

Master 1121

Chapter 1121 - 1121. Torch Light

The pair seemed that they had a lot on their minds when it came to the water elves. The fact that Alma was just as stuck as Walker on the water elves being so isolated, made them both worry. "If they had always been that way I would understand. But they are not necessarily high elves, right? Eleven you and the queen have mentioned how high elves are too thin of blood nowadays. That's why the skills are so rare."

Alma knew that this was more true with every elf born, "There has to be some outside force that made them this way. I understand leaving the oceans because it is safer in the lakes. That makes sense for their people. But isolating themselves has to be something else. Something that convinced every single member of their people. I asked around and apparently, there was nothing recent for their history. It was as if they stopped accepting people near them one day out of the blue."

She paused for a little while while speaking, "Yes they are the closest to the high elves and they had some bad apples. There will always be those that get a rare bloodline related skill and try to preserve it. But this was a little too much." Alma wished she had answers but decided to try and push the thoughts from her mind while tossing another log on the fire.

Walker glanced at everyone else asleep. The only one still awake was Neil. He was meditating while trying to improve his control of the ice on his hands. He wanted to try and do the same so that he could see if he could also learn some elemental armor skills. It would be amazing to have an elemental armor of mana and have it work with his own armor. It was one thing that he would test when he returned home. It would also potentially work with runes, therefore, opening another thing to study.

"Hey, can you see that? There are three torch lights way over there." The three faint lights that Alma could make out were definitely dancing flames. They were too far away to make out what was holding them but they were a little taller than the enforcers that Alma normally had around her. She couldn't help make the comparison in her head.

"I wish we could make it out. But even if we had some night vision skill we would have trouble with the way the torches are. Trust me. I have seen Midnight avoid looking in the torch light when we have one at night." Walker had taken some time to learn that Midnight Had trouble looking through the dark then back at a strong light source when it was night. He easily chalked it up to being her natural night vision.

"You don't think there would be some foolish merchants out trying to get closer to the lakes, right?" This was the first worry that came to Alma. She had a feeling that there just might be some people that

heard their group was heading toward the lake. That would bait them in to going and trying to take advantage of a newly opened trade route that no others had.

"What's going on? Is there something wrong?" Gil had woken up hearing the slightly raised voices of Alma and Walker while they had debated what they had seen.

"There were torch lights in the distance. From what Walker showed us on the map they were walking a trail nearby. We are worried that merchants followed us out here."

"Merchants?" Gil had a hard time thinking that people would be so foolish to waste their time coming out to the lakes just to get turned away. "They should know that even your city took time to allow merchants to travel. Even now it is a very controlled matter." Since he had the best tracking ability, Gil stood up and grabbed his arrows. He wasn't sure he would get by with just going to take a look. "I will scout it out then come back. Just keep the fire warm."

At this point, Midnight had woken up to. Gil and Midnight were the first to head out while Leon and Neil focused up as well. "I was having the best dream about a silver skinned tuna. And now, I feel like I should be ready for a fight." The anxiety that Leon was feeling came from his natural merfolk instincts. He knew when enemies were nearby. It was very valuable for anyone in the water to be hyper aware.

"Gil and Midnight are already on it. They should be back soon. Walker just reassured Leon that everything would be fine. It was enough to get Leon to sit back down without any more jokes.

It only took a few minutes for Gil to return with a puzzled expression. "So, it looks like whatever you saw were the monsters foot prints we saw earlier today. But that means they are most likely a demi-human. All the tracks are very similar though. Definitely the same species." While Gil explained, Midnight was rubbing her nose clean. "Oh, and they have the same scent as what we smelled earlier. But it is much stronger. I don't know what it is but they definitely had it all over their bodies."

"Same foot prints, same smell, and we are all wondering what it is still? Let me take watch. if anything shows up I will defend it." Neil stood up from his training and stood in the middle of their camp next to the fire. He had his eyes ready to see any threat. He also caught glimpses of the torches as the night went on. "So someone's surveying us. Let's see how this goes tomorrow." Neil was ready to fight whatever it was.

