

Master 1031

Chapter 1031 Crumbling Coral

The effort to move everyone that was injured or unconscious was simple. It only took a few hours to have a proper medic area set up so that the healers could work efficiently and set up their own resting rotation. Alice gave in to Remey and Walker and found her own spot to rest. Gil still wouldn't leave Alma's side so Walker just let him be. He knew that Gil was dead set on making sure Alma woke up safe and sound. It wasn't a surprise that the enforcers were one and the same.

Once everything had been settled, Remey had taken the chance to go and explore the outskirts of the merfolk city of Trident with a few of the demi-human forces. They were sure that they wouldn't come across anything dangerous but it was still better to have a patrol just in case of the worst case.

Su had remained steady with her desire to help the injured, For the battle healers she was basically one of them just without the healing skills. But since Su had learned what was needed for certain injuries they had the perfect supporter for them. Su also still had a lot of energy. It wasn't because she had not given the battle her all, it came down to her pure mental strength.

This left Adair and Midnight who were heading in to the merfolk city with Walker. "These walls will need to be remade. But that shouldn't be any issue for the mages here." Adair pinched part of the coral wall and watched as it crumbled. The kraken spawn had feasted on the living corals which caused them to perish. Therefore, the wall was crumbling away and would need a lot of new growth.

"I know the walls can be remade, I'm more worried about the `homes." The gate was barely even a gate anymore. As they swam through they could see the damaged row of market shops and storage buildings. Here and there were some bones from food stores and even some broken shells from the living clams brought in for food. "It looks like the golems bypassed this area and went right to the homes. I wonder if they will stay to clean this."

Walker was more speaking his thoughts out loud while walking through the broken market than anything. His head was on a swivel since he knew there could be some danger still hiding away in the city. But this wasn't looking to be an issue. Manby merfolk had already combed through the market since it was the first place they entered their city. The coral bunkers were close to the towers where the homes were.

"I was just coming to find you. My father would like to speak with you and your.. Fellow dragons." Leon was not sure if this was the proper way to put it and had hesitated for a moment.

"Yes, lord Walker is a fellow dragon. He is a royal dragon to be specific. I am an elder, Adair, I will receive the rouge pearl on behalf of my lord. Show us the way." Adair had changed her attitude as soon as Leon came over. She was a lot less relaxed and was acting the way a dragon was expected to. As much as Walker wanted to just remain relaxed he knew that he now held a responsibility to do the same as Adair to a degree.

Midnight was surprisingly silent to the point that Walker was looking behind him in worry that she had wandered off. But he found that she was carefully examining the broken buildings. It appeared that she was taking what Scylla had said to an even heavier degree. She wanted to help Scylla just as much as Walker did but she had given it her undivided attention since Walker needed to handle other things as well.

It was not long before Leon had brought them through the market and to one of the fallen coral towers. "This is one of the entrances to the coral bunkers underneath the sand. It may not be the most luxurious place in the world, but it is safe and where we will be operating from until the city has been better repaired." This made sense since it was the safest place for the merfolk to be until they were able to repair what had been broken and put their own patrols back in to place.

The small surprise was that there were perfect stairs carved out of coral when the merfolk could swim. It was clear that the passageways had been made with potential guests in mind. This was a small fact that made the merfolk even more welcoming to other races. It was also why some merchants would go out of their way to come to the city and deal with them directly.

The walls around them eventually expanded in to a large chamber where many merfolk were set up. Some had made bedding areas and others had set up close to the ceiling to sleep. But in the center was a vibrant coral throne with some of the few pieces of living coral shining brightly.

"Welcome to the city of Trident. I wish it was in better condition. You have aided my people in the rescue efforts we desperately needed. I have taken the items as rewards which you have requested from our city vaults." King Aaron motioned and two boxes were brought to Walker and Adair, one each. Walker stored it away while Adair took it in her hand.

"It will take some time for us to rebuild but you will have the merfolk people's support in your Genesis city effort. We can only attempt to bring more value to the new alliance that has shown just how important it will be to the world." These words affirmed everything that Walker wanted the Genesis alliance to be.

Chapter 1032 The Leviathan

"Know that the Genesis alliance will welcome you when you are able to send a representative to sit at our table. I will personally request that trade routes are made to travel through the river for your city to have access." Walker was sure that this would be the most agreeable way for the merfolk to travel between here and genesis city.

"I will have my people patrol the marchlands near the river when the time comes. I expect that the demi-humans and the tamers will also shoulder some of the opposability. But that can be discussed at a later time." King Aaron was already trying to see ahead. He knew that it would take some months to properly fix and grow their city of coral. Yet, he also knew that there would be able to gain from the new alliance with Genesis.

"I shall take my leave. There are villages to run and we can not leave for such a long time. My lord has decided to leave some of our dragonkin warriors here to patrol the area. They will focus solely on exterminating the few kraken spawn that may still be around." As all of them knew, there were kraken spawn that had not been in the direct area during the fight. Even now it was easy to say that some of them would be attracted to the remains of the other kraken spawn and the mother.

Walker watched as Adair left the bunker without another word. It was easy for her to walk away and leave Walker standing there. She did wish that she could stay and see what the party did but it was not part of her current duty. "On another note, I wonder what you may know about leviathans? Specifically one that is in this city." Since Scylla had asked Walker about this, he was going to do his best. Asking the king of the city would be the best way to make progress at first.

