

## Master 101

### Chapter 101 - 101. Making A Scene

"these hard to find light crystals will be selling in a package often! The bidding will start at four hundred gold! Let the bidding begin"

Only four hundred gold? This seemed low for ten light crystals. Walker wasn't sure why the price was so low but didn't think too much about it. The strange part was no one immediately bid either, this again put Walker off. Onyx nudged him reminding him of his desire so walker was forced to bid.

"N-number six four hundred gold"

The woman stuttered slightly glancing at someone in the middle row. Walker could see those dressed in the church's garb.

The man dressed in the higher quality robes raised his hand immediately.

"Yes number eleven four twenty five."

Walker didn't hesitate either, onyx wanted these crystals and Walker had the ability to provide them.

"Number six four seventy five"

Huh? The woman numbed the bid fifty gold? Some other guests were glancing at the party almost in pity. Was it not normal to bid against the church?

"Number eleven five hundred gold."

Ah now it was clear, they were favoring the church. The church must have a hand in the auction when it came to healing related items.

"Number six five fifty"

Again with the jump but Walker didn't hesitate, he knew that those in the church were required by their faith to live a frugal life. Spending too much would taint their positive public image. This must also be why the price was lowered so the garnet auction house could make a good impression on the church.

"Once....twice...three times it's sold to number six for six hundred and fifty gold. Good luck!"

The pauses in the countdown were longer this time than any other. On top of that instead of congratulations, the wording was good luck? We're they going to be in trouble for bidding against the church? Even Markus raven was giving them a look of pity? This in itself made walkers' skin crawl. But there was no going back, they could only move forward.

A few warning glances at the party soon were focused back on stage.

"Our final item today is this luminescent ring! This ring assists in the gathering of light. Any light mage or faith healer would surely love this item. The bidding will start at two hundred and fifty gold! Let the bidding begin!"

This was another item that sounded too low priced to be true, another bid for the church's favor? Walker was thinking the item strange, just how did it gather light to assist in light and healing? We're the two not slightly different? Light made sense you basically would get more light but healing the light would have to be turned in to the skill so having too much could hurt the user. Walker used his skill to see if he could learn anything more,

'Cursed ring of luminesces

This ring has the ability to channel light and also convert it in to mana. This ring has been cursed by its creator to consume the soul of the user.

The user relied on a light attribute healer to save his dying daughter. Sadly the healer never showed up so the creator made this ring for revenge by burning his own soul.'

Walker knew the dangers of a cursed items, many traveling merchants had shared horror stories of transporting them only to be met with misfortune. Stories were written warning people not to trust something too perfect when gifted by a stranger.

"Leader what's wrong? You look worried" Su was the first to notice Walker hesitation. "Does the item look worth buying? We trust you to pick it if you think it will be of use."

To the rest of the party better healing sounded like a nice perk. Not to mention Walker can learn any skill so light was also not a bad thing to enhance.

"What? No way I don't want a cursed item!" Walker had said this just a little too loud and a few guests heard him.

The man in the nicer church attire stood tall, "how dare you slander an item sold by the church. We priced it low so that the great people may benefit from its potential healing abilities!"

The man wasn't quite old but had well worn wrinkles in his forehead that had been accented by his anger. Walker had not expected this confrontation.

"My name is Walker a silver tier adventurer and wielder of the hero title. I have an appraisal ability and could see the true nature of that item. Now you have all seen me buy multiple items tonight and I trust the Garnet family values. However I will bet my title that the ring currently up for auction is cursed. It will consume the soul of the user every time they wield it. If the Garnet family could please ask the appraiser to take a close look to clear this up I'm sure the truth will be shown!" Walker's speech was thanks to critical thinking and his true feelings. As a person how could he let something harmful escape his watch.

Gil rose from his seat to stand next to Walker followed by Su and Remey "we members of the omnipotent party are willing to also put our hero titles on the line! We trust the skill and knowledge of our leader and refuse to allow something dangerous to harm anyone else!" This was why Walker had grown to love his party. They were family who could back him up and truly believe in him to the depths of their heart. Even Onyx had coiled up on Walker's shoulder releasing a soft hiss.

The man from the church looked to be flying in to rage when the woman in stage spoke "this family auction house does not permit physical disputes! This matter will be decided by the elder present

tonight! Be silent!" Her words were demanding and final, anyone else about to speak up was quelled. "Elder Avis garnet is an appraiser and most trusted. You have all seen his high abilities and to deny his word would be to deny the garnet family itself. Please elder I leave the stage to you."

#### Chapter 102 - 102. Complicated Enemies

Avis strolled up the stage with comfort. With many years of experience a small interruption like this could never phase him. "Hmm well I surly did not appraise this tonight, Mia please look in to who accepted this item later." The woman on the stage, now Mia, looked deadly serious. She knew an order from the elder no matter how calmly said was final.

The auction did accept items the day of but most were submitted in advance by other members of the garnet family or their attendants. This item currently was one of the items another member had accepted. Most likely due to the church's standing did not properly appraise it either. This was sadly a common error made when people faced the church. Due to its status and overall good appearance most would automatically trust those representing them.

Avis had shifted through five different monocles on stage while circling the ring on display. "Hmm...ohh....Ugh...." at first he had seemed rather interested but the second he placed the last monocle over his eye and gazed at the gem imbedded he became disgusted. "My esteemed guests after proper appraisal I must inform you that this is indeed a cursed item. It seems the creator burned their soul to curse the user to do the same. Unfortunately we at the garnet family auction refuse to auction this item. It will be returned to the seller. If knowledge that they knew it was cursed and they sold it anyways is found they will be black listed from the auction house. In that you have my word. Furthermore as an apology I ask that those who wish to stay a bit longer tonight join us here and enjoy a seasonal dessert brought in from the demi humans lands." Avis always prepared a special delicacy in case things went poorly at an auction. He found that those in high society couldn't help themselves when rare and expensive cuisine was offered. To prove his point those nobles in the audience seemed rather cheery and impressed.

