cara's appearance as she was about the proposal by Matilda that they hold the wedding in a separate space in Cyhosasa so that she could invite all of the twenty thousand guests that she thought should be there.

For 'just a moderate' ceremony, as she called it.

Chapter 1145: Slightly Less Tiny World

Unaware of the scale of the wedding being planned, and confident in his companions to come to a decision that would make Dana happy, Karl focused on improving the selection of goods in the Alliance store.

They had an organizational system now. One of the Lala bunnies and two of the Dragonkin Runecrafters were on sales duty at the Alliance house, while Karl moved between houses as needed, but mostly worked in the Drodh house, while Sapphire worked in the basement of the Zilaz Alliance House with the others and her two grandchildren.

Some of them were getting eager to find out when Remi would be able to help them advance, but she was busy with the others, planning the wedding, so Karl had no idea when she would be able to make more potions.

The reagents were growing well, though.

But today was a big day for both Karl and Remi, though Remi hadn't realized it yet. Today was the day that the hippies were coming to decide if Karl's Tiny World was a suitable spot to live, or if they should move somewhere else.

They would be the last of the additional crafters that were needed to keep everything running when the beasts were busy, but there was one last step that Karl needed to finish before they arrived.

The Tiny World had been made at Overlord Rank, and he hadn't expanded it, nor had he added the powers of the Fundamental Rules of the universe to the space. At least some level of Fundamental Rules would be needed to properly grow Totem Ranked resources, and Karl intended to focus on adding Mana Manipulation to the space.

There currently wasn't anyone in it, which was perfect for his needs.

After finishing a whole batch of warrior focused skill damage and attack speed increasing accessories, Karl moved himself into the Tiny World and closed the entrance so that nothing would unbalance the area as he worked.

The first thing he needed to do was improve the area of the Tiny World.

It was already massive for their purposes, but compared to what he knew it could be, it felt lacking.

With a thought, the world began to reshape, and Karl focused on all of the myriad ways that mana could be altered or manipulated to create, destroy, and even simulate life.

The last was the most complex of them all, but the basis of the Tiny World was mana manipulation, and the Illusionary Domain that Opal used was a pure expression of the Fundamental Rule.

Taken to extremes, Karl knew that he could improve even Opal's prodigious skills with this ability. But for now, he was weaving it into the nature of the Tiny World as he carefully remade the spell without allowing it to collapse or damage any of the rare plants that they were growing.

That was possibly the most important part.

Some of the plants were literally irreplaceable, as the anomalies they had come from no longer existed. Unless Remi or the others had a viable copy in their spaces, these could very well be the last ones in existence.

The area covered by the Tiny World soared, and Karl found himself with an irresistible urge to transform.

[Avatar] shifted him into the image of a world dragon, and suddenly the manipulation of the Tiny World became effortless. The reshaping of nature was the greatest innate skill of the species, and even as an Avatar, Karl had no issues mimicking their creation skills.

{Skill Master 5 Activation} Golem Duplication ⇒ Golem Duplication 2

Karl smiled as he worked. That was what he expected. Mana Manipulation and illusion combined to create the Golems. So, the more he understood about the concept, the more easily he would be able to create more of them.

He wouldn't be shocked if other skills advanced soon as well.

Karl sat with his eyes closed, using his other senses to let him know how the plants were doing as he mentally envisioned an expansion to the Tiny World.

Not just simple grasslands.

No, he expanded the mountain range at the edge of the space behind him, then added a village within the mountain, complete with everything that Dwarven Crafters could ask for.

He had practice with that, after all.

Then, he expanded the forests, including some taller, denser sections, which would be perpetually dark at the base, perfect for Rae and those with her sensibilities.

The swamp was expanded, the fields, Karl even added a few smaller lakes and a winding river to the space.

Through it all, he wove the Fundamental Rule of Mana Manipulation as he struggled to comprehend it. The Tiny World was becoming more realistic by the second, and the mana storage crystals he had created were pulsing not just with energy, but with something that almost felt like the Haint, just before it gained sentience.

So, that was Mana.