"There are some monsters held here in the coral bunkers. But they are not for the general people to worry about. They are left for the taming of merfolk tamers and mages. They will help our people rise come the right system user." King Aaron brushed off Walker's question as if it was nothing. This was the difference between their standing in the king's eyes.

Since the merfolk had stuck to themselves and only heard little about the surface, they did not have the same opinions of the hero title holders or the journeys they had been on. For them, these were just grand stories that had been blown up by travelers. It was the same with any story. Many people believed the merfolk to be the same as the sirens on rocky reefs in the oceans. This was just a misconception but enough to make the merfolk hold some distaste when compared to monsters.

"The leviathan I am looking for can never be tamed. It is already part of someone's soul since birth. If you can not show it to me and allow me to bring it to that person then I will have to go looking for

myself." This was a flat out threat. Walker didn't see any reason to beat around the bush. King Aaron was stressed and focused on his people, which was acceptable. Yet, to brush Walker off in such a way after he had helped them bring the Genesis alliance here was worse than a slap to the face.

"My king. I believe we should give the hero a chance. He has proven his loyalty to life and the safety of our people through his actions. If need be I will stand beside him every step." As Leon stepped in, King Aaron seemed to have lost the words he was about to shout. The look of annoyance and stress was all too clear.

"You will take him and that demi-human general. They are not to take anything from the best cages. If they dare harm anything then they will be signing their death warrants." King Aaron glared daggers at Walker and Midnight.

"Midnight, go and get Scylla. Tell her we are going to find her partner." Midnight swam off as fast as she could. She knew the gravity of the situation and also knew just how much faster she was able to swim.

Since king Aaron was done speaking to them he waved over his attendants to begin putting out orders. There was a lot to do and he didn't have the time to focus on Walker at the moment. "You really tried to fight my father. You know that the trident he holds was made by the very first merfolk king and that's why the city was named Trident, right? Every single king has added their mana in to it and made it more powerful."

"I was wondering about that. I saw him attack and slice through those kraken spawn as if they were nothing. It was even better than your spear." As far as Walker knew the trident in king Aaron's grasp was one of the most powerful weapons he had ever seen. The pure water elemental mana that radiated from it demanded attention.

"My spear is nothing compared to the trident. I was given this so that I may train the skills necessary to one day wield the trident. It is a weapon reserved for the king and only the king to wield. The only others I have ever seen wield smaller tridents were the armored merfolk. Unfortunately, they are a rare addition to my people." Leon seemed to be sad about this. He had grown up seeing said armored merfolk but it became less and less through the years. The pair stood chatting about such things until Midnight gave a soft roar to get Walker's attention again.

Chapter 1033 Whole

"I assumed you wanted me to come here? I couldn't do much when a little dragon was pulling at my robes." Scylla was looking a little disheveled having been dragged along by Midnight. She couldn't tell what was going on so suddenly but had hope it was what she had asked of Walker.

"I spoke with the king. There are beast cages in the coral bunkers here. One may have the leviathan we are searching for." The light in Scylla's eyes seemed to focus as Walker said this. She glanced back and forth between Leon and Walker waiting to hear more.

"Follow me. Please do not touch anything. My father is very tense right now and I would hate for him to make enemies." Leon knew that Walker was in no mood to fool around with politics. The attitude of his father had already pushed away the hero he had pleaded with for assistance. Now Leon had to keep hold of the relationship to make sure the future was still as bright as he felt it would be.

Some merfolk with bladed shell spears were standing guard at a closed doorway. They had already been told to allow them through and opened the strong coral door for them. "Stay close. Not many enter here without permission." Since Leon was using the utmost care, Walker and Scylla followed the same actions. Midnight was lazily swimming behind them sniffing the water. Her unique position as a true dragon champion had allowed her to smell the water the same as the air. She had caught on to this and had not stopped getting a sense of this new realization.

The feeling of the water in this passageway was much colder than they had expected. There were also slight rumbling sounds from below them as they descended. Colorful coral grew on the ceiling giving them a pink and blue colored light that gave them sight. "Not many have come down here. We often capture rare and powerful monsters to be tamed by our people. There are some systems that are unique to merfolk. One such system allows the control of underwater monsters. It is similar to a tamer but also very different."

"So you and your people spend the time to trap them and feed them until they are controlled." Walker did not like the sound of this. However, he was sure that the tamers also had such practices. That didn't mean it was good for the monster thought. Midnight could easily have been one of those monsters if others had found her before the party had.

"It is not as bad as it sounds. There are monsters like the goliath blue crab which could have grown and destroyed the city. Now it is under the control of one of our unique soldiers. They have guided it to protect the city from many large ocean monsters. It also helps deter the other goliath red crabs from coming near the city." The goliath red crab was a monster that lived very deep in the oceans. For the merfolk to have control over one in the shallow waters they lived in was very impressive.

"How do you come by some of these monsters? Do you raise them or just force them in to submission?" Scylla was fearing that she would find the last leviathan partner harmed and barely able to join her.