In complete opposition the man from the church looked incredibly angry. Not only had he failed to buy the light crystals but they knew item he was required to sell had been returned. He would be loosing greatly when his superior heard of this matter. He glared at the party making sure to remember their faces, he was not beneath revenge.

Walker almost missed it but Avis have a slight smile and nod to him. Avis had been impressed, it was not often he met another with an appraisal skill. He would surely be inviting the youth to dinner and future auctions, he did have some granddaughters who were in need of marriage after all. The thought of one marrying a hero was enough to tempt him, adding the skills was better. He was definitely fitting of the title sly old man.

A large breath was released, Gil sat back down "I know Remey is usually the one to cause trouble but holy lord did you have to pick a fight with the church." Remey punched Gils shoulder hearing this.

"Oh so you would have preferred to let it go hurt someone, I see" Remeys taunt back was enough to make Gil pale.

"Leader I'm glad you said something, it would sadden me to hear of a healer being unable to peruse their duty." This incident resonated with Su more than the others. She had met many healers due to her mother's illness and believed that they were exceptionally valuable to the world. Some healers possessed dangerous skills that would cost them years of their life to heal terrible injuries. Yet that was a choice, for someone unknowingly to get a cursed gear that caused their death was just plain wrong.

The party managed to witness the man from the church storm out of the auction house with two attendants in tow. The two attendants looked worried, walker also felt worried for their safety. He needed to accept early that he couldn't protect every single person he saw, in the end he would harm more than save.

"So are we staying for desserts?" Wanting to break the tension his question was met with a resounding yes. It was clear that they were all excited to try something they'd never had before.

Soon attendants began brining out small tarts made from a blended red fruit. It shined ever so slightly. "Excuse me can I ask the name of the fruit used?" Walker knew the others were just as curious as him to what this new flavor would be.

"Yes sir, this is a fruit called red cranberry. Demi-humans farm this in the wetlands of their kingdom. Apparently the fields are forced to be dry for the whole growth period and then once they hit peak ripeness they flood them. This causes all the fruit that's ripe to float to catch nets and the bad fruit to sink and become fertilizer. I hear it is a very amazing sight." This was definitely interesting, they had never heard of such a fruit needing these conditions. A very ingenious harvesting method.

They each took one tart and held it high, "to a successful night." Walker and the others toasted laughing by a bit while popping the whole tart in their mouths. Their faces immediately puckered. Sour! The shiny red fruit that had been blended with sugar was too sour! Many of the other guests were making the same faces as them however that didn't stop them from wanting another. This was a rare taste in their kingdom, most of the fruits they grew or imported were sweet in nature.

The party went to collect their new items and utilized the coupon they had gained from their spider hunting. Today had brought them new items, almost twenty five thousand gold, and even a new enemy. Hopefully the good would out way the bad. They still needed to check their daily quest to see what skills they would gain. Their power as a party could substantially grow just with these additional items and skills.

#### Chapter 103 - 103. New Skills

The night had gone on a bit longer than expected and by the time the party returned home the air had become frosty. Before they entered the mansion Gil spoke up, "we'll have snow by morning" he said this as if it was common to predict the weather.

"And how do you know that? Huh?" Remey was naturally the one to challenge Gil.

"My mother taught me to feel the air. The way the cold sinks in to your bones and the stillness of the cold. She needed these skills to pull in a last minute harvest so it would t die in the frost. If you focus you might just figure it out." His mocking tone at the end made Remey's face flush red. She was about to hit him as hard as she could when small white flakes began to fall.

The wide smirk was not hidden whatsoever on Gils' face, they hurried inside not wanting to turn in to ice sculptures themselves.

It was plenty late and they all wanted to sleep but they were too excited and had to share their skills.

' daily quest completed.

Rewards:

Walker: area sense- passive

Allows the user to expand their heightened senses to a larger area.

Gil: air flow- passive

Allows the user to determine the slight changes in the air and more accurately adjust projectiles.

Su: deflect-passive

The user naturally generates an aura in their armor. Projectiles will more often deflect off the armor they make contact with mitigating harm.

Remey: mana absorption-passive

The user naturally absorbs man from any al attack used upon them. This allows them to mitigate some damage and recover small amounts of mana.'

The system gave them all extremely useful passive skills. However before they could focus on it the systems notified them once more.

'Midnight completed daily quest

Quest: meditate on the strength of one's foundation

Reward:

Increased absorption rate in the understanding of one's bones.'

This was an unexpected bonus, not only had the party members gained a quest but midnight had been given one that suited her unique situation. This was a true representation of what power the systems had in the world and to each unique individual.

The skills each member gained were perfect to help them over time. Remey had gained an item that assisted in al protection. This her gain of an ability that protected her from some al attack damage and helped her obtain mana would greatly boost her fighting strength. She now could release a bit of her stress due to the terror of al attacks.

Su was looking at her skill happily. Due to her slower speed fighting a long range enemy was her biggest weakness. Gaining an equipment that helped her speed and a skill that deflected projectiles seemed to be a perfect pair. Add in her high defensive and al defensive strength landing a blow on her was beginning to look like a dream. Not to mention with the small agility boost she can now more easily protect her party members.

