

Master 1111

Chapter 1111 - 1111. Tea Time

"Now what did you just ask me?" Gil didn't sound as if he was the happiest hearing what Walker had just proposed.

"It's a journey to the water elves' lakes. It should be to recruit them in to Genesis." Walker only repeated the end of what he had told Gil.

"The water elves? The ones that even the demi-humans said they have trouble with? You want to go there and try to talk to them? The ones that literally attack merchants that try to enter their lakes?" There was a serious annoyance in Gil's voice which spoke to how crazy this idea seemed.

"Well, they will come at some point. I would rather invite them than make them an enemy. Imagine what they will think if they somehow hear that all the knowledge of the desert elves is now here? How would they react to find out that the desert elves had ancient knowledge and that was not sent to them in any form or fashion? The water elves envied the water elves and now we have a chance to use that to bargain with them and join the Genesis alliance."

"I hear what you are saying, but do you really need me? I d think they are like the forest elves. I think they would focus on water instead of archery. I might just make them angrier." Gil did have a good point. The reason he did so well with the forest elves were the many similarities he had with them. He might just remind the water elves of the differences between elves.

"I will ask Alma to come too. She has relations with the water elves as the next queen of the forest elves. This might be a chance to bring them together again. It also means you will be acting as a personal enforcer along with any that Alma brings. Although, I doubt that she will bring any. It would most likely be something she needs to avoid since the water elves could think her to be attacking them if she brings guards in high numbers." This would just be something Walker would need to speak with Alma about.

"If Alma goes then I will be there. But make sure that Midnight comes. I want her strength. Just leave Su back though. Su deserves a rest. She doesn't show it enough but she has been working herself sick. That and I saw her being helped to the cathedral benches by that violin player she always looks at. I swear, do you all think I'm blind?" Gil never spoke about things like this. Walker was a little shocked. Gil kept so much to himself when he was in his own head.

"Well, I was going to ask Su to stay anyway. She is doing great work with the cathedral. I was thinking of asking the wandering blacksmith potentially since he could show off the rune forging that we have along with true spirit forging." This seemed to catch Gil's attention.

"That could work. But I doubt he will. If you haven't seen how the crafting guild is coming alone then you might have missed the news. The crafting guild has the backing of our wandering blacksmith. They need him to help keep the peace as they set down roots." Gil was well versed in the city's gossip. The wandering blacksmith is busy.

"Hmm, then maybe just you, me, Alma, Midnight, and Leon. Not a bad group. Temporary party?" Gil thought for a moment listening to Walker then nodded.

"I will go speak to Alma, you can hunt down Midnight. I bet she is with the dragonkin picking a fight." Gil had seen the four sparring the night before and laughed while thinking about it before he left toward the direction of the forest elf park.

As much as Walker wanted to say Midnight would be easy to find, he knew she could be anywhere. She did try to spar with them at one point but after Su had told him that one dragonkin had tried a lot of different food stalls at the first walk around the city, he knew. Midnight would never turn down food so that was where he would need to look.

The good thing about all that was there was one place that she would bring anyone that asked her for food recommendations. To his mother's bakery. Hilda may be busy but she was the kind of mother that would drop anything to help out her children And since Midnight was family, she would definitely make food for her and the dragonkin.

"Hello! I came in the back door because the front is locked." Walker yelled inside when he made it to the shop only to find that the preparation room was full of ready to use foods.

"Oh, what brings you all the way over here? I thought you would still be with the mages understanding that new tower." Hilda was in the middle of stuffing rolled dough with vegetables and meat to make stuffed steamed buns. She found that many people could easily grab them on the go in the morning.

"I actually came looking for Midnight. I want to see if she will come to the water elf lakes with me to speak with them." Walker saw the curiosity in his mother's eyes.

"Well, if you go all the way over there then make sure you bring me back those water chestnuts that grow around the area. I hear they are great for soups." Hilda did not hesitate to make the request. She had always wanted to cook with them since she was able to try one years ago. "And Midnight is in the other room with her new friend. They were tired after training so I even made some tea."

Walker found the dragonkin and Midnight in deep conversation. The dragonkin didn't seem to have any issue understanding the gist of Midnight's growls and hisses. It was something even Walker struggled with at times.

Chapter 1112 - 1112. Surprise Party Member

"It's not that simple. If I want to grow wings then I need to stimulate the dragon blood in my body. It is very weak. That's why most of the higher tier warriors often receive a drop of dragon blood by the royals or their elders. I would say that only a few have the privilege of flight. It's not like you who can do it from birth." The dragonkin seemed to be explaining flight to Midnight. There was an expression that spoke a thousand words on the dragonkin's face. It was clear that they wanted to fly one day.

The response from Midnight was a slightly rough growl and glare. Walker could tell that she was telling him that everyone should be able to fly if they desired to do so. This was how Midnight felt because she had wanted to fly for a very long time and worked toward it every day. "I know, but I'm not like the dragonkin born with a better bloodline out of nowhere. Look at my wings, they lack the muscles to fly. I'm a water affinity, not a wind affinity. I can't even fake it."