"Some need force, others are lured with food. We have others that just seem to care less about where they go. I hate to say it, but one of those that don't seem to care is the leviathan we found. From what I know it was drifting in the water not eating, not swimming, just drifting with a dead look in its eyes." Leon did not notice it but Walker clearly saw Scylla clench her fists.

Bars of black coral came in to view and Walker found they were in a room many times larger than the higher floors of the coral bunker. "These are the beast cages. They were made many years ago when this was but a small cave within the natural coral. That is the crab I was speaking about before. There are also two giant sandworms, a lionfish, and that over there, is what you wish to see."

Scylla pushed off the ground and swam with all her might directly to the bars of a darker cage. The light was dull there since the coral had been torn off the ceiling. "I am sorry I could not find you. The oceans finally brought you home." The other leviathans swam from Scylla and started to open their mouths in a silent hissing. Scylla reached a hand through the bars of black coral.

The water in the beast cages shifted and churned. Small pieces of coral and rock were kicked up around them. Walker could sense the mana around them growing denser. There even seemed to be a breeze through the water even though there shouldn't be one in the water. "I know you felt empty. I know that you have been incomplete. We are here now. Do not feel pain any longer."

Part of Walker felt that he was witnessing something he was not meant to see. This was more than just Scylla's feelings. This was her very being on display. The mana that was around them was hers. The water and wind affinity she had was powerful enough to cause the surrounding mana to vibrate and react.

A large head came in to view and cold eyes looked right at Scylla. The staring contests lasted only a second before the dead look in the eyes of the massive leviathan became energetic and mana began to leave Scylla and travel to the leviathan. The size of the leviathan became less and less until it was the same as the others. It slipped through the black coral bars and wrapped around Scylla with the other leviathans. Scylla was smiling just slightly before she started to slowly fall to the sand. "That's not something I believe I have ever seen in my life." The stunned Leon just watched as Walker and Midnight retrieved Scylla to carry her somewhere she could rest properly.

Chapter 1034 Leon's Thanks

"Do you think there will be any problems with Scylla taking back this leviathan?" Walker didn't want any problems. However, he knew that this leviathan was the same as telling Scylla she would have to remain

there locked up as well. The two were just the same as anyone else but closer. Their very souls were connected and to say they were different beings would not be true.

"No. My father may be stressed and is trying to show that he is a powerful and stable leader. But he would not stop something like this. I can explain it to him in private. This was not what he was thinking would happen in the least." Leon would do his best to explain what had happened. But he knew for sure that his father had assumed Scylla would be taming the leviathan and not becoming whole by bonding with it.

"I don't know if it is my place to say this or not. But Scylla is a very unique traitied demi-human. She was named after the ancient monster Scylla and has a very similar state of being. These leviathan wrapped around her share a soul with her. They are basically part of who she is and without them she isn't a whole being. She has been searching the world for the last one that was born at the same time as her for a very long time. She could sense it in the city though, so she asked me to help. It was actually very lucky that it was kept in your beat cages. I'm very excited to see her in her full strength."

Leon pondered this for a moment and eventually opened his mouth to speak again. "We have had some similar merfolk born with close connections to monsters. I can't say that they are connected in the same way but there are merfolk born that can bond with the pink seahorses very well. They often become seahorse riders or even breeders. Even before their system shows they have a way with them." This was easily understandable. Walker had heard this about some tamers and other professions as well. There were sometimes signs of what system someone would have and that would guide them to try certain things. But again, this all came through experimenting with different things.

"Thank you. I know it may not be said outright. So, thank you. You could have left us to deal with these things by ourselves and I know that if the dragons had not pledged their time to exterminate the kraken we may not have gained the help we needed. But I can't just swim here without me saying it..." Leon had felt this would be the only time to properly relay how he felt to Walker.

"My party would have come no matter what. If someone is in trouble I would like to think that we will run there as soon as we are able. We may have gotten the hero title by rescuing some fellow adventurers when we were not qualified at all. I even gained a skill that I will never use again, it's too dangerous. But to me, that title didn't come from the actions we took. The titles came from who we are deep down and who we strive to be in the future." This was how Walker felt deep down. If the party did not hold the correct values he knew that the system and the world would never reward a title.

The two continued to carry Scylla out to the medical area in silence while thinking about what they had said. Midnight had respectfully stayed silent and just bobbed her head when Walker had spoken. Now

that they had moved all the way back out to the main gate, Scylla was swarmed by the demi-human forced she brought with her. "Stay calm. She is just too tired and needs rest. She found what she needed though, let me know when she wakes up." Walker didn't believe that Scylla would remain asleep for long. She was powerful and could easily recover from the battle even though she had been plagued by a wound on her arm.

"I will return. I think it will be better for my father to take the lead on this and work toward rebuilding alone. Merfolk are proud people. We are the only race that fights the ocean for a living. But I am sure our representative will arrive sooner than you believe." Leon was sure that his father would ask for help once he had swallowed his pride and gotten a hold of the situation.

"Then we will not wait around. Just make sure you come and visit Genesis soon so I can learn to beat you using the spear." Walker managed to get one smile out of Leon before he swam off back the king.

"You look like you are happy." Walker glanced at Su who had come over when he had gotten through the gate.