Gil's skill was one that was more interesting, he already possessed amazing aim. Adding in the ability to feel the changes in the air and how it will affect his arrows would change his range drastically. Instead of just being a long range fighter he could jump to extreme ranged fighter. Using a combination of his new bow to fire wind elemental arrows and his new skill to fire farther than he ever could before he could deal massive damage. The enemy wouldn't even be able to touch him!

Walker's skill was more practical than most. As the party leader, he fully acknowledged his requirements to always know what's going on around them. The earrings he bought not only enhanced his senses but gave him a way to learn spiritual sense which could assist in healing and other things. However his new passive skill increased the range his senses covered. In simple terms sneaking home on him would be infinitely more challenging. For example if Gil was silently stepping toward him walker could see the slight change in shadows or maybe smell the tinge of sweat.

"So basically Gil became a long range cannon." Walkers joke was all too true.

"Well I'm not going to brag but with my bow yea pretty much. Not that it could effect Su much my arrows would just bounce away." Gil had begun to see the strengths and weaknesses of the new skills already and wanted to practice them as soon as possible. However their bodies would not allow them such things as they'd been awake for too long already.

"Pfft that's fine you two play with arrows or whatever, Walker will tell me when bad guys sneak up on us and I'll beat them up with infinite mana." Remey could see it now, Walker would warn her and she'd run around spells rolling off her as she used her punches endlessly.

"Remey please don't be reckless, the could still hurt you. I know you want to take them down but please stay close to me." Su genuinely worried Remey would get too far away but Remeys small smile reminded Su that she wasn't so dumb as to abandon her comrades in a fight. But she still wanted to remind her.



They would need to see the true effects on their battles in the next coming days. They still had free time before Clara would let them take more quests. They might as well work on these new skills.

They all stayed up chatting and showing off their new equipment. Walker was happy that his new ratings didn't require piercing his ears but instead clipped on. Su found her arm guards adjusted to fit her very well. And Remey was flaunting her new pendant. Gil did feel a bit left out not having a gear to equip but soon realized he had plenty of arrow shafts that he could add tailor made arrow heads. He would have the best arrows designed for him making his buy much more valuable. Onyx had beaten everyone to sleep becoming a tattoo again on Walker's hand. The others saw this and decided to call it a day and head off to bed.

#### Chapter 104 - 104. Training

Like usually the morning was there faster than they wanted. But with it there was also the system prompting their wake up.

' Daily quest:

train skills for three hours

Reward:

50exp'

Walker thought to himself the daily quest seemed pretty easy. He had planned to train himself anyways. He wanted to try to unlock spiritual sense so he could understand healing better. He might even gain other things from it, a better understanding of those around him would be a major boost any way he saw it.

After gearing up he headed to the training grounds behind the mansion only to find Remey beating up on a poor wooden dummy. "I should have known you'd beat me out here." The treating was enough to get a glance from Remey. She kept punching and looked drenched in sweat. She had been out for longer than Walker expected.

Walker was grateful seeing that Remey had cleared a large amount of the main training area of the thin layer of snow that had fallen. Walker thought to himself he would need to return the favor by doing so next time. Maybe he should use fire or water manipulation to move it, he laughs inwardly at this.

Remey had wanted to test her new passive skill but lacked a way to use it. She had been working on combinations of punches and even adding some kicks in while she waited for Walker. "That white flame of yours can't harm things that aren't undead or evil right? Use it in me, my mana is low and I want to see if it recovers." Walker knew Remey would want to test her new skill but it was a pretty smart idea to use a spell that technically couldn't hurt her. The heat would still be unbearable but it wouldn't really harm her.

Walker pulled his staff from his inventory "evil consuming flame!" He aimed and fired a white fireball at her. The flames encompass Remey and she let out a grunt as she felt the strong heat. They quickly dissipated as if they were being smothered. Her face was still struggling with the heat but strangely Walker saw a small blue glow on her entire body, this must be the skill absorbing some mana. He waited politely to see if she had indeed recovered mana.

"Hhhisssss holy lord that's hot...haaa...but it worked I gained four mana from that. I'm not sure it will be worth it. I'm sure wearing my new pendant the effects would be different but I want to get stronger without gear first." It was rightfully so that she had trouble talking at first, Walker knew just how hot those flames felt. It was rather interesting the amount of mana she took from the spell though. It seemed to take a toll on the body but would the mana absorbed become larger if it was a stronger spell? This was a question they could test but it would also harm Remey and Walker did not want to do so.

Remey also seemed to realize this "I don't think I can test my new skill as much as I thought. I'll just let it come naturally." This was a wise choice, Remey had great battle instincts and this moment proved it. No point in fighting a pointless battle.

Walker decided that since Remey looked like she would rest and take a chance to observe Walker he would start practicing as well. He wanted to see just how his senses had changed and to what degree. He shifted through his skills looking to see if he could utilize any to assist in this...

Elemental manipulation?

When did I get this? Wait where is my earth manipulation? Wait! Where are the other elements? Walker had finally noticed his skills had fused in to elemental manipulation. It only took over a day for

him to pay enough attention. To be fair he was distracted with his new little brother onyx and the excitement of his first auction. However now that he did see this he had a lot of work to do.

Walker wasn't sure exactly if this skill would work the same as his previous ones. They had familiar descriptions from what he could remember. Well he had full mana and decided it was worth a try. "Earth manipulation, wall!" He pushed five mana in to the earth and thought about a wall rising in front of him.