"Just because the wind affinity dragonkin might find a way to fly doesn't mean you can't. I bet that you can do more to discover your skills and become stronger. You are a dragonkin what? What is your system? I bet we can work on it." Walker used this moment to join the conversation. Midnight had seen him and was waiting for him to join in as well.

"I don't doubt that this is true, but I have not seen any dragonkin pull it off. I am just a warrior here. My strength is with my fists. But I can use a few skills that manipulate water in to ice that can cover my fists." The dragonkin was not the happiest admitting that they were unable to properly use . They had envied the dragonkin with such systems and abilities because they were more diverse in battle.

"Then you already have a path there. Why can you only cover your fists in ice? Why not use the wings you have as a base and cover them in ice to create a full pair of wings? Then you can learn to manipulate them to fly. It would be similar to other ice dragons and it might just get you a little higher in the dragonkin ranking." This seemed to open the dragonkin's eyes. "I also think Midnight could use a training partner for flying. She had also been practicing her frost breath skill." Walker was proud of the

small idea he had. He knew it would be difficult but the dragonkin seemed like they were giving up and needed a push.

"I would be honored to assist in the flight training. If I can help in any other way it would be more than I could ask for." There was a clear excitement in the idea that the dragonkin could manipulate ice on their fists to their wings.

"By the same principle, shouldn't you be able to make ice armor as well? Maybe it will all be one skill that uses your close combat and water affinity?" This was helping Walker to see the connections of his own elemental skills. He had heard of certain spell swords or other systems being able to make armor with their elements. It would be something he could train as well.

"I will attempt that after some study. I have neglected my affinity because I did not value it the same as others. I have seen my foolish thinking and will work to improve it. You have my lasting gratitude."

"I know you would have reached these conclusions yourself. I just want to make sure you find Genesis worth the trip." Walker smiled wide since he was happy to be of help to a dragonkin that was much older than him. "By the way, Midnight, do you want to come to the water elf city with me, Gil, Alma, and Leon? We need to try and get them in to the alliance before they catch wind of the mage tower."

Midnight arched her head in curiosity while she thought about it. It was a good chance for her to work on her frost breath since it would be a lot of water. Not to mention that it was more relaxed due to the fact that they were not trying to exterminate a brutal monster. It wasn't more than a minute before she started to nod her head. Walker could feel her renewed energy that would be directed toward a new adventure.

"If it is not too much trouble, may I come along? My two companions can remain here. I would value the knowledge of how Genesis plans to grow relations with other races. It would be valuable information for my elder when it comes time for the royal dragon court to gather." This made a lot of sense to Walker. He wanted the dragons to see the worth that genesis had in every possible way.

It was a welcome stress reliever having a dragonkin warrior with them. The dragonkin were known for their battle strength so if anything went wrong then they would be safer. There was also the fact that the water elves should be able to respect the dragons. While Walker did not show that he was related to dragons, Midnight and the dragonkin would be able to make the water elves know that they should not be pushed around.

"That sounds great. I think we can leave tomorrow if you want. The journey should be shorter because I want to see if we can take a ride on one of the giant hawks still around from the tamer's guild. I think Elise will set us up with one or two." Walker was looking forward to the conversation with Elise.

Chapter 1113 - 1113. Stella's Secrets

Midnight and the dragonkin did not waste a moment. They left right after Walker had left. Hilda was surprised to see them rush away so fast. She had barely managed to hand them some snacks to keep their energy up. She was sneakily listening in on the conversation. Part of her wanted to stop her son from leaving again but the rest of her was glad to see that Walker was growing up so fast. She felt that he had been a baby in her arms just the other day. Yet now, she was looking at a young man living his dreams.

When Walker got to the space that was set aside for the tamers' guild he found that the monsters that had been brought with the tamers were working hard alongside the tamers. It appeared that the conversation with the tamer's guild from multiple people had yielded positive results. There were no aquatic tamers' in sight but that was most likely because they were not needed. However, that didn't mean that there weren't good ones out there.

The large monsters that were helping move heavy supplies like stone armored lizards, red skinned rhinos, and even a mountain elephant which Walker had never seen in his life. Even more amazing were the avian type tamers. The iron feather roc that was flying in the air was something that even Walker was jealous of. The iron feather roc was a rare monster that deviated from the normal roc species baked in environment and nutrition. It was considered an impossible flying monster because it shouldn't be able to fly and yet it could. The unique earth and wind affinity monster broke the way of the world.

"Maybe I should have brought Midnight with me." Walker felt that Midnight would have been just as amazed by the number of monsters here. He felt that he may have missed the chance for her to get a lot of ideas for her flight training.

The wind that hit Walker surprised him. But when he looked to his side he found that Stella had landed right next to him. However, her feathers had changed colors slightly. They were more vibrant than before and had hints of red and even gold in them. The shadow that seemed to follow it was just learning to properly fly through Stellas' shadow. It was clear that the hatchling was worried that Walker would eat it since he had a very intimidating aura due to the natural mana drawn to him.

"Hello Stella, I came to see if Elise had time to talk for a bit. Think you can grab her?" Stella replied with a slight chirp that sounded similar to a human humming. Walker realized that Stella was developing her

vocal cords and would soon be able to sing like an adult harpy. It was a big step for any harpy since in the wild they would use sound based skills. One such skill was a lullaby that could put their opponent to sleep and allow them time to attack. It was the reason many people attacked harpies on sight.