"Yes, Midnight and I were able to get Scylla what she needed. Adair is heading home along with the other dragons. The merfolk will send a representative to Genesis, and It appeared the dwarven golems will stay since they want to solidify their trade future with the merfolk. U would say this has all ended much better than expected." Walker couldn't say it any other way. It had all gone much more smoothly since so many people came to help. It was a true testament of how powerful Genesis was already.

"And, Alma woke up. She told the tamers to leave when she heard they had looked for kraken eggs in the nest. You should have seen her. Gil had to hold her back." This was an amusing thought that Walker could hardly imagine. But looking at Su's face he knew that she was holding back laughter because it had actually happened.

Chapter 1035 Incoming Threat

"So Gil is finally resting" Walker found that Gil had fallen asleep leaning against a piece of coral. His quiver was his pillow and his snoring was a little louder than Walker could remember.

"Yes, my enforcers are also resting. I told them all that they didn't need to force themselves to stay awake and that I was fine. But it means a lot." Alma was still sluggish from her repetitive travel and high mana use. But she seemed more at peace than he ever had been.

"I heard that you almost took a bite out of the tamers?" The question was enough to make Alma scowl.

"You know I tried. They could have made this happen all over again. If they did that they would have made enemies of the dragons for sure and ruined the future of multiple kingdoms that had supported the tamers' guild. The nerve they have. I also heard that you got pretty strict with them. Kicking every tamer's guild member out of the city even though you have friends there. That's harsh." The scowl turned in to a welcoming nod. Alma felt that Walker had handled the tamer's actions much better than she would have.

"It was a bluff. There was no way that every single kingdom would push them away. Although, if that meant making an enemy of the dragons...well, things may have gone my way." This was true. The dragons were powerful and well respected. The fact that they could take on monsters many times their size and leave unscathed was proof of this.

"While I was resting, what happened?" Alma had been given a report by the enforcers but had wanted more opinions. Su and Remey had already stopped to speak with her and Midnight was currently checking up on her while Walker spoke.

"Nothing much. The tamers were dealt with. The dragons left. King Aaron will handle things for now and send a representative to Genesis. Scylla is resting as well but I think she will leave for her home soon after. But part of me thinks she will be sent as a representative for Genesis. Anyone else that they send won't have the same relationship with the city after this."

"And that means a coliseum that my enforcers will need to battle in. I will prepare myself for that." Alma jumped right to that conclusion making Walker believe she had guessed Scylla's character much better than he first expected. "You know you should be checking on Gil and not me, Right?" Alma teased Midnight a little but was just met with a soft huff showing that Midnight knew well that Gil was fine and she had worried about Alma as well.

"You know, he really lost it a little when you passed out and started to float in to the razor whip weed you grew. Leon came to help him but Gil still pushed himself pretty far. I've never seen him firing arrows that fast. I don't even know what ones he managed to use." Walker could clearly remember the actions that Gil had taken. It was a muscle memory movement for Gil to fire arrows in succession. But using his skills so fast was more than that. He had fully focused every movement and every single arrow his fingers touched.

"I know. My enforcers reported to me that he was well above their level of skill. I have never heard of a human being a better archer than an elf. Any elf. I believe he can do much more though. He still doesn't have a mastery skill yet. He might beat me to a mastery skill at his rate. I hope he does though. He deserved to discover it. I know it won't be the same as the other arcane marksmen that the forest elves have had in our history. He will be totally different." Alma's eyes glazed over while she thought about this deeply. She was certain of every word she said.

"He will be the best. I would never stay with someone who was not going to improve beyond the limits set for them." Zephyr seemed to struggle through the water as she popped up behind Walker and next to Fleur.

"That's good to know. But should you be out of the bow like this?" Walker did worry that Zephyr would be negatively impacted by the water.

"It's fine. I am just checking on everything. I need sleep too you know. His arrows don't fly so fast without my wind guiding them a little." Zephyr poked Walker on the cheek before moving back to the bow strung on Gil's back.

"I still can't believe he had a grand wind spirit with a name by his side. I can't believe my queen didn't drag him all the way to the forest and make him an honorary elf." Alma laughed a little at her own joke before settling back in her spot. "Once Everyone rests we will head back to Genesis. I want to see what we can build there. But for now, I will dream about it."

Walker left Alma to her rest and didn't bother Gil. Resting sounded like the best course of action. He could feel his own weary body along with sense Midnight losing her own energy. "Su, let's get some rest. Everything is covered here. Everyone is safe. We can leave in a while." Walker made a small camp for them. Remey soon returned and joined them for a snack and a chance to lay her head down.

(In a dimly lit room)

"The merfolk are alive and the ocean is not infested with the kraken!? How pathetic. A mindless beast can not even deal with some small fish. Greed, if you can take their new city it will be yours. Just kill them before you take their bodies and mana." The growl prompted an albino and sickly looking demon to grin.

Chapter 1036 Leaving Trident

"I'm telling you. I have so many different herb seeds and ingredients that I could create our own underwater farm." This was how excited Remey was when she had presented all the herbs she had picked to Walker. She had woken up well before everyone else and joined a few of the more welcoming merfolk to patrol.