"HoooooooooIIlyyy youuu you just!!..." Remey was shocked by a sudden rumbling as the ground converged in to a thick wall in front of walker and her. "You have earth now! When?!" She was actually a bit angry Walker hadn't told anyone about his breakthrough. He could now block attacks from a distance which could save Remey if she ever was too far from Su. It was a great back up plan.

"Don't be too excited that cost five whole mana to cast." A devilish smirk crossed walker's face, "want to test its strength?" He knew tempting Remey in this was dangerous but by doing so she could show him just how dependable the ability to create walls of earth would be.

There was no way she could turn this down. She had enough mana to throw a solid punch before returning to rest. "Bring it on boy!" She couldn't help but taunt as she wound up her arm. She stomped down her leg letting an intense force flow from her fist. Her defense shattering fist hit the wall with force enough to displace the very air around them. It seemed that no damage had been done at first but..."ccccrackle!" A loud crack resounded around the training ground as a small crater in the wall appeared. Cracks spiderwebbed from its causing chunks of the wall to crumble. Only half of what was there remained now.

"Wow" walker could only utter this one word. He wildly underestimated her punches. Walker reminded himself that getting in to a fist fight with Remey would be a terrible blunder.

Chapter 105 - 105. Showing Off

"Hmpf guess you're fancy earth you were hiding can't stand up to me at all." Remey tried to look extra tough but walker knew she had exhausted most of her mana already this morning and was down for the count.

"I can't lie your punches are no contest. I wasn't hiding it by the way I just got kind of distracted and didn't see anything. Plus even I didn't realize what it could do. I tried learning all the elements and I practiced until I passed out. When I woke up onyx had hatched and that was more important." Walker knew using onyx as the excuse was dirty but it was still true. He couldn't neglect a newborn creature let alone one that was part of his family.

"Well then, if you show me something else cool I won't punch you when I get my mana back." The teasing was evident in her tone but Walker felt there was a real threat mixed in.

"Fine then, I want to test some thing anyways." He knew that ice was basically water but more solid, so in theory he could manipulate the snow just like the earth. "You know those arrows that made ice spikes on contact? Watch this." Walker then held out a hand focusing on the snow nearest to them. "Elemental manipulation, ice spikes!" His command and as mixed. A jagged spike shot from the snow faster than the earth had moved. Walker had aimed for the remaining earth wall fully piercing it. The sharp piece of ice that remained halfway through the wall spoke of terrifying injury. This attack could severely harm any monster without sufficient defenses.

"Oooo aaahhh you made ice congrats I'll ask you to chill my drinks at dinner." Walker couldn't help but glee at Remey who was giggling to herself while leaning against the earth wall he had made.

"Not enough for you? Fine let me mix a few elements." He wanted to do something a bit scary. Mumbling to himself "add some air....just a bit of water...mostly fire but not fire...hmmm would this make.....storm...typhoon...no....ha! Got it!" He'd thought for a moment on what elements to mix to get his next elemental manipulation. "Let's say I mix the right amount of wind water and fire. The fire provides energy that forces the water to change but the wind forces the water to cool. This turmoil is a storm and storms give birth to...elemental manipulation, lightning bolt!"

A yellow bolt of light night flew from his hand where a small grey cloud had formed. The light from it was blinding and a strange burning smell filled the air. The bolt hit the nearest training dummy completely obliterating it. Straw and bits of wood flew everywhere. A second later "BOOOOOMMMM!!!!!" The sound produced echoed for a few moments causing major tuning in Remey and Walker's ears.

Walker stumbled slightly, he had not expected the sound to be so strong. He also hadn't realized it would consume fifteen mana. This was a dangerous spell to use. It wasn't necessarily troublesome to just manipulate the elements but due to his elemental fusion skill and the elemental manipulation he could fuse and create exceptional combinations. This also meant he needed to be much more careful, he couldn't imagine what would happen if he hit a person with lightning.

Walker turned to apologize to Remey but instead found her standing up smiling. She yelled at Walker due to her temporary deafness "that was the best spell ever!!!!!" It figured that the most energetic of the party would be enticed by the flash and boom of the lightning. This may not have been the best

thing to show off. He didn't have much time to worry about the impression he made as the sound of footsteps took his focus.

A few moments passed and Gil came barreling around the corner for the mansion. Su was slightly behind him with a worried expression on her face. "What in the holy heaven was that!" All Gil knew was they heard a loud boom as they respectively were heading outside to train. There was smoking debris all around the training ground. However knowing the sound as thunder they all looked up, had lightning struck the training dummy on a clear sky after yesterday's snow? Had someone tempted a god?

Remey was uncontrollably giggling unable to even speak while she grasped at her stomach. "Well as you can see Remey is getting her abdominal workout in and I just tested my elemental fusion and elemental manipulation skills. Fun facts I can mix elements and make lightning now..." Walker slowly trailed off as he said the last but not wanting to cause even more drama.

"Leader how can you say that so normally, we did not even know you could manipulate the elements but now you can even make lightning?" Su had returned to her poker face but definitely had an air of curiosity about her.

"Well Since you guys know what I'm practicing, how about you tell me your plans. Maybe I can help." Gil seemed to already have a plan since he was holding three sets of older looking arrows.

"Long distance sniping. I have a skill naturally that enhances my vision and now with the new passive skill I can try to fire arrows from farther. I think starting from one end of the training field and spacing targets evenly to the far wall would be a start." Gil's plan was to fire arrows at increasing distances until he found his maximum distance with decent accuracy. From there he would focus and push to go to the next farthest distance improving his accuracy with each shot until he was comfortable.