Karl had misunderstood at first, but now the lessons about the dark times and resurgences began to make more sense to him. Mana wasn't alive, it was pure energy. But it had a pulse of its own, like a living thing.

To truly master manipulating mana, you didn't master using massive amounts of it. You merged the pulse of the mana with your spells until the two were inseparable, and then you could bend reality to your will without using a skill at all.

You didn't need to use Mana from your body, just shape what was around you and make it solid.

In a way, it was similar to what you did with illusions, but a basic illusion was a crude layer on top of the flow of mana. The purest of illusions were living, breathing constructs that nobody would recognize as an illusion at all.

Only the most adept would realize that they weren't a living person.

Karl opened the Tiny World to draw in more mana to work with, as he had expanded the space too far for what he had available without depleting the beast spaces. Then he continued to remake the space into the perfect paradise for magical beasts and plants.

It was going to be glorious when he finished.

Perhaps he should build a city, so they could move more people in?

No, that could wait until he was a Myth, and he needed to go on longer trips than a day in the Dungeons for crafting materials.

Chapter 1146: Unexpected Side Effect

{Guild Leader Karl, can you contact the ladies of your Guild? We have a few questions for them.} Guild Master Hugo asked moments after Karl decided that the Tiny World had reached the limits of what he could do today.

{Fundamental Rule Understanding Improved} Mana Manipulation 24%

Karl let the notification fade as he answered.

{They are busy planning a wedding. If it is something that I can help with, I will. We don't have any Overlord Ranked healers available at the moment, though.} Karl replied.

{Oh, that's not the issue. Where are you at right now? This would be easier in person.}

{Meet me at the Manor. I will make lunch.}

Or have someone make lunch for them. Karl hadn't cooked for himself in ages.

So, he first went to the kitchen at the Drodh Guild House and pleaded with the Abbies to let him steal lunch and snacks to take with him. Then, he returned to the Zilaz Alliance house and waited for the burly mage to arrive.

Hugo wasn't alone when he arrived, he had a Warrior with him whose armour had been beaten into submission, and an Overlord Ranked Mage wearing one of Rae's robes.

"Tell the Guild Master what you told me." Hugo demanded the moment they entered, skipping the small talk.

"Alright, well, you know how the ladies of the Darklight Host triggered a special event in the dungeon when they entered?" The warrior began.

Karl nodded. "With an extra boss and all, yes."

"The three groups who went there after didn't see the change, so we thought it was a one-time thing. But today, we were short a mage, so we brought Ruth, who was with their team that day.

And from the moment that we entered, the whole Dungeon was on hard mode difficulty.

The rest of the Overlord group your ladies accompanied went ahead of schedule, and they're inside now with a Totem Ranked healer. It's triggered for them, too.

Anyone who got the achievement, and who enters the dungeon again, triggers hard mode." The warrior explained frantically.

Karl nodded. "And this is a bad thing? It sounds like it's a great chance to get better loot. Now that you know it will happen, you can plan teams appropriately."

Ruth laughed and patted Karl on the shoulder.

"You're missing the important part, Guild Leader. We can't plan an appropriate team to do it again. We don't have the right classes or the necessary abilities. Our team managed to finish the dungeon, but it took eight hours, and we barely survived.

Unless we suddenly have a whole different dungeon team, there is no way that we can do that every week.

The hard mode difficulty requires that we either bring your ladies, or that those of us who got the achievement never go in that dungeon again." She informed him in a dry tone.

Karl shrugged. "I can likely help you resolve that issue. Both the classes and the abilities. You see, the Blue Dragons have an experiment going to help the Warriors change classes.

We think that we can improve the Tanks to Paladins and Crusaders. Then we will work on skills for the others to make them better than basic warrior damage dealers.

But as far as abilities, I can make accessories with the core skills you will need until the tanks can advance. It's not a big deal for me to make them all amulets or something with Limited Invulnerability on it. If they're beastkin or dragonkin, they should be able to use Bestial Regeneration as well.

That will take a load off the healers, who we can give extra mana storage and more efficient healing items to.

Hard mode isn't impossible, as you proved already. It's just a matter of gear and composition."