The merfolk had been hard at work alongside the dwarven golems. Every single able bodied merfolk was helping. Even children were swimming about moving rubble and sending letters for material requests. The merfolk were recovering much faster than expected and the mages they had were already moving around to try and use their water elemental to heal the living coral.

"Yes, that's great. But how will you grow them? Don't they need salt water and a lot of care?" Gil had woken up and saw off Alma with the enforcers. They had taken some time since the enforcers now trusted Gil to the very depths of their being. Even Alma had been surprised when they knelt to him and thanked him for his unmatched defense effort during the battle.

"I already invited three merfolk herbalists. They said that they were planning to come to Genesis since they had lost their apothecary shop. Since they didn't do much business here before, they don't see the point in rebuilding and just going along the same path as before." Remey was pretty smug, to say the least.

"Well, that sounds very good for the alchemy guild. I hope they work out well." Su was sitting with Midnight and enjoying the rest of their breakfast. She had slept the longest out of all of the party showing that she had been hiding her exhaustion.

"They are staying here." Alice had finished meeting with the battle healers that had come with her. They had decided to stay with the merchant guards and remain with the merfolk to help the injured. It was hard for Alice not to stay as well but she knew well that her duty was to the new cathedral in Genesis. The battle healers needed a proper home to come back to after they had done their part.

"I think we should head out soon then. I will try and talk to Scylla quickly before we head out. I have the map that Leon sent along to us. It's going to be a tough swim back." The smaller group would mean that it was harder for everyone to get back. The party would not be able to easily break through any currents and fight off any curious monsters still around after the kraken spawn came through.

"Who says you will be leaving alone? Y forces will be taking another sweep through the river back home. That means you are all coming with me. There's no arguing about this since you were able to hold to my favor." Scylla had come up behind Walker with the entire demi-human forced behind her. They were all

standing and floating at the ready. Just because they had already cleared an area did not mean they would relax and expect no issues.

"My forces will also be helping to set up a lake for the merfolk to have easy trade access. Along with my people as well." Scylla had a lot of weight due to her being a general for the demi-human kingdom. This meant that she was not just throwing around some idle words. This would happen and be a major contribution to Genesis.

"That would be a very good thing for trade and for travel." Walker knew it would make things more than easy for the aquatic trait demi-humans along with the merfolk. Scylla was not doing something small by any means.

"It's the least I can do after fighting beside these people. I would not mind seeing them again. Though they attempted to tame us, They still fed and cared for us." The leviathan that she had bonded with swam from her sleeve and slowly grew in size above them. "Now let me repay you ever so slightly. Once I fully understand who I am now that I am whole, I will show you all something amazing." For some reason, Walker and everyone else felt slight fear about this.

"How surprised will They be when we beat them back. This is great!" Gil was happier than anyone else. He would be able to surprise Alma by being back at the city before her and the enforcers had returned.

"Thank you very much. A ride to the river is more than we had expected." Su was all too polite which made Scylla stand awkwardly. She had still not gotten used to the polite way that Su spoke but still liked it regardless.

"That means I can set up my herbs faster and preserve them better." Scylla, you are going to make a great impact on my herb farming." Since Remey was so energetic, Scylla brightened up even more and copied Remey's actions. The two were bouncing off the sand with fighting energy before Walker could take them down.

Midnight let out a soft growl which Walker understood without Onyx having to translate. "You can't swim faster than a leviathan. They literally are born in the water and are built to swim in it. They can even swim through the air sometimes." The response was a louder growl. "Yes yes, you will be able to fly through the air one day. I know." Walker gave her a hard look and Midnight finally backed down. But that wasn't before she got him to offer up a piece of horned rabbit jerky.

Alice took a spot on the leviathans back right next to Scylla. There was some hushed whispering and Walker watched as Alice sang softly to help heal Scylla's arm more. It had not perfectly healed yet but it was close. Just another two or three days and it would be back to the perfect state it had been before. "Now, let's check that river one more time," Scylla ordered everyone to move and the merfolk city was soon disappearing in the blue of the ocean.

Chapter 1037 One Day Off

Walker could wish all he wanted that the ride on the leviathan through the water was smooth. But it just wasn't. The water that pushed against their faces was brutal and forced him to use his mana to force it to move around them more. This made it much more tiring of a journey. However, he could not lie and say that it was not fast and efficient.

There were many times that Scylla swam up behind them to help one of them hold on. Midnight had fully learned the difference between her and the leviathan swimming in the water. But what really made the party impressed was that the demi-human soldiers were able to remain close to them. They were still a ways back but the distance was much closer than the party would have guessed.

By the time they had slowed and stopped, Scylla was all smiles looking at the party. She knew well that she had tested Walker's mental endurance. "That was some good resistance training. My other half needed to get out and stretch after being caged up for so long. We are all going to train a little." There seemed to be a profound joy around Scylla that they couldn't argue with.

Since he didn't want to bring down the mood, Walker just went with it. "I had some decent training holding off the water pressure. Any faster and I would have been knocked off and in to the currents."

"Well, I was knocked off and so was everyone else. So next time you should increase your a little." Gil was teasing more than anything but Walker could still see that everyone was fairly tired again. For some reason though, Alice looked very accomplished. Walker could only think that it was because she had used this to train her own mental strength. She was a songstress. It was not often that she would use her physical strength and have to keep herself focused on it.