"Come on, you don't have to ask Stella to get me. You should know that wherever my sister is I am there too." Elise came up right behind them and teased Walker a little. Stella hemmed a little again and leaned on Elise's shoulder. "What do you think? Stella just molted and her feathers are pristine. I think that she will be able to rival any harpy queen there is." If someone could prove that harpies could blush, this was the time to show it. Walker swore that Stella's face was redder.

"I didn't realize you had met the harpy queen from the demi-human city. How did that go?" Walker temporarily forgot what he had come for. This seemed very interesting.

"Well, the harpy queen has a passive skill that makes harpies want to follow her. But it did nothing to Stella. Then they got in to a little fight and that harpy queen ended up in a very poor mood when Stella beat her. I'm pretty sure that Stella will receive the same benefits when the harpies become a recognized race but I think Stella took that queen down a notch. She was arrogant and not properly working toward the goal she should have. Like, even goblins and grey haired spiders beat her to becoming a race because of their hard work and desires." It was clear that Elise did not have a positive view of the harpy queen.

"I can see how that may happen. If Stella resisted a skill that should work on every harpy, then the queen would be sour about it. But I don't think you two should go getting in to fights so easily. Although, doesn't that mean Stella is very powerful?"

"Nope, not really at all. Stella just has a huge amount of battle experience. We have been exploring since we were little, remember? The harpy queen sits in a nest and is protected. She had power but not the ability to use it. That's another reason the harpies aren't a race yet. And no, Stella doesn't want to be queen. She's not old enough for that kind of thing. I think she has a few secrets though." Elise gave a sideways glance at Stella who was hiding behind her wings.

"I can always use my all around appraisal skill and check things out?" Walker wanted to join in on the fun but saw that Elise rushed over and stood between them. "Or I won't do that at all because it would be invading Stella's privacy." He backed down very fast and earned a relieved look from Stella. Walker couldn't help himself though. He used his appraisal skill just to see what might be going on that Stella would hide from Elise, her closest family.

Chapter 1114 - 1114. Holding Back

' Stella- Phoenix blood harpy

This is a harpy that recently entered its secondary growth phase. The chance of a harpy unlocking one of the bloodlines known in other avian birds that have intermingled in the harpy race is very slim. However, it is often detected on the eggs when they are young. This causes the parents to ignore them and predators to consume them. Sometimes the egg manages to hatch or somehow end up in other places other than a traditional harpy nest. The phoenix bloodline is extremely rare and phoenix monsters are rarely seen outside of volcanoes. A phoenix blood harpy has the chance to unlock a myriad of fire skills and will often be able to mix their wind and fire affinities. They will also be able to awaken the unique skill rebirth in their adulthood. Any monster ever known to have a phoenix bloodline has been seen to outclass even the strongest of their species but will often choose to avoid violence unless necessary.'

Walker choked on the air in his lungs for a second. He knew all about phoenix monsters and how they had managed to mix in to many races. But actually meeting one with an active bloodline was something people only dreamed about. The phoenix was considered an unkillable monster with the most valuable feathers in the world. Mainly because the feathers were multiple colors and were used in life saving potions that recovered mana and health points. But no one ever gathered these feathers due to their rarity. This wasn't even something that Stella would have known until she hit this growth stage of her life.

The skill that could save them was also rare. The phoenix had a skill that they could use over and over again but those monsters that were mixed with its bloodline would get the more simple rebirth skill. That meant that they would survive death once back to full strength and health. Something like that could change the tide of any battle or situation. And Stella was hiding this from someone she trusted most of all.

"Are you alright Walker?" Elise was worried that Walker was having some problem since she saw him coughing in his surprise.

"Yes yes yes yes yes. I'm fine. Nothing. I was just caught in thought about how amazing the tower is. You know. Just so life changing since I can feel the towers' effects everywhere we go. Hey, I was just wondering, are there any avian type monsters that can give myself and a few others a ride over to the demi-human kingdom? We are going to the water elves to try for their relationship in Genesis." Walker changed his thoughts quickly due to the panic in Stella's eyes.

Elise looked at him wondering if he was sane. "I can go check. Just hang out here for a minute." Elise ran off toward one of her fellow tamers in charge of transporting materials.

"Stella, I don't know why you don't tell that to Elise. But you will need the right materials to properly grow that bloodline. Speak with Onyx and he will help you get whatever you need. But make sure you let Elise know." The steel in Walker's voice made Stella flinch. She had been worried that Walker would say something. But now she knew that Walker was looking out for her best interest. Stella nodded slightly and showed pleading eyes. "I won't tell her, you will. You could get hunted for such a thing. In Genesis, you should be protected though."

Since Stella had awakened such a bloodline, Walker knew that there would be a lot of danger when it was made known. However, in Genesis, there were many beings that could protect her. There was also the fact that many other harpies now called Genesis home. It would be considered starting a war to go after Stella. Along with the benefits of the city having what Stella may need to grow over time.