Chapter 1122 - 1122. The Spring

The night flowed on and the torches didn't appear in the distance again. However, when Gil had woken up again he took Midnight out with him to scout the area. "Those three torches were not just three people walking around. There were about ten of them. I don't think that's a good thing. We are heading toward whatever it was since they headed right down the path you are planning." This seemed to be a problem for all of them.

"Do I even risk saying it? Are they water elves or something that the water elves might control?" Leon was not about to say that these were definitely a true statement. However, he knew that the water elves would use water sprites or nymphs to defend their territory. These could be one and the same.

"I don't think so. If they were anything water related they wouldn't leave this kind of footprint. The nymphs don't leave footprints at all. They leave puddles and cold icy spots. We have a few in the forest but much less than a lake would have. If it were a tree spirit or wood sprite I would tell you that they would leave vine and leaf patterns in the snow and mud." Alma was torn. The footprints that they saw would mean that the water elves might have started taming other monsters. This would be wildly unlike the water elves that they knew.

"No point in worrying about it now. Let's just head in to the brooks and streams more. I want to be able to see what everything is. If I read the map right there should be a natural spring up ahead with warmer water. The dwarves even marked that it was a lava cave beneath the area. I would love to explore a lava cave at some point but there are no safe entrances around." Walker had his fantasies about the lava cave and potentially finding some amazing diamond like materials.

"Count me out of lava caves this trip. I won't even go in to that boiling water. Too dangerous." There was a nerve that Walker seemed to have hit by bringing this up. The merfolk did not do well with hot and dry. They also learned from a young age to avoid the potentially toxic underwater boiling vents from such lava areas.

"We are not exploring that. We have a different quest to achieve. Let us head on. If such a spring exists I am sure that we will see other travelers there. They could give us the answers." Midnight huffed in agreement with Neil. He was less worried about such things and knew that they would have the answers they needed one way or another.

The group cleaned up their mess easily and pushed down the path. Nothing seemed odd other than the footprints showing that the trail was better traveled than they knew. However, they only saw such footprints. Nothing else.

"U thought we would see other merchant trails too. The spring should be a big deal. The only other one we know of is by the beach right?" Gil had enjoyed the spring and was certain that a spot like that would be very populated around here. It was near the demi-human borders and could be traveled to by anyone with proper guards.

"I'm wondering what the grass seems to be shorter around here as well." Since Alma was very in tune with nature, she could tell that something was stunting the growth of the grass nearby. The closer they made it toward the spring the more she noticed it.

"That smell..." Both Midnight and Neil were slowly stopped in their tracks. They could tell the sweet scent was getting stronger than it was before.

'The user has been in a prolonged exposure to a poison. The skill high poison resistance has been taken from the thousand antidote system. The user has automatically learned the skill high poison resistance due to their exposure and high sensitivity to mana.

High poison resistance- passive or 2 mana per hour

The user is able to use their mana to process poisons in the air, waters, and on their skin. This allows them to resist the effects of such poisons along with share their mana with allies to help them resist as well. This resistance is a cut above all others. It will perfectly resist most poisons unless they are extremely concentrated. Prolonged exposure means nothing to such high resistance.'

"Stop!" Walker made everyone else come close to him while he shared his mana with them. It was an easy action for him to pass on some mana to them and protect them.

"What's wrong? Why did you share mana with us and it says that the poison is being resisted?" Walker could see a flushed face slowly disappearing from Gil. No one had noticed that they were becoming red faced and unsteady. The only people that had managed to resist were Neil and Midnight since they had much high resistance to any poison due to their races. Walker had managed to gain a skill and resisted more due to his relationship with Midnight.

'Poison, it's in the air. That's the sweet smell. I can't get an appraisal on it but it's in the air. I'm willing to bet that it's in the water up ahead too.' Poisoning the water of the spring would explain why it was in the air. The real question was, who would do such a thing?

"You don't think..." Alma feared that the water elves had either poisoned the water themselves or were poisoned. If that was the problem and it had been going on for a long time then that would definitely make the water elves less likely to relate themselves with the other races. It could all be made clear.

Chapter 1123 - 1123. No Swimming!

"In theory, we will need to purify this spring. But do you think we could do something like that? If Alice had come we would be able to without a problem." The thought that Gil had was to send someone back to bring help this way.