Hugo took a seat and placed a bottle of Rum from his inventory on the table, then poured himself a healthy dose into a cup of coffee.

"What are the odds that you can make Warriors into Paladins? The class is all defensive and healing skills. But it really is perfect for the tanks." He asked.

"Almost guaranteed. Is there a System Linked trial or area that isn't a dungeon here?" Karl asked.

Hugo nodded. "The Dragon Temple has a trial ground for testing Cleric improvements. We can ask them to borrow it."

Karl smiled. "I will tell them that it's a project of the Blue Dragons, and they shouldn't give us too much hassle. Bring more of the Overlord Ranked tanks here, and we will see who can become a Paladin."

[Sapphire, we need you upstairs. I found Overlord Ranked volunteers to become Paladins, if you can teach them to Lay on Hands]

The blue dragon ran up with a book in her arms, the skill book in question, and then paused when she looked at the warrior in damaged armour.

"This is the volunteer? He doesn't look like the sort."

The warrior laughed. "No, I am one of the team leaders, not a tank. I only came to explain the issue we had in the Dungeon."

"The tanks are on their way. Karl, will you also be making them items if they advance their class?" Hugo asked.

Karl nodded. "If they can make it to Paladin and reduce the Warrior overload, I will gift one Epic Grade, Overlord Ranked item to them as an advancement present. Suitable to their role as tank, of course."

Hugo smiled. "Very generous of you. Now, we just have to hope that the plan works."

Sapphire laughed. "Oh, I don't think that it will be an issue. I have studied the skill that Karl has in the Library Archives, and I believe that he will be able to make sure that the advancement happens, even if we have to give them another extra skill."

Karl's expression made Hugo laugh.

The Monster Man surely could do it, but he was sure that Karl had just been volunteered for extra work by the knowledge obsessed dragon. There was no way that she would let the chance to know what did work pass without fully testing it.

Chapter 1147: Better Tanks

The Overlord Ranked Tanks were getting used to various people running toward the Darklight Host Manor, so it was no real shock when it was their turn to be called for by the Guild Masters.

"Ah, welcome everyone. How are we going to do this?" Guild Master Hugo greeted them as the Tanks entered.

Sapphire frowned at the number of warriors in the room. She was not writing that many books.

Not happening.

"I am going to teach Karl a new skill, and then he will use his affinity for beast and dragonkin to transfer it to all of you." She decided.

Thor laughed as he came out to watch the show, and Karl took the opportunity to tease him.

[Done pouting about your Tessa being gone for the wedding planning?]

[I wasn't pouting. It's just not as fun when she's not here.]

Then Thor spoke out loud. "I will create a consecrated area that should make the spell transfer more effective."

[Consecration] certainly wouldn't hurt anything, Karl assumed.

Sapphire gave him the [Lay On Hands] book, and Karl opened the cover, learning the spell, while Tian snorted in derision.

[Such an inferior healing spell] He complained.

[It's an introductory spell for warriors.] Karl reminded him.

That made sense to the little fox. Warriors tended to be brutish and dumb, but dangerous.

Thor activated the circle of holy magic around Karl, and motioned for the nearest warrior to come forward.

"One at a time, and Karl will teach as many of you the skill as possible." Thor instructed.

The first of the tanks stepped forward in to the circle of holy light, and Karl extended his finger, while speaking in Ancient Dwarven.

{Poke!}

{Champion Karl offers Knowledge}

The Warrior looked stunned as he stepped back, and another man took his spot.

But it was more than just stunned, he was in the Class upgrade menu, as the application of the [Lay On Hands] skill had immediately triggered the option to advance to Paladin, and the System had been waiting multiple Ranks for him to get a skill that would unlock a class option.

Unlike Karl's group, who went into the dungeon or Trial the moment that they suspected that they would be able to advance, these Warriors had been through the Dungeon hundreds of times after they became eligible.

They just didn't have the qualifications to unlock any of the other classes.

Hugo realized what was going on the moment that the second man's gaze went vacant, and arranged for the others to move them to a safe sitting spot while they explored the class options.