"It just means you should train more. I can't wait to see what you do while I am away reporting to my king." Scylla felt that the world was about to change. It was mostly the fact that she was now whole but that simple fact had made her much more open and expectant of the future.

"Oh, we will be. Just be ready. Maybe next time I can punch through a mountain. Or I will have a potion that boosts agility." Remey had her own wild ideas that would drag her down a rabbit hole of constant rambling if Su wasn't fast to interject.

"Thank you for the help getting to the river mouth. We will follow the roundabout trail back to genesis this time. I believe we do not have any reason to rush through the swamp lands." Su's thoughts were the same. They now had the time to slowly head back through the trails that most merchants would take. This would expand their minds when it came to the places they had traveled and also let them relax a little. She was also planning on stopping Walker from accepting any quests. This was a good time for Alice to take the time and learn a few things without any pressure. Her words also ended the conversation between Remey and Scylla before it became too energetic.

"I will see you all soon." Scylla swam backwards toward the demi-human forces trailing them. Walker swore he could hear her yelling about whipping them on to shape and how they were going to be ten times stronger by the time they returned home. All he could do was pray to the world that they would all survive this challenge.

"We still have time on those spells that let us stay underwater, right? Why don't we explore the shores a little?" The entire party knew that Remey just wanted to search for more herbs before they left the beach. She was certain that she had properly stored the herbs and seeds she already had so if she spent more time it didn't matter too much.

"Actually, I heard there is a beach up a little ways. One that is closer to underwater lava plumes. It lets out some gross smelling smoke but it also heats the water. The merfolk that told me about it said that the monsters are calmed by the fumes and nothing ever fights there. Many people go to see monsters resting peacefully and to relax." The beach that Su brought up sounded too perfect. However, there were many ways to make monsters calm under the right situations. If they were able to go to this place then it would be a nice place to take a breather.

"Then we have to go! What if there are rare monster materials that we can use for potions, and Gil's arrows, and who knows what!?" Remey was sold on it instantly.

"If it is warm maybe it promotes healing." Alice was too adorable when she spoke up with her reasoning. But Walker knew well that she was more interested in the relaxation that would come with it. This kind of adventure story was much more her speed since she had been thrown in to a harsh battle right away.

Before Gil and Midnight could speak, Onyx had left his tattoo form and slithered down to Midnight. The pair just stared at Walker waiting for his answer. "Since I seem to be outvoted, then we have to go. But just for one day."

"You gave in to the look pretty easily. I'm not saying I can resist those eyes, but still. That was fast. You need to pretend to struggle with it next time." Gil's teasing didn't go far with Walker who made the water push Gil up toward the shore. This prompted the two to chase each other about back on to the sand while the other just laughed about their victory. They had earned a one day vacation somewhere they would not have even heard of without a merfolk giving them the secret insider information.

Chapter 1038 Splashing Monsters

"Where on the map did you say it was?" Walker was becoming skeptical that this heated beach existed. Part of it seemed too good to be true since a beach heated by the earth's magma underwater that also somehow released fumes to make monsters calm was just too suspicious.

"If you don't believe what the merfolk told me then what is all that steam up ahead? Is it just weird fog? And is that herbal smell just a coincidence?" The unexpected sass from Su was enough to make Walker stop in his tracks. Gil found it exceptionally funny until he actually looked ahead.

"Huh, I would say that's what we walked through the sand for." The sight was pretty amazing. The sand had slowly become darker due to the cooled magma underneath the waters being broken by waves. The steam was enough to shroud the entire beach and cause the fumes to remain around them. The party had barely encountered any monsters or animals on the beach during their few hours of walking. This was simply because the rock crabs had rushed back to the water when the kraken spawn suddenly decreased in numbers.

A hand clamped on to Walker's arm and he was being pulled ahead. Alice was smiling straight ahead while doing her best to pull Walker along. This left everyone else to go off and explore on their own. But before they could get far, Midnight stopped beside them growling.

"Alice, stop. That's a screaming baboon. They are known for tearing their prey apart whenever it enters their territory." Walker only recognized the red haired primate because it was known to live near the swamp lands in the marshy lands. The trees that grew in the marsh lands had their favorite fruit growing on them and at times the screaming baboons would go to territory wars with the lizardmen near the swamplands. This was also one monster that the merchants were sure to give a large amount of space since it would mean thirty of them attacking their caravans at once.

Seeing that Midnight quickly relaxed made Walker look more carefully. It wasn't just one screaming baboon but ten of them. They had glanced at him as if he was just another one of them walking by. They had claimed pools of steaming water and lowered themselves in to it. Some of them swam about while the younger ones were splashing as children should.

"They aren't aggressive at all. If this was normal, they would have attacked." Midnight gave a huff and walked right up to the pool with two of the playing screaming baboon children. Not a single screaming baboon reacted even though their gaze followed Midnight. What was even more stunning was when one of the screaming baboons splashed her and was quickly splashed back by Midnight's tail. The two screaming baboon children began to holler in glee.

"I..well...I guess this is a good spot to rest and relax." Walker had become a true believer in this beach. So much so that he kicked off his boots and let his feet rest in the warm sand. Alice followed suit. Onyx had taken to his full size and was burying himself in the sand to enjoy the heat.