Nodding his head Walker moved to the middle of the training field. "Elemental manipulation, multi ice walls." Channeling mana in to the snow he imagined ice turning in to circular walls. Ten walls appeared spaced out in the training grounds. Looking back at Gil all Walker could see was that his jaw had dropped. "You wanted targets like this right?"

Chapter 106 - 106. Meditation

Gil didn't say another word but instead ran over to one side of the field and aimed for the first target. He was a kid in a candy shop.

Su took a look and after Gil had fired three arrows started to run. Her speed had definitely increased as she reached the first target Gil was firing at much earlier than normally. She raised her shield stopping Gil's fourth arrow in its place. Once the arrow had fallen to the ground they understood this would be her training. She could adapt to her new speed and see how her skills affected her. How often protect lies could be deflected and if it was easily possible to block faster or farther arrows.

They all soon realized just how often they overlooked Su and his amazing ability to block. She dove to block arrows. She would slide in the snow in to a stable standing position. She would push her shield forward to purposefully deflect the arrow. The movements weren't skills they were ingrained in her very body. It takes hours of practice to reach this point. Walker was convinced that she could block attacks in her sleep.

After coming out of his awe, walker stopped watching Su and Gil practice. Remey seemed to still be captivated so he didn't distract her, knowing the long ranged attacks and the defenders' skill would greatly help her as a front line defender.

He sat down to explore his newly expanded senses. He could already notice the enhanced sight. Gil's arrows fled from his bow at a fairly quick speed. Yet Walker could track the arrow enough so that he could predict which target they were going to. Being able to do so would help against even the longest range battles, knowing even a second earlier of an incoming attack he could change the result.

Closing his eyes he did something he would regret. He breathed in deeply through his nose. Instantly he was attacked by the sour smell of sweat and mud. Scrunching his nose in disdain he resisted the urge to cover his face with his cloak. "After this, we all need to bathe!" His shout was heard by everyone and only received some weird glances. Walker could get used to smelling things a bit stronger, but that would be easier said than done. He made mental notes to head to the kitchen later to overwhelm himself to get used to it all.

His sense of taste was another reason he would head to the kitchen later. However, as he sat focusing on it a bit he did realize he could still taste a bit of his dinner the night before. Did he have some meat caught in his teeth? He scolded himself for not properly cleaning his teeth realizing his standards would rise.

His hearing was something that was surprisingly more useful. From this distance, he normally wouldn't be able to pick up in Gils mumbling. He could clearly hear Gil telling himself he released too early on the last shot. Focusing his mind even more he heard the twang of Gils bow, in unison a soft step then a harder step immediately followed by the metal twang of Su's shield. "Su don't hesitate when you block, I know the snow is a tough terrain but if you hesitate even a second you could fail the block." Su had

heard these words and knew exactly what walker was talking about. Her moment of indecision had indeed made her step back and readjust. The thing that amazes her though, was that walker was sitting on the ground with his eyes closed not having seen it at all.

The uses of enhanced hearing could be many, forget about someone sneaking up on them. Add the fact that walker could listen in to far away conversations he could become the sneakiest of spies. When he turned his hearing on himself he found that he didn't breathe smoothly, instead as he focused he was breathing a bit fast and uneven.

Feeling how his body was moving with each breath he now knew that he had overlooked the greatest change. He could feel more. Instead of just knowing he was breathing and feeling his heart beat, he now felt everything. As his breath came in he felt his lungs expanding and taking in the air. He could feel the paths of where his heart pumped blood. Even the slight twitching of muscles in his hands and legs while he thought. Even more so every time Su moved, Gil let loose an arrow, and Remy breathed he felt the air on his skin move. The world itself was moving around him changing how he reacted and moved. How could someone ever surprise him if he could feel the world itself?

Zeroing in on this feeling he explored it, he wanted to see just how much around him he could feel. He could tell there was ice all around them as the temperature in the wind was cooler higher or lower in the air. Even the small ice crystals in the air were not exempt from his notice.

There was more though, a tugging. Was this mana? The mana in the air and earth around him was almost visible. This must be why Gil can turn wind in to arrows. This must be why the earth reacts properly to my mana and changes shape. Even the snow and ice around me has its own shape of mana. It wasn't hidden knowledge that the world had mana in everything but being able to sense it wasn't normally possible.

' skill mana sense from the spiritualist system has been learned through the users own efforts.

The skill had been upgraded to high mana sense due to current equipped gear.

High mana sense- passive

Mana exists in everything in the world. However the ability to see how it all works in harmony is easily missed. This skill allows the user to gain insight in to the natural order of the world.'

## Chapter 107 - 107. Understanding

Walker had not seen the system notifying him of his skill or of how wearing the earrings had influenced it. Instead he was completely entranced by the flow of mana around him. The mana in the earth was colder and dark slowly taking mana from the ice as it melted. The air was doing the opposite, it was pushing man in to the ice making it stronger and colder. The heat from the sun was a strange mix of light and fire mana that were melting and forcing the ice to release more mana back to the air and in to the earth. The shadows of the mansion protected the ice and kept the light away also enhancing the coldness. These small events would have been overlooked normally. Now that he could see how they worked and what mana did to play a part it was as if he had seen color for the first time.

Focusing on himself he could see that the mana in his body wasn't just one form of mana but many different kinds. The elements were being filtered through if h his body and used to do many different things. If he wanted he was able to pull in mana of a certain element from outside his body to increase the amount of said element. He directed his senses to Gil who he could feel was drawing his bow. It wasn't that Gil had the wind elemental mana in his body but instead his body attracted it allowing him to use it. This realization that affinities weren't mana that resides in a persons body but the mana they could best attract changes his perspective.