"Oh, this is wonderful. So many not warriors." Sapphire sighed with a wistful expression.

Hugo chuckled. "Are we doing all the warriors? Because I have a few mages who wouldn't mind a chance to leave the basic class."

Karl shrugged. "It's more likely to work with the lower level members. Most of the Totems and Myths should already have other skills that should have activated the option. But, if there are still some stuck in base classes, I can at least try."

Hugo shook his head. "I meant the Overlord Ranked Mages. The rest can work it out on their own, we recruited them for their skills."

"If that's the case, then I don't see an issue with doing some of them later, when I have an appropriate skill picked to try to trigger an advancement. Mages are a bit more tricky, as there are so many ways that they can go.

But I only know a few options for Warriors. Either Paladin, Crusader, Berserker, or possibly Blood Knight. But I'm not sure that the skill I have in mind will trigger that last one."

Hugo looked intrigued, but not nearly as excited as Sapphire.

"What do you think will trigger Blood Knight? Life Steal? That might do if you have an advanced version." She suggested.

"I have Life Steal and Essence Transfer. Which is basically an advanced Life Steal. One of the two should be able to trigger the class, I think." Karl agreed.

"What would you use to trigger Crusaders?" Hugo asked.

"Holy Blast."

The Mage smiled. "Yeah, that makes sense. If there is any spell that would create a Crusader from a warrior, that's the one."

Karl motioned for more of the Tanks to come forward so that they could finish their work for the evening. The success rate had been one hundred percent so far, and that was a wonderful sign for the experiments that Sapphire was hoping to run.

An hour later, they had a full team of Paladins, with no more standard warriors among the Tanks for the Overlord Ranked teams.

"You know, we're going to ask you to at least try for the Totem Ranked Tanks, right? Perhaps not all Paladins, but there are still entry class Warriors among them."

Karl shrugged. "No harm in trying. If you want to bring them by, I can try now. Or I can get started on the gifts for our new Paladins."

The Warriors had completely forgotten about that.

The class alone was a huge gift for them, so a free bit of gear was just an extra bonus, far beyond what they would have expected.

"Alright, bring the Totems over and let's make them all not warriors. That should improve the next run's results.

I don't know what we're going to do about the whole advanced Dungeon situation, though. If we improve the gear for all the Overlords, that will solve it easily enough, but it might be necessary to start giving out some improved skills to the damage dealers as well.

If the tanks are improved and still taking too much damage for the healers to work with, it's either a gear issue, or the damage dealers slacking. But a couple of long duration damage skills, like Golems, can help make up for some of both of those issues."

Sapphire nodded. "All Mages should be Golem Mages at this point. There is no good reason for them not to be."

Hugo gave her a confused look. "You mean other than the fact that the local branch of the Church only sells five Golem Skill books a year?"

Sapphire shrugged. "They're a lot of work, and we don't like doing it."

Hugo chuckled. "And now I have the real reason. But you have a point."

Not all Inscriptionists are in the Church Library, so someone should have managed to make a business of selling Golem Skill books by now.

They're just hoarding them to drive the price up."

"Drive the price up, you say?" Karl asked.

"I should have kept my mouth shut. But yes, The Golem Skill Book goes for as much as a Totem Ranked armour suit."

Karl smiled. "Well, I think that I can likely do it for a bit less than that. Guild Alliance special pricing. However, they have to bring snacks."

They were getting desperately short on kitchen staff with all the new additions.

Chapter 1148: Do You Have Golems?

Karl gave Hugo a conspiratorial smirk. "You do have Golems, don't you?"

The big mage laughed. "I do have the Golems. I even have more Golems. The Greater Golem spell. I believe that the mage in your Overlord group has the same one, with Dragon Hounds."

Karl nodded. "Indeed she does. But if there are others in your Guild who are missing it, bring them here. And bring cake. I don't want to go back to the Guild House to get dinner."

From the kitchen, someone laughed.

"Relax, we are cooking. I know that it's not part of our duties here, but we enjoy cooking." One of the Dragonkin Runecrafters joked.

"If you're short on ingredients, let me know. I've got a bunch stored that might not be in the house."