"If we go back and get her we might not be able to get to the root of the problem. We need to get to the water elves first. If they need help we should help them first." In Walker's mind, the people were priority. For the chance that they needed help or not, it would be better to speak to them. If the group brought someone to purify the area without any communication with the water elves, it could cause future issues with relationships.

"That does not look the way a warm spring should look." Neil had seen small springs appear within the icy mountains. They would be the results of deep ice melting from the shifting earth deep in the mountains. The rest of the group was happy to hear that he was relaxing his tone of speech because he was getting used to them., But they were not happy to see what Neil saw.

"Why is it pink and purple. That's not how water should be. If I saw a patch of water in the ocean like that we would have to alert the entire city." It was not uncommon for the merfolk to encounter such things that drifted in the currents. The kraken ink was one that they had seen from other species of monsters before.

'Alluring spring

This spring has been contaminated by a poisonous skill. This gives the spring the effect of attracting whatever is under the effect of the poison inside. The user of this poison then gains the ability to control and manipulate the affected being. Eventually, all of their wills is taken away and they become a puppet to the one poisoning them. This poison can not be purified unless the one that caused it is subdued or defeated.'

Walker read out his appraisal. He realized that this was the reason that the sweet smell must be around those that were walking the trails. It was also why they had not run in to many monsters. Everything in the area that smelled or touched this spring water would be under the control of whoever used this skill.

"This may be worse than I thought. If the water elves are affected by this then they may be stuck in permanent danger. We need to hunt for whatever set this poison. I just don't know what could have done this. I don't have enough information." Alma desperately wanted to search the forest elf archives for information about such things. She knew that she would be able to find some answers they needed if she had the chance to search long enough.

"We will leave it for now. I don't think we can resist this poison without Walker right this second. If we tried to do anything we would be at a disadvantage. Let's get close to the lakes and see what we can see." Neil was backing what Gil said. He too wanted to see what the situation really was.

"We will move carefully. We are going to take this trail instead of the one we have been on." Walker showed them the longer way around to be sure that they would not have an issue with whatever was patrolling the lands. We can get closer and see the state of the lakes." Walker knew that their trial would have more rocks and dangers because it was less traveled than the trails they were on. But he feared that if they came in contact with whatever was patrolling that they would have trouble beating them. They were under the effects of whoever controlled them. It was a sure bet that they would not be able to hold back against them.

"Onward we push." Leon took the lead with his spear at the ready. He felt that it was better to travel with more caution. He also knew that he would most likely be the fastest to attack since he could throw his spear as a distraction and damage dealer.

The trail they took was barely a trail. The grass had nearly taken over the rocks that they walked on. There was even some running water around them that showed just how much the terrain had shifted since people had traveled this area. "I can't even imagine how a merchant would bring a cart over this. It feels like this is a dried stream bed."

"It might as well be, the streams were once diverted in this area so that people could explore for resources. I read that in the demi-human descriptions of the area. That's another reason that the water elves do not like the demi-humans." Alma responded to Gil with a piece of solid information. It made sense that the relations between the two were not just based on some small farmland issue. The water elves were old and they had a history with the demi-humans that built their negative feelings.

"At least the lakes aren't that color." Walker felt Midnight pull on his clothes and made him look at the lakes in the distance over the grasses and small hills of rocks. He could see that the lakes were still shining crystal blue. They didn't show that there was any poison in the air at all. However, Walker could

see that there were many things odd about the lakes. Many things were in motion, especially the large island that separated the lakes from each other making them multiple instead of one.

"I shouldn't have to worry about swim-" Just as Leon spoke they saw a large fin cut through the water. "Nevermind, no swimming in the lakes."

Chapter 1124 - 1124. Not Normal

There were small wooden platforms floating in the water all around the island. The once pure white and blue castle seemed to be dinged by purple which spoke to Walker as being the poison. Then looking to the distant shores, Walker could see tall figures working on small homes and huts. "Would you say that is normal for water elves?" They all looked at Alma for her opinion.

"No. Not at all." Her face was a muddle of emotions, worry benign the most prevalent. "They would not make floating boats of homes. That castle is the only thing that they had to brag about because it stores their knowledge on and has their most powerful elders living within. The rest would make homes under the waters so that they could be closer to the elemental mana they revere. Those boats can't be from normal activities."