"Looks like I can spare three mountain eagles. They are a little larger than the hawks you have ridden before but they are a little faster. They are also heading to the demi-human city to get the next set of supplies we need. It should work out." There was a proud tone in Elise's voice. She had just barely caught them before they left and held them off for a day. "Early tomorrow morning you need to leave or wait another three days. Up to you."

"That sounds perfect. Thank you so much. I will let everyone know! I will bring some of my mother's cooking as a thank you!" Walker took the chance to run off. He left Elise wondering what was going on. She would have given him a tour of the underground area that was nearly finished by the dwarves' hard work.

"I feel like with all the running Walker does he has run around the entire world by now. How does he even have more to explore?" The joke seemed to go right over Stella's head. "And now you are all distracted too. Weird day." Elise wandered off after Stella finally snapped back to reality. She flew in to the sky deep in thought so that she would be able to decide her future path.

Gil, Alma, Midnight, and the dragonkin took the news of their early departure well. It seemed as if they were more excited to get out and go somewhere that posed a challenge for everyone. "I really just wonder why the water elves seem to have so much distrust and lack of desire to be with others. It just doesn't make much sense. The forest elves were able to open up and even listen at first. But the water elves are even more strict." Walker mumbled about his own theories while he got ready for a good night's sleep. His wonder about the water elves did not sit right with him. He had a tinge of a bad feeling about the water elves.

Chapter 1115 - 1115. What Do We Call You?

"Midnight, come on. If you don't get up now you will miss breakfast. I even asked mother to make us some special sandwiches so I can share them with Elise for the help." This was the only way to Get Midnight awake. She had trained extra long with her new dragonkin friend. Her wings and back were more sore than they had ever been, however, she felt that flying was right around the corner.

Lately, Midnight had made a massive leap in flight training. She was now able to flap her wings and get a few feet off the ground before she lost the ability to stay up. It was mostly because her wing muscles were still too weak and underdeveloped. Yet, compared to any other dragon her age, she was years ahead of them. She was looking at being able to fly with some control sooner than later. She could already glide with decent control.

The dragonkin that had been with Midnight had begun to spread the ice they could form on their fists up their arms. They were very surprised to see that it covered their scales the same way that they had seen ice dragons do. It just required immense concentration that they were not used to. The real prize was the fact that they were able to understand how to make it spread and condense. It was a sure bet that after training for a short time that their skills would be strengthened at the very least.

"Walker, Alma, and I are ready. We are going to head toward the tamer's guild before you!" Gil yelled up to Walker and was out the front door before Walker could reply.

"You heard Gil, he's heading there now. That means less time to eat before we leave." With that one sentence, Midnight was almost out the door. Walker wasn't even sure that she was really awake. "Onyx, make sure that everyone is safe while I'm gone. I know you will be with Alice and the egg for a while. I will do my best to bring back something good for its hatching."

"Of course brother, I will do my best. If I need to I will fight the entire world." Onyx was a little dramatic but felt that Walker needed to hear it this way. There was worry in Walker's eyes since he knew that there were demons trying to come for the city. He would not forget what Greed had done for some time.

Walker felt that this was a good deal and walked with Onyx out of the mansion. Onyx had come back late in the night because he had wanted to cover the egg with light elemental mana while Alice rested. From what Onyx had told Walker, Alice had been using most of her mana to keep the egg safe and absorbing light elemental mana. What was even more exciting was that both Onyx and Alice had seen the egg wiggle slightly. It was a very good sign for the heavenly serpent developing inside.

"Now be safe, I want to see those water chestnuts sooner than later." Hilda handed over the sandwiches that he had asked his mother for. She had kept an eye out for them passing and Midnight was quick to take one of the bags to carry herself. She knew how amazing the food on her back was.

"Don't worry. We will be safe!" Since Walker was thinking about the new place to travel to, he was getting more energetic. He also felt that flying on a mountain eagle would be a pretty amazing experience. He had not seen them and was sure they were even bigger than the other avian monsters he had seen.

"Well, you sure took your time. Did Walker hold you up?" Alma knew that Midnight had been the one sleeping. But Gil had planned with her to tease Walker a little bit.

"The lord and his champion arrive at the proper time as always." The dragonkin was sure to defend Walker making everyone burst out laughing a little. The joke had gone over his head.

"By the way, calling you dragonkin or warrior doesn't feel right. Can you tell us your name if you don't mind?" Gil felt that this was the best way to communicate.

"He's right, I would like to know the name of a powerful dragonkin warrior as well. We will be fighting side to side while we travel to the lakes." Leon was the last to arrive and was holding scrolls for everyone that needed them. They had the water breathing skill engraved within them so that they could use them when needed. He had upheld his side of the deal.

"Neil, It is easier to say this nickname than my full name. No one used that anyways but for my parents." The rest of the group nodded. They were used to people having nicknames and preferred names. It was much more common for adventurers but the party had rarely run in to them.