A bunch of stored food was a vast understatement, given how much was growing not only in the beast space, but also in the Tiny World. Not all of that was edible to most species, but enough of it was that they wouldn't have to fear going hungry.

The Dragonkin nodded. "Miss Lotus stocked up the kitchen so that everyone could make snacks when we wanted, but her definition of snack is very broad, so there is a fully stocked pantry here."

Still, Karl sent a message to Davis, requesting that he find enough kitchen staff for the Zilaz guild house, even if they didn't actually live here full-time.

There was a portal and plenty of room for worker lodging, so he could just keep them here during their shifts and let them go home on the weekend.

[Got it boss. I have a stack of applications from residents of the suburbs. I can send them over right away if you need chefs.] Davis replied.

[Just make sure that they're not too skittish. We get a lot of Totem and Mythic Ranked visitors, and the auras can be pretty overwhelming for those at lower Ranks.]

Working in the Alliance house would be a nightmare of powerful aura overloads for most Commander and Royal Ranked kitchen staff from Drodh. Anyone over that rarely worked in the kitchens anymore, but Karl had faith in Davis to find him someone.

A couple of minutes later, the response came. [They will be there in fifteen minutes. They just need to pack for the week.]

More of the Alliance members were arriving, and the atmosphere was becoming more of a party as the others realized that the Tanks were all Paladins now.

Especially among the healers.

After all, the greatest advantage of the Paladins was their holy magic, which was primarily focused on defence and self-healing.

"Mages, if you don't have Golems, please go talk to Karl. He's got the ability to give most of you the Golem spell. The fee will be put on the Guild Alliance account, and the Guild Masters will settle the debt in the morning." Hugo announced.

That was the best news that any of the Mages could have gotten. Free spells were even better than free gear.

Not only would they get a new ability, like the most expensive of gear, but it would also be one that would endure if they wanted to change outfits.

"How does the ability work?" The Mythic Mage who had gotten the idol dress asked.

"You don't have Golems?" Karl asked.

She shrugged. "I never got around to buying the spell. I specialize in burst damage."

Karl smiled and patted her on the head, which made her give him a confused frown.

{Champion Karl Offers Knowledge} Skill [Golem] will be transferred to the lovely Idol Annabelle.

The mage laughed as the skill transferred, and began to spin in a happy dance that reminded Karl a lot of a happy Lotus.

"I get it. Monster Man is highly attuned to beast type pets. So, he can transfer skills with head pats. All you ugly guys are screwed." She laughed.

The Paladins just stared at her. Did she think that Karl gave them all the same treatment?

No, that was clearly reserved for her.

But they all followed her when she ran outside to see what she got for Golems.

Annabelle summoned her new Golems, and then stared at them in confusion.

"I think they're broken."

Karl shrugged. "What were you thinking of when you summoned them? There is a theory that the first casting can be shaped by intent. But once they're set, they're set."

They both stared at the pair of mafia goons in black suits with swords in their hands and distinctly Incubi horns and tails, then Karl smirked at the Mage.

"You were reading a romance novel before you were called over, weren't you? That's definitely the lead from a Romance book. Twins, no less." He added.

After another moment of shock, Annabelle swapped outfits to her new dress armour, and then went to pose with her mafia golem guards.

"There is something broken in her brain." Hugo whispered.

"Possibly, but now she's got Golems." Karl agreed.

Annabelle made her Golems put their blades away, but didn't dismiss them as she came back into the house. Instead, she kept them as bodyguards, flanking her like she was an actual Idol.

In a way, she was. All the Myths were famous, even here. But it was still funny when most of these people had known her for years, and knew her as a combat mage.

One of the Totem Ranked mages came over and tilted her head for Karl to pat.

[You're corrupting them all.] Hawk laughed.

Karl transferred the Golem skill again, and she raced outside to go test the spell.

It was too crowded in the main room to be summoning Golems. Especially if you didn't know what size they would be.

"How about a handshake?" A tall dragonkin man asked.

"You know, I just poked the Paladins. The head pats are something like a running joke." Karl replied.