"Then that discoloration on the castle is poison. I would say it's been around for some time if it even dyed the walls of their pristine castle. I think we should cut down and investigate. Just no swimming in the waters. I have a feeling that thing we saw is a tamed monster." Since Gil had the best eyesight, he had seen the fins closer than the others. He could tell the large spines were sharper than they looked, He could also make out the green and brown coloration of some sort of fish. What he didn't see was the exact size of the monster. But it swam around avoiding the boats with ease so he could tell it was somewhat controlled.

The group kept themselves light footed so that they would not make any noise. They had some distance to cover but they knew that there were patrols around. It had not been long since they had taken a look at the lake from a distance. But the moment they heard noise they put themselves flat to the ground.

"Walker, can you see them to appraise them?" Gil wanted Walker to get them more information. They could see the tops of the patrol's heads but nothing much else.

What Walker could make out was white and blond hair longer than most he had seen. There were pointy elf ears but they had strange shapes. They were not perfect like the forest elves but had jagged appearances. The eyes that he saw were tinged with red and black instead of blue and what that would normally be there for a water elf. Alma saw this too and held a harsh breath.

'Half elf half demon - starstruck

Scout system user

This is a unique race that comes from the bonding of elves and demons. Their al prowess is extremely high along with the mana sensitivity. They lack the precise control over their water elemental mana due to their demonic half but make up for it in mana capacity. This person is currently under the effect of a hypnotizing poison and is completely controlled. They lack combat ability but have a great sense of surroundings. However, their senses are dulled due to the hypnotizing poison affecting their body. The only way to release this half elf half demon from the poison is to defeat or subdue the one causing the poison.'

"Half Dem-!" Alma felt Gil's hand clamped over her mouth. She was about to give away their position. She realized her issue and nodded for him to release her. "This is impossible. How could they have relations with demons all the way over here? It's so far from the demon lands. It has to do with the control over them." Alma was sure of this. She would never see the water elves allowing for such things to happen to them and their people. They were too proud.

"Wait, look at that one. He looks like a normal water elf." Walker looked at a taller elf man that wore blue robes and led the group of scouts.

' Pawn Of Lust- Water elf scout- Starstruck

This is a water elf scout that has a very powerful form of scouting. They can use water to trace life around them and sense danger. It is a very powerful way to protect those and gather information since all living beings tend to have some form of water within them. This water elf is completely under the control of the hypnotizing poison. The control is so powerful that the demon of Lust has given them the designation as one of her pawns. This connects them much closer than any other would normally be and allows for Lust to control them directly without using words. The only way to remove this effect is to subdue or defeat the Demon known as Lust.'

Walker gnashed his teeth. This was a demon that was sent to do these things. They had slowly taken over the water elves and held people at bay while doing all of this.

'Race quest- The freedom of the water elves and their people

The true hero has found that a sin demon; Lust, has taken control of an entire elf race. There have been years of poisoning leading to the half demon half elf race coming to be. It has brought the elves closer to the demons and further from those of their own kind. The true hero and their companions must resume these elves before they begin an attack on the nearby kingdoms for power.

Requirements:

Defeat Lust

Free the people from the demons in control

Welcome the water elves and half elves in to Genesis

Rewards:

New allies

Temporary high skill- Purifying pulse

75 heroic points

2000 xp'

"We have a job to do," Walker said this as everyone else received their own quests. They knew that this was more complicated than they knew. The water elves had not chosen this. They were victims in all this.

Chapter 1125 - 1125. Just Pay Me Back

"This is one of the demons that causes all the problems. Another sin title. Hope long have they been here!?" Gil knew that this was a very large problem. One that someone should have discovered sooner but had not been found because the water elves had kept people away.

"If Lust got to the elders then the younger water elves would have followed the directions of their elders. That means that they would have chased people off until they had been taken over too. It's a terrible plan that worked too well. Now there are half elf half demons that can cause major damage in battle and are even expanding the water elf territory." Alma was disgusted. The fact that elves had been taken advantage of in such a way was terrible. The fact that this led to the birth of half elf half demons was even worse.