"Now that you are all here I can show you to your companions." Elise had seen the small group gathering. Walker took note that Stella was flying in the air and staying away from them. He felt a little bad since he had most likely scared her a little but telling her to speak with Elise about her bloodline and growth. "The mountain eagles are very proud birds. They hunt large rock serpents when they come out of the caves. They are also very used to high flying. So, respect them, do not pull their feathers, and stay on the flat saddle they have on their backs because those were made specifically with the mountain eagles' comfort in mind." Elise finished her rules as they came up to the three massive mountain eagles resting nearby. She was ready to send them on their way.

Chapter 1116 - 1116. Butterfly In The Sky

The mountain eagles had a grey and white speckled feather. They had very large wings that could wrap the entire group multiple times. But what was more terrifying than amazon were the extremely sharp black talons and orange yellow beak. It was very easy to see how they were able to tear apart rock serpents for food.

"These are slow smoked horned rabbit sandwiches with tomatoes and lettuce from the forest elves' stall. The bread was made this morning." Walker shared the bag of sandwiches for Elise. She looked at them as if she had been handed a bag of gold. She was no stranger to Hilda's cooking so she was more than just excited to eat them.

"I recommend that you are calm when sitting on the top of this monster. It will be very unhappy to be near us. They are prideful and believe they are the true masters of the sky. They may not be right because they are not a dragon, but we can rely on them." Neil had seen these eagles before and learned about their temperaments.

"I think we will be alright. Midnight has been on the back of another bird before. They seemed not to mind things as long as she was calm as well." Walker gave a slight nod to let Neil and Leon on one of the mountain eagles while he took one with Midnight. Alma and Gil took the last while they double checked all their bags for Walker to store them away. It was time to go and see the vast open skies.

"Get there safe and don't forget that you will be heading back yourselves. Just make sure that you keep an eye out for any other flying monsters. The eagles might try to scare them off."

Elise said this and then whistled. Walker didn't even have a chance to ask what she meant by scare them off.

The skies were completely free of clouds. All they could see after the eagles climbed in to the sky was blue. The world below them was very small. None of them had been this high. The last time that Walker had been in the sky on a flight was not this high by any means. The eagles pushed themselves as high as possible just so they could screech loudly to claim their rightful place as the highest flying monsters. Of course, a dragon would argue with that.

"I wish I could see the ground from up here. Imagine if I could fire accurately from this far away. But I am not that kind of archer." Gil was able to speak over the rushing wind. It was a surprisingly calm and smooth ride now that the mountain eagles had flown in to the higher altitude and were gliding.

"If you were a longbow sniper then you would miss out on the arrows. You would not be as happy. I doubt even a longbow sniper could hit a target from here though. If they can then they are well beyond the mastery we know of." Alma hadn't ever heard of a longbow sniper that was so accurate.

"I'm not a longbow sniper, but I can see whatever that is." Gil could easily spot the red, yellow, and white stripes moving ahead. Just a few waves of his hand got Walker's attention for an appraisal.

' Striped butterfly

A monster that outlives most others of its kind. It may not look like it but the striped butterfly is a unique monster with three elemental affinities: water, lights, and wind. This gives them the ability to fly very high without needing to land. They are known for gathering and drinking clouds from the air. They are usually not aggressive and have very weak offensive power. However, their legs are still somewhat spiky and sharp. They are commonly used in potion formulas to balance the elemental mana within. Their wings are the best material for such potions.'

Walker was able to yell this over to everyone since the mountain eagles were close enough to each other. But at this point, the words that Elise had told them before they flew off rang in Walker's head. The mountain eagles saw the butterfly. The screech of warning was enough for Walker to know that they were going to chase this butterfly down.

"Everyone! Hold on!" Walker shouted as loudly as he could. He was just in time too. The mountain eagles gave some very powerful flaps of their wings which stirred the wind. The group needed to hold tightly to resist the new pressure of rushing air. It was a testament to the strength of the mountain eagles had while flying. They had been controlling their speed and the wind around them with precision. But now they were heading right for the butterfly.

The mountain eagle that Gil and Alma were on saw the butterfly first and had the lead. It flew a little higher and Gil could see the outstretched talons. He grabbed Alma and help her to the specially made saddle they were holding on to just in time for the mountain eagle to dive slightly. The talons grabbed on to the striped butterfly and its wings were slashed in to pieces.

It had only been a few seconds between the attack and the fact that the mountain eagle was now snapping it up with its beak. But it was enough to see that the mountain eagles were a ferocious monster that would easily take down its prey. The other two mountain eagles seemed to be looking at the first in jealousy since it had managed to snag a free meal. "So, mountain eagles have very good eyesight and are much faster than we thought." Gil had trouble speaking clearly through the wind but

everyone had the same thoughts. Now they would be wary of butterflies for the rest of their flight to the demi-human city.

Chapter 1117 - 1117. Elise's Home

"I thought we would be landing in the city. But we are actually a small journey from it, aren't we?" Leon had referenced the maps before he came out because he wanted to make sure he would be able to better battle in the areas they were traveling. It would be even more dangerous if he were to be stuck in a place with a lot of dry weather and dust.

"A lot of people think that. But we have to keep the mountain eagles separate from the rest of the avian monsters that have been tamed in the guild. If they flew in to the city we would have a war of the birds." The tamer that ran the small ranch that they had just landed in was checking over the mountain eagles. "This letter explains why you were on the back of my eagles. When you see Elise tell her that she needs to come back and have dinner with my wife and me. It's been a little while."