Then he shook the mage's hand and granted the Golem skill.

There were many more mages who needed the skill, but the room was getting crowded already, and the party was starting to overflow the main room. They would have to find their way to Karl, but the guests were good about leaving him enough space to continue granting the Golem Skill, so that all the Totem and Overlord Mages could have it for their next run.

Even a little more damage would be a great help to all the groups. Especially if someone got Golems that could help Tank.

[Tian, Opal, could you please set up the upstairs for me? Just arrange the chairs and such for guests.]

[Got it. Opal is sending her illusions to do it now.] Tian replied.

Opal also sent a group of them to help in the kitchen and deliver the drinks and snacks.

Then, one of the Gargoyles led a group of Demons up the stairs, nudging them toward Karl.

"Oh, the new hires, right? It's an impromptu party, so I will let you get settled in after." Karl greeted the man in front.

"No worries. Davis explained the situation, and the Gargoyles let us drop off our luggage on the way up. Are we doing a full dinner service, or just appetizers and drinks?"

"Appetizers and drinks. The guests have brought many of them already. I instructed them to bring snacks and cake."

Chapter 1149: No More Warriors Initiative

The celebration for the tanks grew by the minute, until it not only filled the main and top floors of the house, but also the garden, the street outside, and many of the nearby yards.

That was excellent news to Sapphire, as she had received so many more volunteers to test her class advancement theories and provide research data that could be presented to the church.

The larger the sample size, the better. Especially if they were at multiple Ranks.

It would be a lot of work to make all those skill books, and she couldn't ask for Karl to do all the skill transfers, as that would mess up the data. But she had patience.

Probably more patience than the hundred warriors who were eager to become crusaders and find out what life was like as more than a basic warrior.

[Holy Blast] really would be the best spell to try to trigger the advancement. Sensing truth was also one of the signature skills of a Crusader. But if she gave that to them instead, there was no telling if they would end up as an infiltration specialized class, or if it would advance them at all.

However, giving them holy magic certainly would.

Today had saved her days of work gathering a suitable group of volunteers, even if these were more powerful volunteers than they had been planning to use at the start.

The party was in full swing when Karl got a message from Wendy at the Drodh Guild House.

[Mister Karl? There is a large group of strange people here to see you. They say that the Governor sent them.]

Right, they were still waiting for the gardeners.

Constantly adding more people like this was too much hassle, and Karl was glad that it was almost over. At least he had gotten the Tiny World ready for their arrival, even if he was still working to optimize the Fundamental Rules in the space.

He should be able to continue that after they were there, it was just the expansion of the space that he really needed to do in advance.

"Guild Masters, if you will excuse me for a moment, I need to go pick up a few more workers for the Guild, and then I will return once they are settled in." Karl explained.

Hugo smiled and nodded. "We can sort out the chaos with the Overlords later. I suspect that Lady Sapphire will be willing to help us over the next few days so that we can get better damage dealers on the main Overlord Ranked team."

Karl shook his hand and then went downstairs to use the portal instead of opening a new one to go to the Guild House.

What he found when he arrived was certainly not what he expected.

He had been told that they were nature lovers who lived in a temple, and that they didn't get along well with the towns in their area. But he hadn't expected this.

The group was a mix of beastkin, dragons, demons and Elves. But they were all wearing next to nothing, and what they did have on was basic tanned hide or rough cloth.

"How about we move this to a new location? It will help me explain." Karl suggested, then opened the Tiny World's entrance for them.

The Elf in the lead bowed politely, and then led her group through.

That was when Karl noticed the real oddity. There were no men.

He had been convinced to take in even more random women.

Was he told about this?

Probably.

He must have just forgotten who they were sending.

"Alright, we might as well start the introduction here.

These fields are all magical plants for the Alchemists. Right now, I've been using illusionary workers to do the gardening, but that's not optimal. To my left are the swamps, also home to many magical plants, and three species of fish.

They help balance the ecosystem, so try not to overfish them or let them overpopulate the swamp.

To my right is the lake, again, more fish, and the bottom of the lake has been optimized to grow water element magical crystals.