"I want to be supportive of the races coming together. But this is not the way. Hypnotizing people with poisons is despicable. The elves and demons should come together by choice and not because someone is forcing it to happen so that there can be another army. We are dealing with this now." Walker was gripping the eternal orb in staff form so hard that his knuckles had turned white. He hadn't found himself so angry before. It was not because it was another attempt by the demons to take over more territory. But it was the fact that they disregarded basic decency to make it happen.

"We can handle these things. I don't want to go in to that water but I have a skill that could come in handy to break down those boats and rafts. Maybe even wash some of that poison away. But after that, I will need some serious time to get back to fighting strength." Leon was willing to bet it all on one move to help the others.

"We should sneak in and find this Lust demon. We can use your move as a distraction once inside. If the poison relies on this demon then we should get rid of it. The half demons under control obviously don't have ill will. Same with the elves under control. But the demons that came with Lust will need to be removed. We sneak in, I handle those demons while the rest of you resist poison and handle Lust." Neil had already built a plan. He knew that Leon could use a big move to give them time to deal with those in charge of everything.

"Then I will be using the razor whip weed anyways. I can create a cage to protect Leon. Then help hold off any of those under control. I don't want people to get hurt. But I will not allow anyone responsible for this to escape. They are the problem. They are the corruption trying to take the world from every good soul." At that moment Alma pledged to herself and the world that she would make this all right. She was not going to allow those with ill will to ruin everything. She would protect those in need.

Little did Alma know, the mana crystal seed that her queen had given her was resonating with the natural mana. The world had more than heard her pledge. It was the powerful will she had that caused

the reaction. Mana began to pull toward her stronger than usual and become stored in the mana crystal tree seed. It was unnoticed by the others who believed it was just Alma resonating with her ideals and getting fired up. Not that they felt any differently. They had no idea that they were witnessing a defining moment of Alma becoming a true representative of all elves in the world. She didn't even notice the quest she received on top of her current quest.

"Leon, you will be fine alone like this?" As much as Walker wanted to jump right in he still held his sanity. He wanted to be sure that Leon could handle this. They did not have enough time working together for Walker to blindly trust him. Even after the battle against the kraken.

"You don't need to worry. I was made to train for things like this since I was young." Leon was from the ocean. He had to be able to fend off monsters that could outmaneuver him in every way. This would be the same as being home.

"Then we will take those water breathing scrolls. It's time to sneak through the water." While they had been planning and preparing, Gil had been looking for their way to sneak in to the water unseen. "We are going through that grass there. We can get in to the water through that stream. The grass goes right up to it."

Leon took out the scrolls he had brought with them. "The water mages made these for you. They will activate a spell that allows you to breathe underwater for a full day. No more, no less. Even if you exhaust your mana you will be able to breathe at the very least." The spell scroll was made with high skill and even Alma admitted that it was just as good if not better than the spell scrolls that the forest elves had made.

"I know these are valuable and hard to make. If we can, we will pay you back." Both Gil and Walker had the same thought. The scrolls were very costly to create for a mage able to do so.

"After we rescue these people, Walker can learn to make scrolls and give me one with his appraisal skill on it as payment." The slight sneaky response was enough to allow their stress to roll off. They were already high strung and a small amount of cheeky response helped them break that tension and focus deeper.

Chapter 1126 - 1126. One Hour

The number of half elf half demons was not too great while the group snuck through the grasses on their stomach. Gil had originally thought kneeling down and crouching would be enough. But with Neil and Leon's height, they need to be flat. It also gave them a better chance of making it to the water.

While they snuck through the grass Walker was able to make out the things that were being built. He could see the looks of forge materials and tools being set up. There were also training dummies and al staffs being prepared. All of this was obviously for battle. What was even more dastardly was the fact that some of the half elf half demons looked malnourished. They were all being forced to work with the smallest amount of food possible. Not only were they unable to think for themselves, they were being tortured in such a way.

Some had even collapsed and just been pushed to the side. The water elves that had been controlled were even worse off. Even though they were pawns to Lust and technically in charge, they were treated terribly compared to others. It was more like they were there just to carry around more of the poison affecting all of them.

It took some time for Walker to see the first demon. It was not what he expected. They had very round features in comparison to the usual sharp and pointed features that the other demons had. There were also smaller wings than he had seen on some other demons. The large pointed tail was what struck out the most. It seemed to have a defined needle on the end with a purple and pink coloration. He could bet that it was the place that concentrated positions were stored.