The man seemed a little sad since he had not seen Elise. "I will let her know. I will even add a little extra oomph to make sure that she comes soon." Walker added a little smile and energy in to his response.

"Ha! I like you kid. Elise used to live here, well, between missions with the tamers' guild. She's a good kid. I'm pretty proud that I saw her grow up. She used to be so quiet and avoided people. Now she's in charge of building another guild branch. How the world has changed." The man walked away guiding the eagles toward large roofed nests. Walker wasn't sure what to say about the fact that they had somehow ended up in one of Elise's previous homes. But it made sense that she would be somewhere that Stella would be able to fly freely.

"So, what's the plan? We couldn't exactly speak about the way we would travel. Butterflies and all that." Gil wanted to get on the move. He liked being out but he also didn't want to be gone too long. He was lucky that the other archers he knew wanted to help with the archer academy that he had begun. There were also many adventurers that had come out of retirement to help with the expansion of the adventurer's guild. That fact alone created many potential classes on survival for the archers that had just joined Gil's academy.

"I know the area has many streams and semi aquatic monsters. But I can use my blue ivy freely. I will avoid using the razor whip weed. I don't think it will be the best opportunity." Alma was giving Walker the heads up so that he wouldn't try to change their path because of her. He didn't miss that she had a small set of vials strapped to her waist with water and seeds in them for when she may need them.

"Well, since we aren't exactly in the city it helps a little more than if we were. Now we can head on this trail toward the lakes. Not many merchants use the paths that get close to the lakes or where the streams combine. That means monsters. Frogs, snakes, fish, and plenty more that hunt those types of monsters. I think that your blue ivy will be better than we expect. There are perfect growing conditions around here even though it is cold. There might be some ice but the soil is still soft from all the flowing water. Just be careful with the gravel, it should be icy."

"We don't worry about ice and water so much. You will have us for the monsters that try and surprise us, we can deal with them." Leon knew that between him and the Niel, that they would have the better foot hold on the ice, water, and potential snow around. Their bodies were just better prepared for such terrain.

"Sounds good. Then you two will be the front fighting force. Alma will act as support while Gil takes the ranged attack position. I will jump in where I need. But the trail will be overgrown due to lack of travel so make sure you have focused eyes." Walker pointed out the trail on the maps he had brought with him. He was well aware that not everyone had the maps memorized like him. In the future, he would want to pass the mental archive skill on to the entire party. But that was something for another day.

"Then we should get a move on. I would say it's a few days if we don't keep ourselves paced well. Midnight will also get Restless since you might steal away her job of helping everyone out." Gil was going to make fun of Walker for not assigning Midnight to a spot on their travels. However, Walker was not having any of that.

"You think I need to tell Midnight what her role is? She is the dependable scout that does soooooo much better than that archer on my party." Midnight snorted in laughter when Gil stuck his tongue out at Walker in response. "Midnight, you have the patrol around the group. Practice your shadow wrapping skill. You haven't been using it much since you focused on your flight training." Walker had noticed that Midnight had not been focusing on the skills she had received earlier in life and did not want to see her get rusty.

"Can we just call Midnight the adorable assassin? She can hide away even though she is a dragon and stands out everywhere she goes. It's pretty impressive." Alma gave Midnight a pat on the head before Midnight took the lead. Gil was watching their back since he would best be able to see and realize something hunting them. It was a perk of being used to the wilds as a hunter.

Chapter 1118 - 1118. Grass

"This yellow grass might be good for your flame dolls. I asked Alma about it and she said that it only grows in places near a lot of running water." Gil spoke up to get Walker's attention. Walker had looked at the grasses around them and just thought they were overgrown.

"I didn't know they were that different. Let me appraise them and see what it's all about." The thought that the flame dolls might be able to upgrade with what was burned was a new idea for Walker. He had not tried to make any other form of doll or golem at all since he knew the challenges in it. He wasn't sure if he would be able to control all of them while he and the party battled. Pulse he would need to adapt them to different situations all the time. It would end up costing him more mana than he wanted.

'Yellow river grass

This grass only grows in places where the rivers overflow. They become green with yellow flowers in the hotter flooded months while they become fully yellow in the colder months. They are very hard to burn and can make amazing tinder even in the rain. They are able to survive the hot and cold extremes as well as the flooding of rivers. Only a small number of insect monsters eat this grass during the harvest season.'

"It will be good for the flame dolls. I will pull out the scythe and try to harvest some as we go." Walker ran ahead a little and started to clear the path. Midnight was right with him to watch his back while he did this. As Walker cut the stalks down he saw that the snow was still on the ground. But even more, he could see the gravelly soil that allowed water to flow around easily. If this was a warmer season he would need to worry about flash floods.

"We can tell that the water flows pretty freely here. We might want to make sure we are close to those hills if we see a water affinity monster around." Leon used his spear to point out the nearby hills. They would make the group easier to spot but would also allow for Gil and Walker to take down monsters from further away.