There is an empty village within the mountain range over there, and that house is a replica of the Guild House that we just came from. I don't know where you prefer to stay, but there is currently nobody else in here.

The Alchemy rooms in the Guild House get regular use, as well as the dragon perches on the mountain. There should be more than enough for everyone, no need to fight for a spot to rest.

Now, ask any immediate questions you have, and I will try to answer them."

"All of this is free for us to wander? Like, there are no off limits areas?" The Elf who was leading the group asked.

"Yes, it's all free for you to explore, live on, maintain. In fact, visiting most of it will be a necessary part of your employment, as we've planted magical resources everywhere.

Just don't mess with things that others have left here. The training grounds can be changed for use, but don't destroy the equipment left behind.

The same with rooms in the Guild House. Pick any empty room, don't mess with other people's stuff.

There is an Alchemy room through the Library, in the hidden city area. It's best not to mess with that at all. Alchemy is a precise process, and Remi will not be happy if someone ruins a potion in progress." Karl explained.

"So the rule is basically just 'be good neighbours'. Are any of the others prudish?"

Karl shook his head. "Not particularly. There are a few dragon clerics, and some magical beasts. Remi, the alchemist, is a Naga Queen. But none of them are particularly prudish or strict about rules."

The Elf looked around, her eyes glowing with some sort of spell, and then turned to her group.

"What do you think? Is this suitable?" She asked.

One by one, they nodded.

"This place is good. It's got plenty of farmland, everything else that we need, and he said that we can do what we want as long as we don't bother anyone or let the magical crops wither."

That made some of them laugh. They were mostly Nature Goddess aligned Druids or Witches, and more than capable of taking care of the crops and the wilderness.

"You have a deal, Guild Master." The Elf agreed.

{Guild Employees Verified}

Suddenly, one of the dragons transformed, revealing a shaggy green leaf covered body. A forest Dragon, Karl realized. He hadn't seen one of them in ages.

But she was already gone, flying off to go splash in the lake.

"Thank you for your kindness, Guild Leader. We will assess the state of all the crops and make sure that everything is perfect." The Elf explained.

That seemed like a dismissal to Karl, and he turned to leave while the druids began to argue about who got to go to the best areas first, and whether they should opt for indoor rooms or set up an outdoor camp.

"Wait, before you leave, does it rain here? This place feels like a separate space." The Elf asked.

Karl nodded. "I have set up day and night cycles, as well as weather. It rains one day a week, but the humidity is much higher around the swamp, and the temperatures aren't the same everywhere."

Chapter 1150: Gardeners Acquired

Karl watched as the group compromised, and set up a camp by the fields, then set up cooking utensils at the camp in the swamp that was set up for the Naga visitors, and finally arranged a campsite at the shore of the lake, on the edge of the beach.

They also sent someone to look in the Guild House replica, who gave them an approving double thumbs up gesture, and then one that Karl guessed meant that the kitchen was stocked, as the gesture looked like eating.

"The Green Dragon Cleric stocked the pantry, but there should still be more space if you want to add ingredients that she didn't choose." Karl offered.

The Elf nodded, then began to strip down to change into an apron. Just the apron.

So, that's what they meant about prudes.

"We have great spells for creating food, and I have a thousand years of cooking experience. If there is one thing that we don't need to fear, it is starvation." She laughed.

"Alright, I will let everyone settle in. I come here fairly often to work on the Fundamental Rules in the space, as well as my own knowledge. Just let me know if you need anything."

Eventually, he would tell her that aprons were usually worn over clothing. But if his guess was right, the minimal amount of clothing that they wore, like the thick green robes that the druids working in the swamp had changed into, were more like protective gear than fashion.

Hawk laughed as he came out into the Tiny World to fly around for a while and explore the space.

[Lotus is going to love these people. They're already working on growing coffee on the slopes of the mountain. Plus, half of them are naked and planning on playing in the lake all day.]

That sounded like peak Lotus behaviour.

Druids, Witches and Green Dragon Clerics had a lot in common.

But while Karl was getting the new hires settled in to maintain the plants of the Tiny World, Lotus and the others were finishing their cram session for the wedding plans.