'Succubus demon spawn

This is a demon with the sole purpose of following their succubus parent. They have bodies that can attract other beings with high charisma. Their reflexes are much more improved than many other beings so that they can easily inject concentrated poisons in to a body. These poisons are received from their parent when needed. They give ninety percent of the experience points gained to their parent as a requirement of their services. In turn, they are directly tied to the well being of their parent. If their parent suffers, so shall they. If their parent perishes, so shall they.'

Walker managed to whisper this out so that everyone knew. Neil would just need to hold off these demon spawn so that the group could defeat Lust. It was a better situation than expected and warranted that Walker should use a communication crystal to get reinforcements on the way to help the water elves after this. There would be discord in their race if not done well.

The group froze in place while they processed this information and adjusted their mindsets to just hold off the children that lust created. This would be integral for them to clear the entire water elf group of this danger. It also gave Walker the time to pull out one of the crystals that Scylla had given him and send an urgent message. It was enough for Scylla to gather their council in Genesis and be able to get

everyone on the move. He made sure that the forest elves would be put in the lead for this so that they would be more understanding. It was also important that the demons already saved and growing in Genesis were included.

This way the half elf and half demons that had come from this tragedy would have brethren that had survived Pride to look to for guidance. They were all victims of corruption and deserved the chance to grow safely. If everything went well then there was the chance that the half elf half demons would be the key to bringing the races closer. It could be a foundation instead of a tragedy. All they needed to do was put in the kindness and effort to make it happen.

Once the crystal had cracked and fallen in to shards their movement continued. Walker wanted to use to manipulate the water and make it warmer. But he knew that it could give them away. He also worried that he would somehow alert water nymphs or sprites. But what was more strange than anything, these sprites and nymphs were nowhere to be seen. It was not normal for them to be so reclusive since these waters were their home.

The stream had enough rocks to poke at their arms and stomachs while they crawled. But Gil had picked out a deep stream that let them fully cover themselves after using the water breaking spell scrolls. This was good since they were able to hide themselves completely without any enemies seeing them. Not that they were making enough commotion for any of the dulled and hypnotized water elves to see them.

Their vision was not great underwater but they expected this. It was worse than it was in the ocean but the actions in the water from the boats and rafts made it that way. There were also the monsters in the lake that the group had spotted which undoubtedly made the silt rise through the water.

Leon took the lead because he was the one that would be able to show them where he needed to be to activate whatever skill he was able to. Walker felt that it had to be one that affected a large area and was unique to Leon's spear. He could see that when Leon had spoken about it that he had clenched the spear tighter. He also wondered why Leon had not used it when they battled the kraken. Yet, as he thought about it, he realized that it must have to do with the fact that it would affect a large area and be dangerous for those around him. At the end of the day, Leon would be waiting for the right time to use it.

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Chapter 1127 - 1127. Underwater Shadows

Communication was harder in the water and Walker dared not use to manipulate the water around them. He wanted to avoid detection at every turn so that he was able to make it to the water elf castle. They did, however, soon find the abandoned homes of elves beneath the water. It seemed that many had left things as they were without returning because they were given orders from Lust or their fellow elves.

The signal from Leon came after they had swum in to what seemed to be a training field under the water. There were dummies that had fallen to pieces and were sitting in messy piles while even some clothing and training weapons were scattered about. Since he had the space, Leon knew it would be ideal for the razor whip weed to grow there and for him to use his skill.

Speaking under the water was no issue for Leon but he knew that his friends would have a hard time understanding him. He pulled them all close and spoke as clearly as he could. "I will wait for an hour. Mus skill causes a massive wave of water that pushes everything away. It's a defensive skill I learned that allows me to protect many people at once with my spear. I can't use it often because it uses a lot of mana and pushes everything around me away. Just keep track of time and escape when I use it. Hold on to stone walls and make sure you are defended from the debris."

His plan was simple. When Walker was about to start the battle with Lust and the others, Leon would use his skill. That would mean that Neil would only need to deal with the remaining demons and controlled elves making it easier. It did put Leon at a risk but that was already accepted.