He could feel light mana being pulled towards his hand and realized that even though onyx was resting in tattoo form he still drew mana towards him. This was unique since onyx ate light element but the fact that onyx naturally attracted it even when not actively consuming it was I retesting. Walker deceived to pull out one of the light crystals curious to what they felt like.

The crystal to him felt like pressure. There was an intense amount of light element mana stuck inside the crystal. It wanted to push out and expand but couldn't. Since crystals of any element took a long time to form it must mean that they change as they absorb more of an element. If this was true would they be able to harness this and form elemental crystals themselves? Walker had become completely consumed by his thoughts and the feelings of the things around him. It was as if he had opened his eyes for the first time to see a new world.

'Daily quest complete:

Train for three hours

Reward:



50 exp multiplied to 500exp'

Before he could push any farther he started to notice the tightness in his body. He hadn't realized he had been sitting for nearly two and a half hours just taking in the new feelings. He did not have enough time to explore this new world! But just as he was going to push through the pain to keep looking in to it all more his senses told him he needed to get up.

He could hear three sets of footsteps approaching the front of the mansion. It would seem they had guests. Walker tried to stand up but found his joints fighting him. Sitting for so long was not his smartest move. Hobbling along he reached the front of the mansion. Having a good idea of who was coming to visit he mentally nudged onyx to come out of his tattoo form to meet the three.

Laurence, Riley, and Elise were standing near the door awaiting a response from their knock. "And here I thought you three were too busy raising a little army of corpse spiders to visit for dinner." At the greeting the three turned to walker. Elise was the first to make a move to greet him showing more interest in onyx who had just begun to slither up to walker's shoulder.

"Hello little onyx we came to visit!" Elise was in heaven seeing the adorable black serpent. Walker wondered if she would still call him little onyx when onyx had grown big enough to swallow a human whole.

"Again I apologize for Elise, she's a unique individual. It's good to see you well, we've stored the eggs in a special pouch that inhibits hatching. It's better to perform contracts and hatching in a safe place." This was a common knowledge to tamers but walker hadn't heard of a special item made to inhibit hatching. He didn't need to possess one as he wasn't a tamer and his inventory acted in the same way. However more knowledge was always welcome, he never knew what he would need to know for a quest.

"I've got to say your tactics at the auction were very ingenious. Purposefully standing and buying eggs individually and to give the insinuation as if to buy for your guild. It tricked all of them there, before they knew it the last seven had been bought truly under the name of the guild. I may be borrowing it in the future." Walker had not lied in his compliment, it had been a great plan and well worth remembering.

"If we'd known better it was like this one who sold them prepared them just for a tamer. Luck must really have been shining on us." Laurence let free a small smile with his joke, seeing that the poker face from the auction house was no longer present he decided it was time to go inside.

"Well I'm not going to let you freeze out here, you should all come inside. We won't go through this door though, we'll enter through the kitchen." A devilish smile appeared. While the three didn't know why they needed to enter through the kitchen, they did not question it.

The five moved towards the entrance to the back of the mansion. Having a kitchen entrance was definitely one major benefit of a large house, especially if a certain dragon like to take naps by the oven.

#### Chapter 108 - 108. Meeting Stella

Luckily as they group enter red Hilda wasn't working in the kitchen. If she had been walker would have gotten the scolding of his life in front of his new friends. The heat of the oven welcomed them.

"So you wanted to warm us up, I thought it was strange you wanted to enter through here." Laurence thought walker had just brought them this way out of kindness. Elise however saw the reason why and jumped towards the side of the oven.

"This my friends is midnight, she's sleeping while meditating so I'm not sure she'll be running around any time soon. Just don't touch her, you will probably burn yourself, she really likes to sleep next to the oven." While he spoke Laurence and Riley had both moved behind Elise trying to take a look.

Elise was using every ounce of focus she possessed to be certain she learned everything possible from the encounter. Every scale, every line, every bone, every nail, and so many more aspects of midnight were analyzed by her hawk like gaze. She had only glimpses a dragon once and had not the opportunity to truly take in the wonder.

Elise was a tamer specialized in avian creatures. To say she wasn't interested in dragons would be a blatant lie. Dragons may be their own beast but they did fly like birds so many who tamed bird like monsters saw them with high respect. Elise was very captivated by midnight's scales due to their toughness. Avian beasts rarely had tough defenses and often instead would possess great speed. The simple reason being that if they had tough defense it would make them too heavy to fly.

"Her wings are very beautiful, but they seem a bit different from the rest of her body. Why?" Elise didn't beat around the bush she didn't understand the full reason why and just asked without hesitation or even looking at walker.

Not perturbed at all by this walker answered "we believe her father to be a skeletal dragon which is why her scales have white and grey lines. But her mother was a black crystal flame dragon so she had many

characteristics such as her mother's tough scales, coloration, and even most of her skills. She recently started to shed her baby scales so eventually the colors will even out but for now it was mostly just exposing her wings." Walker himself was eagerly awaiting midnight to awaken. Once she did he could only imagine what new skills and power she may have.

Laurence was focused on the grey and black wisps flowing around midnight, he couldn't figure out how it was an effect of something small like meditation. "May I ask what kind of meditation young midnight is going through to produce these wisps? I've never seen such a thing on any tamed beast before."

"Actually it's a pretty unique case, due to certain reasons we discovered a large part of the catacombs in the ancient ruins. We needed up trapped but luckily found our way out. Through our escape we found a bead called concentrated understanding. It possessed knowledge on darkness and death well basically bones. So midnight is processing it." These where's were so nonchalant and calm that the three before him almost just brushed it off.