"I believe we will need to be careful when we start a fire for a rest. This grass seems like it would continue burning even without us nearby." Neil had been told once by a fire affinity dragonkin that they often had to worry about causing large fires. They had the skills to use fire in conjunction with their weapons. Therefore, it would often cause fires that could spread uncontrollably. Since that day, Neil had always made a point to put out his fire completely.

"I would rather go to the hills than wade through the grass that comes up to my elbows." Alma liked the nature and enjoyed being surrounded by it. However, the forest nature and this nature were different. Here she was not as prepared to deal with the monsters that could sneak through the grasses. She was also the shortest of the group and would need to worry about being attacked first if a monster did sneak up on them.

With the speed that they could wrap them, Walker was able to get a large number of bundles made up. The yellow grass would come in handy. "You know, if we use this to make some training dummies, I wonder if there are elf mages that can make them move like a real opponent"? I have been wondering if I could learn a skill like that." Walker directed this question toward Alma. he knew that she might have knowledge about such things.

"I have known some mages that could do such things. It may be rare for a dragonkin to become a mage, but the one that I met could create earth dolls that could fight back as long as a runesmith helped make them." There was some surprise hearing that there were dragonkin mages that could make earth dolls that didn't need mana from the caster exclusively.

"I was going to suggest using like my vine control or plant growth to make that happen. But what if you learned something that controlled strings and mixed runes with it like the earth dills. I bet there will be plenty of runesmiths that could help you there." Since there was a rush to study and runes back in Genesis, Alma had an idea that there would be more people than not that could help Walker mix skills in such a way.

"Good points. I should try and learn skills like that. Wonder if the dwarves could make a core that connected to some special threads and runes to make golems or dolls that could receive mana from the core. It would be kind of like those lesser liches we have heard about. They don't have the ability to survive within their own body so they require some sort of core or place to store their soul." Walker recalled a book he had read but couldn't verify if it was accurate. The undead were a big mystery when it came to how they came to be. He also wasn't sure he should study that made undead.

"We should pay more attention to those weird stones up ahead. They seem a little too perfect." Leon was very careful to stop before the patch of stone ahead. The grass didn't grow in a perfect circle and there was no ice or snow there either. On top of this, the stones were all perfect oval shapes that were nearly identical in color. They were a red flag if any of them had ever seen one. Walker didn't waste time and used his all around appraisal skill.

Chapter 1119 - 1119. A Delicacy

'Brook frog eggs

The brook frog is a large frog known for eating water loving birds. They lay their eggs right before the ice sets in. The adults will hibernate by freezing their bodies in the bottom of streams or rivers. The eggs will hatch the moment the ice starts to melt leaving strange patches of ground without grass or other plant life. The floods will then push the hatches brook frog tadpoles in to streams and lakes. They are

considered a delicacy if roasted. They are particularly loved by the birds that the brook frogs are known to eat.'

"That's an odd cycle of life. When they are growing and young they are prey to birds. Then when they are adults they prey on birds." Leon felt that this was an oddity he had yet to see. It was possible for some places in the ocean to have life cycles like this but that was how the ocean worked. Everything ate everything because there were rare times when food would not be available.

"It works though. If the frogs have a good year then the birds will grow too much. If the birds have a good year then the frogs will grow too much. They keep themselves in check. Walker should get some so we can eat them later. We aren't birds but I have a feeling that they will be better than you think." Gil wouldn't shy away from eating these eggs. He was a hunter and was used to such things.

"I don't know if I would eat those...they seem a little...slimy." Just thinking about a frog and the slimy skin they normally had put Alma off of making this a meal.

"I have no issues." Midnight huffed in agreement with Neil. She would gladly eat whatever food she could while out. Especially since she was feeling hungrier more often due to her intensive flight training.

"Then we will add a few to the meal later. And, I will make us something else too. I can't say I will like these too." Walker moved to grab some of the eggs and used one of his throwing needles to make sure they would not hatch under any circumstances. He felt a little bad but knew that this was the same that people did to chicken eggs. Now he could also store them away within his inventory for later.

"I wonder what a brook frog looks like while hibernating. It freezes its body while it waits for the warm weather. I can't imagine what that's like." As much as Gil tried, he couldn't figure out how that worked.

"I bet they have a skill that flows the mana through them. Then when the light and fire elemental mana from the sun mixes in their mana starts to retract. It would make sense because the different seasons' mana affects us all." There was a pause while Alma thought to the forests. "The steel vine traps and other plants like that go dormant in the colder seasons as well. They react based on the sun and the warmth too."

Everyone was interested in this since it was different from place to place what monsters might react this way. It was a good way to decide when they would travel. If the colder months were safer then it might

be better to travel the forests then. Many merchants would find this information very valuable. There was the fact that the elves were handling the majority of merchant activities in the forest though, so it was not very pressing right away.

"Well, it's good not to worry about the frogs right now. But I would like to know what land animals make tracks like this. I can track signs of fish and other monsters in the water. But here on land, I defer to you." Leon was very good at spotting small tracks. Gil felt that his respect for Leon was growing by the minute.

"I would say those are...hmm. You know, I'm not fully sure. They seem like they are monster tracks but also kind of...well...like a person's foot." This stumped Gil. "It's either that an animal and a person stepped on the same spot at the same time or there are weird monsters around."