The seeds scattered around Leon as Alma opened the vials. She was able to easily grow the razor whip weed due to her recent training and learning about it. The reason the blue ivy had grown so well was because she had spent years learning about how it grew, absorbed mana, and crossbred. The razor whip weed was the same. Alma had gone to the herbalists and found every piece of information about it she could. It was a major jump in understanding so that she was able to properly use the razor whip weed to battle and protect others while not hurting them or herself.

The mass amount of razor whip weed surrounded Leon leaving space for him to use his skills and only a small hole in the top to worry about. But it was just enough for him to leave without being hurt. If anything tried to come at him they would be hurt before they got to him. The group moved away and prepared themselves for more sneaking. They would have to avoid anything they saw as they went toward the island castle.

Gil made a move forward motion and let Neil and Midnight take the lead. They would be the best suited to fighting in the front now that Leon was waiting for the right time. Walker felt that he could make a skill similar to Leon's mastery skill with his spear. But what Walker caught on to was that it was a defensive mastery skill. In his mind this meant that Leon had more than one mastery skill. This one was just a defensive one. It only made Walker believe that there could be multiple forms of the spear mastery skills. However, this was thinking for another time.

The group moved forward and found that the deeper the water got the easier it was to see. They could still see the shadows of floating platforms and boats on the surface but the signs that the water elves had abandoned the lake bottom was gut wrenching. There were parts of what should have been resting areas and training places broken to pieces. They had been torn apart for their materials. They could only hope that the castle wasn't the same so that when the water elves were set free they could have something familiar to hold on to.

Walker felt a hand hold him back. Both Alma and Gil had stopped him since Neil and Midnight had stopped. They could see the large shadow of a giant fish swimming through the water around a floating platform.

The large fins they could see above the water were nothing compared to what they could see here. Walker immediately used his all around appraisal on the brown and green spike fish. The jagged teeth made him wonder if this was something brought from the demon lands so that they could more easily control the water elves, nymphs, and sprites.

'Demonic hagfish- tamed

This is a monstrous fish that requires only mana to survive. They would normally survive on darkness and water elemental mana in most water sources. However, they possess a brutal urge to kill and eat. They attract prey by spreading poison in the water they have absorbed through time. Then they viciously tear and consume whatever is affected by the poison. These demonic hagfish can be used for a myriad of materials but are best used for warding off water monsters. Their spines are known for making amazing underwater arrows.'

It was just as Walker had thought. The hagfish were demonic and had been tamed. Now they would need to be dealt with once Lust was defeated. It was certain that if a hagfish was killed then the tamer would alert Lust. As much as Walker wanted to get rid of these brutal monsters he had to wait. But they

were all sure that these monsters were the reasons for the water elves to be removed from the water. It was also why the water sprites and nymphs would not be in the water either.

Chapter 1128 - 1128. Something To Hold On To

The person who had the most annoyance when they had to leave the hagfish was not any of them that were necessarily related to Genesis. It was Neil. As a dragonkin, he had hunted many monsters and animals to feed the village and keep it growing. He found pride in serving the dragons to become more powerful. Honing his battle skills was an honor not everyone in life had. But what he saw when Walker whispered the appraisal was a true monster.

Creatures that would tear things apart just to do it were not allowed to exist in his view. Every single thing done reflected on who someone was and who they represented. If any dragonkin were to do something so horrible then it would reflect on the elder and even royal dragons. Adding this hagfish to the Lust situation, made him furious. Only after Midnight had growled slightly to keep him in place did he stop. Her warning had reminded him that he was indeed still in the presence of a dragon champion and a royal, even if Walker and Midnight did not act by the script he knew.

This time Walker and Midnight took the lead. They let the shadow of the demonic hagfish pass by them without any action. It would be displaced by Leon's defensive skill later and even more so by their attack on Lust. They all knew that the tamers were most likely demons that had Lust had spawned in some way and would lose their lives when she was defeated. Therefore, they would have the demonic hagfish to be dealt with. Luckily, they had already sent a message for reinforcements to help the water elves after.

Whip pushing on through the water they noticed that the bottom was less and less covered with mud from all the activities on the surface and in the water. They found the stones that replaced the mud were fairly clean in comparison. Alma knew that this was the remainder of the water elf's pride. They cleaned the area around their castle so that it would remain pure and stand out to the world. It was also why some small stone buildings were intact.