"Wait, what?" This was the second time walker had heard Riley speak, Riley was the only one able to respond to what Walker just said. "You didn't seriously find someone with a master skill to create condensed understanding did you? That's just crazy." This was one reason why the adventurers guild needed to doctor their report before release, such items were so insanely rare that they could cause massive battles between the strongest warriors. Condensed understanding was basically a master giving down his experiences learning about a specific element.

"Let's just keep that part a secret alright. After she finishes meditating on it no one will have proof it existed." Walker had shrugged as he said this, he pretty much had just said even if you tell people you can't prove it. Sneaky sneaky.

Elise had seen all she wanted to see and couldn't rebuttals what Walker had said. As amazed as she was she had promised to bring someone else with her when she visited. " would you like to meet my Stella? Can I summon her here? She doesn't like the cold so this is a good place.

Remembering that Elise had indeed mentioned someone names Stella walker didn't mind. But summon her? How would a tamer summon something? These were very different systems. At walkers nod Elise lifted her hand. A small red ring which matched one Riley and Laurence had on began to glow. "Stella don't fly we are inside." With those simple words red light flashed and someone else had joined them...or wait something else.

In front of them was a young girl with bird claws for feet. The claws were sharp and dangerous looking. Her legs looked strong and slightly orange. Her arms were adorned with feathers to create blue and green wings. Her hands were part of these wings but each finger had a razor sharp Talon. Her face was much like any girls but she has slightly pointed ears and a mix of feathers in her short brown hair. She had sharp yellow eyes that seemed to penetrate anything she looked at.

"This is my lovely Stella, she's a harpy and the most adorable girl ever!" Elise was always excited to show off Stella since harpies were notoriously hard to tame. They often would rebel due to their stubborn will and unborn desire to fly through the skies. "We've been together since we were little, she fell right out of the sky after her mother was hunted by adventurers for taking livestock. Once I met her my system unlocked. We are pretty much sisters. If I didn't worry for her safety I wouldn't have asked her to wait within the beast ring." She loved Stella to the bottom of her heart, not every tamer had this devotion and connection to their tamed beasts. This explained why Elise had certain characteristics of avian creatures, she had grown up side by side with one.

#### Chapter 109 - 109. Onyx Meet Hyde?

"Well you can let her hang out all you wish here as long as she doesn't cause trouble she's the same as you or I." Stella smiled at this, she would have spoken if she could but harpies lacked the ability until they reached adulthood. A harpy fully grown gained some powerful abilities related to their voice. Some of which could stun, cause sleep, and even deafen an enemy. They were often dangerous in groups hence why adventurers hunting a harpy would put wax earplugs in their ears and use hand signals to communicate.

"I wonder if I could as well? I have a red needle porcupine as one of my beasts. Its needles have a fire attribute, hence the thick gloves. It's rather young and isn't used to our beast rings yet, it would be nice to allow it room to breathe." Walker recalled hearing about these monsters which lived near volcanoes and other extremely hot areas. They would consume tough minerals to grow sharp quills that could heat up to high temperatures. It wouldn't often attack and was normally a defensive monster which would roll up in to a ball when attacked and shoot its quills. Remembering correctly they only grew to the size of a crystal ball.

"Sure thing, just let me know if it starts any fires so I can put it out. It will be good for a young porcupine to experience a larger gathering of people." This was exactly the same thinking Walker had when bringing Onyx to the auction.

"Ah thank you very much, I knew you would understand my intentions." Laurence raised his hand straightened his gloves and the red light flashed from his ring. Soon a small monster appeared in his left hand.

This small red porcupine was much smaller than walker expected. It's quills were a full red color showing it hadn't fully developed yet. It gave off a decent amount of heat just due to its high internal temperature. It meekly looked around with its little black eyes before bouncing in to a ball seeing walker. "Now you see why I want it to get used to people more. Once it grows a little and I can figure out its strengths I'll choose a name; mostly because I feel like naming him Hyde might be a bit much." Walker smiled at this name and agreed it seemed to fit for the moment but after it grew out of its young phase it might not be so skittish.

Using his hands to cup the little monster Laurence made soothing sounds. "Don't worry it's going to be a bit loud but I promise no one will hurt you here." With his reassuring words the little porcupine unfurled and again gave walker some worried looks. It soon noticed onyx on walker's shoulder and the looks became curious. "Oh you'd like to meet the little serpent there? That's unusual for you. Walker would you mind introducing onyx?"

"Yes of course, I'm sure onyx is just as curious. The two are both young and finding new friends is always beneficial." Walker held out his hand allowing onyx to travel down his arm and in to his own palm. The two monsters looked at each other swaying a bit as they moved their heads. Onyx seemed to be happy taking a closer look at another monster that had also recently been born. He may have a sister in midnight but he had yet to converse with her since she was asleep meditating.

The porcupine let out small chit chit sounds as it moves slightly closer. These were met with onyx making small hissing sounds. The pair seemed to be getting along. Seeing this walker decided it would be best to move to another room. "Let's head to the dining room, besides the large table we also have a decent sitting area with some couches. We can relax and talk there. I think my father might be around, he used to work guarding the outer gate and has spoken to a few of your guild's members before. I'm sure he'd like to pry some stories from you." Walker may have been joking a bit but the truth was that he also wanted to hear more on their travels. He wasn't planning to join the tamers guild but since they traveled more than most other guilds he might decide to go on an adventure with them especially if it was a joint quest.