They had even planned a date. One month later, on the day with what Matilda had determined to be the perfect moonlight for the end of the party. It would highlight their decorations just right in the areas outside the main party area, and encourage the partygoers to have more fun and drink less heavily.

Nobody doubted her visions of the future. They had seen what she could do with them.

The world wasn't as isolated as it seemed, it was actually connected to the Immortal Realm in hundreds of places.

But the Supreme Ranked Dragon kept those places hidden or locked away, and had placed a spell over them to make them less detectable on the other side. There were still a few occasions where someone tried to push through, usually in an attempt to gather slaves or servants for the Immortal Realm, but when they did, she would foresee it, and place defences over the area.

She did it reflexively after millennia of practice, but it still needed to be done if this world was going to be protected until it could support a spell that would isolate it completely.

The Immortal Realm could just live without one of the billions of Mortal Worlds to lord their supremacy over.

It wasn't like they were actually short on Mortal Realms to plunder. Every resident of the Immortal Realm could have a hundred Mortal Realm planets to themselves, and they would never run out of them.

The problem was that there were only so many that were even worth plundering.

Nobody wanted the ones that were completely devoid of magic, the ones which had never developed a sentient species, or the ones where the sentient species on them were entirely too hostile to be tamed.

The Insectoid Worlds under the Beast and Spider Gods? Definitely in low demand.

Not zero, there was a market for everything if you looked long enough, but far from what anyone would consider to be sought after.

Once upon a time, Matilda had considered being one of those Immortals, who would claim an entire world for themselves to experiment upon and exploit.

But when she looked into the future, it was utterly boring.

With too much influence from herself, the outcomes were utterly predictable. Complete randomization led to patterns of probability, and her mind was too sharp to miss them.

So, she had remained here, where she was born, and nominated herself as protector as she watched the world advance and regress, make brilliant empires and tear them down with poor decisions.

Just the right amount of Chaos to keep her life enjoyable.

"Tell me again why the wedding has to be in one month? Don't you usually need like half a year for everyone to plan their attendance, get time off, travel to the location and such?" Dana asked as they were packing to return to their daily lives.

"Because the traditional wedding ceremony involves a spell that can only be done when the celestial alignment and magical state of the planet are right, and the next one for you and Karl is more than two years away if we miss this one.

If we wait that long, he's probably going to be a Myth, and his power will be dragging him away from you.

But once we do the wedding, and the soul bond is in place, that won't be a concern." Matilda explained.

How a Soul Bond would change the difference in their power levels was something that the Chaos Dragon always managed to skim over, using 'you will understand once it's in place' as an excuse.

So, Dana packed the last of her belongings from the resort in the Chaos Realm where Matilda had brought them to plan, and followed everyone through the portal back to Zilaz.

Lotus laughed as she stepped into the Alliance house, where Karl was meditating on a beanbag chair on the top floor.

"Oh, that is different. It's only been like three days here, not a whole month of intensive wedding planning. This is good, I like it. Plus, the Goddess says that Karl found new friends for me to hang out with.

Oh, there are new staff too? Hello!"

Then the cleric was off to the kitchen, intent on meeting the newly arrived staff that Davis had sent over from Drodh.

Nachtia watched the nature cleric and the Demons immediately get into an argument as Lotus tried adding ingredients to whatever they were cooking, but it looked more like they were insulted than actually angry.

"They sent cooking obsessed Obsession Demons to work the kitchen. This is bad news for Lotus." The black dragon chuckled.

"Yeah, they're not going to be as flexible with their recipes as Tessa is. But this place is spotless, I think that they sent a caretaker as well. We should ask Karl how many people he hired while we were away." Dana agreed.

Beside her, a gargoyle made a chirping laugh, and Dana knew that it wouldn't be just a handful of party staff, cooks and cleaners for the Alliance house.

It was time to go find Karl.

But before she headed upstairs to see what he was doing, she checked the Guild Roster. That would tell her much more easily if there were new people.

{New Guild Members} 24

{New Guild Employees} 86

Now, she definitely had some questions about what he had been doing while they were gone.