"Su, don't let anyone else tell you you're wrong ever again. This is al." Gil just stood looking at the pools filled with screaming baboons and how Midnight was playing with them the same way she had played with other children. Zephyr had already left the bow and was flitting about the beach to take in the sights. Fleur was following her lead and checking everything out as well. It was another surprise to see that Fleur was so comfortable leaving her spot on Walker's shoulder. But the natural mana was stronger here and she felt a little livelier than usual.

Su set down her shields to make a shadow to hide her from the sun. She managed to coax the earth spirit out of the earth dwelling shield it had been resting in just to see it sink in to the sand to relax there. She didn't expect much since she had caught on that earth spirits like the slow and steady life. But right now she was going to mimic that attitude and take a warm nap in her but shade.

"Look!" Alice pulled harder on Walker's arm and pointed out something sliding out of a babbling pool much hotter than the others around.

"I have no idea what that is. Let me appraise it." Walker knew that Alice had gotten his attention because she wasn't sure what the brightly colored thing was in front of them.

'Boiling snail

This is a very unique monster that can only survive in places with volcanic steam. They often live right next to volcanoes and will go dormant when not in ideal conditions. They are fairly harmless creatures unless they are eaten. Then they release the long absorbed toxins from special glands in their bodies. This is also how they gain their vibrant colors. They are known as the guardians of the hot springs. If there is a hot spring or boiling beach then these monsters are why it is safe for living beings to enter the area. They absorb nearly all toxins from the cooling magma. They like to hide deep in boiling water unless they are looking for food. They prefer to eat steamed algae from the tides.'

"That's actually really cool. They make this safe for everyone." Walker had been more than impressed by the vibrant colored snail. But Alice was even more entranced. As far as she was concerned this was a healer in monster form. It protected people from poisons and made a safe and happy place to rest.

Camp set up wasn't even needed. The party ended up finding a very hot boiling pool of salt water and used it to cook some soup in their large pot. Walker readily admitted that Su had found a gem and made the decision to keep the location their secret. The group slept out in the open on the warm sand where even the bach breeze didn't bother them. It was an incredibly relaxing night leaving all of them fully energized for the next day.

Chapter 1039 Refreshed

"I can't believe we have to leave. I want to stay forever!" Remey was having a hard time leaving the warm sands that she had started to fall in love with. Not only had any aches and pains left her but she felt that all the stress that had come with starting a guild was gone. The idea of going beach to Genesis was a little scary.

"We literally have a city to help grow. It wouldn't even exist without us. We can't just leave it." Since Gil was acting like a real adult here the entire party was more in line with heading out. But Midnight had to rush over and give the screaming baboon children another splash before she left. What really hit home for everyone was that the adult screaming baboons gave a short holler when the party finally started to walk away.

"I still can't believe we were just resting around with some of the most dangerous monsters in the area. I don't think many people can say they have done that". This was definitely a memory that Walker was locking away tightly in his mind. But it was also a memory he could tell Alice would never forget. There was a spark in her eyes that said she would travel the world just to have another day like this. "This is why I wanted to adventure. The world is an unprecedented and unimaginable place." The two bumped shoulders with soft smiles before the cooler breeze hit them and caused them to pull their cloaks tighter. The ice and snow were still on the ground in the regular terrain. Just because the billing beach had been warm didn't mean everywhere else was.

"Now that we have rested, I would like to suggest that we get back home quickly. Sister and I want to explore the city more." This was the most Onyx had said since he had buried himself in the sand. The slothful attitude had finally dissipated and revealed his clear thoughts.

"We can follow this merchant route back. It will take us right above then down the rover. We will basically follow it all the way to the outskirts of Genesis before we need to cut back over to the city."

Walker had the map out and was showing off their predicted route. "The merchants travel these routes often so we should be fairly safe. I would expect that we will pass a village or two on the way but the odds are we will also cross a caravan heading for the port town. Word about the danger should have spread."

The fact that the port town had been under threat and was attacked would naturally bring many merchants. Rebuilding was a good time for young merchants to build themselves a new business and try their luck. It was the same with Genesis city. If a merchant had an equal party at the port town and at Genesis city it could mean a very powerful relationship in the future. A merchant would be a fool to miss the opportunity.

"That's good. I can try and do a little hunting and practice my scouting. I haven't walked these trails and it will be good to train them. Midnight, you should join me. I bet we can find some good prey for our dinner." Midnight jumped at Gil's idea. The two were off to scout ahead before Walker could say a word. He had basically told them it was a good idea by mentioning how highly traveled these routes were.

"Let them go. Midnight has wanted to train and get better for a while. She battled a lot against the kraken but she prefers the earth beneath her feet." This was something that Su also felt. The two of them shared a lot of the same feelings about battle. Su and Midnight both knew that when they could grip the ground with their feet that they could hold their ground better and rise up.

"I know, but they still ran off pretty fast." Walker had wanted to go over what the best monsters to hunt in the area were. But it was possible that Gil had already looked in to this before they had left the mansion.