"I don't like the sound of that. If it's not something we know then we need to be sure that we are able to handle the danger." Walker prepared himself and changed the eternal orb in to its spear form. He felt that matching Leon's spear would allow them to hold something at a distance while giving Neil and Gil a chance to attack.

"I will make sure I am ready too. I have neglected my blue ivy lately. I also have a new skill I have been waiting to use. It costs almost no mana as long as it is a sunny day." The seeds that Alma tossed on the ground grew up and wrapped her arms and legs. Soon they had covered most of her body in blue ivy armor. "This is called ivy armor and it uses the mana from the sun to remain full. It can poison those that touch me, protect me, and I can use it to attack at mid range."

"Why didn't you tell me you have a new skill? That's so cool!" There was some jealousy in Gil's voice but even more admiration.

"I can't give away all my secrets, you know. I would have trained it more before showing it off if I wasn't coming with you out here." There was a tinge of red on Alma's face. She was embarrassed that so many people were looking at her in admiration. Her skill was really suited for her and would allow her to have a much larger battle capacity. Walker knew that it must have been a result of her leveling up after the battle in the oceans.

Chapter 1120 - 1120. Odd Scents

While the group had not encountered much as they traveled, they were still pretty amazed that they hadn't run in to more during the day. "I'm just saying. When we were out in the plains we saw plenty of imps. Now we are seeing almost nothing. How can it be so different this cold season to the last? Plus,

there should be those ice slimes, right?" Gil was not the only one thinking these things. But he had been the first to speak out about his worries.

"I know. It's odd." There were more of those odd tracks following the trails that no one would normally be following. Between Leon and Gil, they could not identify what monster or person would make them. "I would say those tracks belong to demi-humans but they don't come this way. They don't get along with the water elves."

"I agree. The demi-humans are very honest with their territories. They will not lie about their borders. It is one of the traits that makes them extremely trustworthy. Even if the demi-humans and my people didn't get along, we would still hold this feeling." Alma was very sincere with her words. She had long respected the fact that the demi-humans took very careful attention to their farmlands and territory. It was about the food that fed their people and they would use just enough to keep storage of their food for a bad year. Many kingdoms had great respect for such things and would give the benefit of the doubt because of such a thing.

"That means there are things patrolling the trails around here. But it can't be the water elves..." Neil felt that the small he and Midnight had picked up was also odd. They both felt that there was something familiar but also something off about it. "The tracks smell sweet. In a bad way. Almost like those hypnotizing lilies that grow in the mountain by the volcanoes. Their scent confuses monsters and animals. That causes them to go without eating and perish on the bed of lilies so that the lilies can eat away at their bodies."

"That's a little scary. Remind me to avoid hypnotizing lily fields." Gil didn't know there was such a plant.

"If you are strong enough you can resist. They actually make a very valuable healing herb. I believe they make high tier healing potions with added poison resistances. Very good for certain treatments." As Neil said this they couldn't help to wonder what Remey would say if they were to tell her such an herb existed. She might try and get them to go and hunt for it that very second.

"I wonder if it is a monster with some form of skill that releases a hypnotizing scent then? Are there monsters like that?" This was not something that Leon was used to. The overworld was very different from the underwater world. The only scents that he would run in to were ones that attracted certain fish or monsters. There was nothing he knew of that would lure in something to hypnotize their prey. The only things that did that were deep sea monsters with glowing light.

"We can worry about it when we manage to track one down. We will be able to see it well before we get near it. The depth of the footprints makes it clear that they are larger than us by a little." Gil was sure that they would be able to track whatever these monsters were. It would be better to see the answers with their own eyes.

"Then that means we will all need to look more carefully. Midnight, just stay close. I don't want you getting in to trouble with an unknown enemy." This wasn't too much of a worry since Walker knew that Midnight would easily be able to take on most monsters. However, the unknown was always dangerous.

"A wise choice. But since it is getting late in the day, we should look to stop somewhere." Neil was sure that he could walk all night. However, he had been raised to be considerate of others and knew that the other races were not as intense as the dragonkin. They would need rest.

"That should mean Walker will warm up those extra sandwiches I saw him store away earlier, right? I can even let you use my spear to help hold them close to the fire." Walker was sure that he had hidden the extra back carefully. But Leon had still managed to get a glimpse. With Midnight hearing this as well, Walker was as good as given up. He had to share them all now.

That brought the group toward a larger area that appeared to have been a nest for brook frog eggs at some point. It was easy to see the yellow grass that had tried to grow back but had not been able to take root. It felt odd for them to be surrounded by tall grasses and that led them to having two people on watch. They all were not very tired but would rest where they could.

"So, what are you really thinking about the water elves?" Walker had taken the forest watch with Alma. He wanted to be sure that they were making the right choice to go and speak to them now.

"Truthfully? I'm worried about them. They isolated themselves much sooner than my people. They also push others away. They don't even take prisoners. Just exile them or worse. It's very radical and even reminds me a little of demons. I just wish we knew what made them become this way. They used to help the merfolk in the oceans and be very friendly." This had stumped Alma for a long time and she was currently reliving it all. Walker didn't have any idea either.