The group made their way to the dining hall and found that Su and Hilda were enjoying a pot of tea while chatting. It seemed Su had told her about everyone's new skills and how her son could manipulate the elements. "Ah this is Su, I'm sure you saw her at the auction, and this is my mother Hilda. Mother, Su, these are the tamers I met at the auction this is Riley, Laurence and his newly born red quill porcupine, and Elise with her sister Stella. They came to spend some time and eat with us later." Hilda quickly stood up surprised that walker had invited guests. It was not long ago that he didn't really even have friends. He had always been consumed by finding his system. As a mother she was extremely proud that her son had never give up, found his system, found a party of friends he treated like family, and now was able to branch out to meet new people. It was all a lot for her to handle.

"It's so nice to meet more of walkers friends, I'm sure he already brought you to meet midnight. You know she was much smaller when they first found her, just like your little puff ball there. I'll make some extra dinner so the little fella can fatten up a bit." Hildas warm smile was so strong Laurence couldn't admit that the red quill porcupine ate minerals and not traditional food. "Ah how rude of me as one of the mothers of the house I need to go get more tea. I'll be back just find a place to sit." Hold rushed off mumbling about bringing enough sugar and milk for all of them.

#### Chapter 110 - 110. The Life Of A Tamer

Su went to claim a spot on one of the chairs. She had changed in to more comfortable cloths after her training earlier. Walker hadn't realized he had been the only one left due to him being lost in meditation.

Laurence placed the little porcupine on the floor next to a coffee table and after glancing at Su immediately rolled in to a ball. "Ah you're looking more and more like a Hyde every time to do that." Laurence joked around starting to accept that may be that the name sticks.

Onyx saw the porcupines reaction is slithered over to it making small hissing sounds. This seemed to calm it down significantly as it unrolled fairly fast. Maybe onyx was telling it su was like the porcupine, a defender.

Stella had positioned herself behind where Elise sat and wrapped her arms around her. It was kind of adorable but very understandable since Stella had been asked to wait in the beast ring for a few days.

"So I've been wondering, where do you all get those beast rings? I can't help but think it would be incredibly useful for locations that midnight might not be allowed or able to travel." The thought process behind this was that Walker wanted a safe place for midnight if they came to an area that was too hostile towards monsters. Just like at the castle if someone targeted her he could just hide her away in the ring.

Laurence was surprised, he had been thinking walker had a system somewhat like a tamer. It wasn't easy to find solid information on what system someone possessed and most of the time rumors were exaggerated. It wasn't like the kid could actually learn any skill, he just had a unique system!

" well, most tamers will be given a quest to gather the materials for one and bring it to a al craftsman. We all need different materials to create the carvings inside. For me, I needed monster materials from fire affinity monsters. This is because I'm a fire tamer. It sounds cooler than it is, I can't actually tame fire

itself just fire monsters." This explained why walker had not really heard of them, they were part of a quest tamers had.

"That doesn't go to say that some tamers gain a master skill early to hold their tamed beasts within their own soul. I believe it's similar to spatial but more intimate." A master's skill...walkers only drawback was he couldn't learn a master skill.

"Well I guess that's a challenge, I won't be able to learn a master's level skill. Maybe down the line I'll figure out how to change spatial to allow living things inside. Or happen upon an artifact that has the same uses as the beast rings. Ah how about your contracts, I'm not sure if it's rude but I only know one way to contract and create a bond, I'd love to know more from those who have actually used them." This was something that had been on his mind. Walker knew he had used a blood contract that always used all his mana at the time. He also knew that the bond made his tamed beast equal to him and shared feelings and emotions. It wasn't a perfect master skill that would allow the master to actually see through their tamed beast but it was the closest he would ever get.

"Oh no it's not rude at all, we each have very different contracting methods. It usually goes down to what kind of tamer we are. Since I have the flame tamer system I form binds using a flame contract. It only works on beasts with fire affinity so I'm limited but I've never once felt so." This made sense, but saying Laurence was limited was a major lie. The world was a large place and there were many species of monsters some unknown still. Laurence was sure to have much too many choices in beasts to tame than he could ever dream of.

"wild beast tamer system....wild contract." Riley spoke up, he had begun snacking on some dried vegetables he had with him.

"Yes Riley is a wild beast tamer, he's a bit hard to fight with since he can't tell his beasts what to do in a fight. Hence the wild contract. Although a lot of beasts that wouldn't normally allow themselves to be tamed can fall under his care. He even has some wild demon boars." Laurence took over the explanation knowing Riley would only give the most basic information. It was a good and a bad thing to be able to tame the most wild beasts. Good because no one else could do so and you could gain very unique allies. Bad because you couldn't tell them to do anything and influence their actions. Well it was definitely wild.

"Oh my tub my turn!" Elise was raising her hand and Stella had mimicked her making small higher pitched noises. "my system is the sky tamer system, I can use the sky contract to bond with anything that can fly. That's why Stella and I are so perfect together. She's just like me but with wings! I hope that

I can learn a transfer skill one day and fly with her." Elise giggled as she allowed herself to lean back in to Stella more. Stella seemed rather excited at flying through the sky at Elise.

The transfer skill was a skill unique to a tamer. It could take an ability of their tamed beast and allow them to use it at the cost of mana. Could he learn that skill too. Could he breath fire balls and fly on skeletal wings made of mana? If he was hungry would he be able to eat light just like onyx? There were too many possibilities but they were very enticing.

Walker returned from his day dreaming and only felt it polite to share the contract he used as well. "Well I'm sure you have heard but I have a jack of all trades system. I can learn pretty much any skill that's not a master level skill, so the contract skill I managed to learn was blood contract."