"You can just be stuck with me and help me pick up herbs. Just because there are a lot of watery and muddy spots doesn't mean there aren't a lot of herbs. Just look how well those cypress trees grow. If they can grow I am sure there are perfect herbs just waiting to be found." The trees Remey pointed out were perfectly adapted to the marshes and riverbeds. They did not grow tall but they grew very elaborate root systems. Many small fish would hide in them when the rivers and marches flooded over.

"As long as we don't have to worry about mud lizards trying to bite at our feet then I am fine." Alice jumped around looking at the nearby mud after Walker spoke. "Don't worry. Mud lizards are mostly harmless. But they try and nip at passing animals and monsters. They eat what they can bite off then burrow in to the mud as fast as possible. They are hard to catch but apparently make a great addition to potters clay." Walker had read that their scales were the best for keeping the potters' clay malleable and ready to be sculpted.

"If you scare her like that again I will give you a lesson." Remey cracked her knuckles and Su just shook her head. But Walker didn't feel like Su was shaking her head at Remey's threat of violence, instead, it was at the way he had told them about the mud lizard.

"Fine, fine, Just make sure you keep an eye out." Walker fixed his cloak and sulked slightly while Su took the lead.

Chapter 1040 Laughing In To Danger

"You wouldn't think the marshes in the snow and ice would be beautiful, but they are." Su had started to fall in love with the frozen loom on the edges of the water. Some of the marshy grasses or cypress trees covered in ice. Even the animals and small monsters that blended in to their surroundings.

"The river mice are pretty cute. Their fur is supposed to be a muddy brown color but in the cold, they change to a pure white to blend in. It's a defense mechanism but one that makes them a lot less hated as a pest." Walker laughed because he knew that these mice were a huge problem for a lot of the villages and even merchants that traveled the area.

"I want ten of them for pets and I refuse to budge." The idea that Remey had in her head was that the mice could partner up with alchemists and reduce the stress with their adorable fur.

"I'm sorry to tell you, but they would definitely eat all of your herbs and seeds. You would have an infestation in a matter of a few months." Walker felt a little bad bursting her bubble but knew it was for the best. If Remey snuck a few of them back to Genesis then things would get messy.

"Yeah, yeah. Whatever you say, mom!" The response was sarcastic as all else but Walker just shook it off and kept walking. There had been a soft breeze for most of the day making them all slightly chilly. Yet, they had been in a pretty good mood while traveling since they had not encountered any deep mud or monsters.

"Hey! Up ahead we have some rocky ground so it will be even easier to move since we won't have the mud to worry about. The river also seems to get lower from the bank." Gil and Midnight had two regular rabbits with them. One was obviously pounced on by sharp claws while the other had been shot through the eye with an arrow.

"Alright, we will stay away from the edge then. I knew the river was like this around here but I didn't expect it to be so drastic. There might be some flying monsters around that live on the steep banks." It was good that Walker was thinking this way since the threat of flying monsters was always around. But having an increased chance of running in to them was very notable.

"I will keep an eye on the edge then. If anything tries its luck then I will block them." Su raised her twin shields so that she could be ready as they moved ahead.

The speed of the water was increasing and Alice was amazed by the white water rapids farther below them. She had never seen this before and wondered just how dangerous it must be. "You know, some people use boats to go down those. Apparently, it is fun. But a lot of merchants won't take the risk because the chance of losing the boat is too high." The story that Walker had been told as a child resurfaced in his mind while Alice looked ahead at the water.

"You will never catch me on a boat in that. With my luck, I will flip over and need to swim for my life. Plus, who knows what lives in that water. If something can survive in that then it has to be tough. "Also, firing an arrow from that would be challenging to say the least." Gil shook his head while trying to imagine how he would have to hold his stance while hunting in rapids.

"Those rocks would pummel you in to sand. Look at how fine that sand bar is. It's pure yellow. That definitely didn't come from the ocean." Remey could think of a few uses for the sand down there but didn't want to risk getting it. Fine sands were perfect for the filtration processes of some potions. However, it was very rare that she would need to do so since the potions she made required the ingredients to be ground or dissolved.

"How could it come from the ocean? This flows to the ocean? We are following it upstream?" Gil focused on the single thing he thought he could win over Remey with and ended up with a single hit to the arm that knocked him to the ground.

"Just because I make healing potions doesn't mean i won't punch you. It just means I can punch you harder because I can heal you now." The response from Remey made Alice laugh and nearly fall over on the path they were Walking.

"And I think you broke Alice..." Walker had not seen her laugh so hard. The fact that her pristine laughter had become so hard that she wasn't even making a sound anymore shocked him. He hadn't expected this reaction from her but began to feel the need to laugh himself. Laughter was just too infectious.

"And now you two are going to walk separate from each other. And If I need to put one of you in an earth fortress I will. I have the highest defense here. Add my shields and you can be trapped forever."

"And now you have Su making threats. A broken Alice and a threatening Alice. Today is just a mix of crazy." Midnight huffed at them and started to growl. It was a sobering sound that made them all stop in their tracks. The only one that didn't fall in to a battle stance was Alice. She was still too inexperienced in adventuring to immediately react this way. But she was about to learn.

A shadow flew over them and the sound of screeching birds caused Walker to change the eternal orb in to a hexagonal shield. His eyes glanced up and appraised the enemy that was circling them.