They ducked in to one such underwater building to find that it was full of al tomes. They were very intricate in their knowledge of water elemental . But one that stood out was a single book that had a rune Walker recognized from the mage tower. It was one that the desert elves must have gifted to the water elves at some point. There was no hesitation as Walker stored all the books away so that they would not be lost to the destruction that would come with Leon's skill. So much had already been lost and the single minute to store them away was more than enough to bring value back to the water elves.

There was a stone slope going up toward a set of pure white stairs. They were made specifically for the water elves to walk in to the castle but had not been used for some time. The group looked at each

other before Gil snuck upwards. He peaked out of the cold water and saw that the entire area was abandoned. He motioned for everyone to follow.

Midnight went first and used her shadow wrapping skill. She was able to sneak around the area to find that it was indeed abandoned while the others came out of the water. Now that they knew there were no elves or demons nearby, Walker was less afraid to use his elemental manipulation to remove the water from everyone. He knew that being too cold would hinder their battle. Especially since Gil, Alma, and him were blue lipped by this point.

"This should be the most populated place for the water elves. They made everything so that their castle would be the focal point of their city. But it's just empty." The words seemed to drift away in silence while Alma looked at the towering white and blue castle. She knew that the water elves would use this as the entrance for everyone that came to the castle so that it would show off the magnificence of what they built. It was heartbreaking to see that it was so unused now.

"Demons don't care about that. You saw the training areas and homes underwater. They are in ruins. We are lucky that Walker grabbed those books. They were barely holding on without care. I bet they don't even have proper water protection anymore because the demons have been focusing on war preparations now that they have full control." The fire in Gil's voice was more powerful than even he realized. He had not gotten ahold of how this all really made him feel. He was closer to the elves than any of the party and now he was finding just how close he felt he was.

"It will all be right. We can help fix it. Just breathe and keep your focus. It's better that they are not watching this spot because they do not care. We can sneak in and find out where Lust is....But I have an idea that we already know where they are." Midnight hissed in agreement. If Lust was the demon that they thought she was and wanted the attention of everyone, then she would have people steeped in poison mist in the grand hall of the water elf castle.

"You will be able to keep the poison off of us? It will only get worse from here." Alma wanted to be sure that Walker's high poison resistance skill could hold up. She was answered by him passing on more of his mana to them so that it would protect them.

"Let's get moving. We don't know the floor plan of the castle so we might get lost. We need to tread carefully." Walker looked on the long walkway in to the castle ahead of them.

Chapter 1129 - 1129. Overgrown Alchemy Lab

If it could be called a door then the hunk of broken wood that covered the once grand entrance of the water elf castle easily fell open. There was barely a sound as Neild caught it and dropped it to the

ground. The group found that the hinges had been bent and broken over time to become the current state. "We should head straight and go right in to the main hall." Gil wanted to push in and get this done.

"No, we should take the way around. If we can find a place for Neil to draw the demons first then we will be better prepared for Leon's attack. That lets us focus on Lust after the water hits." Walker was not planning to charge in. He had been counting in the back of his mind so that he would be ready for when Leon attacked.

"Then we are taking that side path. I can feel the mana coming from it. If I'm right then there is an overgrown alchemy lab that way. I doubt that anyone has taken care of it and that means I can take a few plants to use. I want to see if they have something that can help when the water hits." Alma was planning to use plants that were not overly poisonous to grow and block some of the doorways. If the idea worked then she could force the water to draw out everyone from the castle but for Lust.

"The plan sounds proper. I will follow it. I can survive underwater battles as well. If I am dragged out it will not be an issue." Neil was committed to his position and did not mind the battle in the water or out. He was a water affinity dragonkin after all.

The group followed Alma's plan and moved toward the side hallways. Alma had been more than right. Just as they turned a corner they found that there were many plants growing in the stones on the walls and ground. Some were obviously overgrown medicinal herbs that one could find anywhere in alchemy. But others seemed to be more rare. Walker tried his best not to appraise every single one. But when he saw that some had seeds and fruits he stored them away.

"No alchemist would let their herbs grow so out of control. The lab is down there and getting inside is the same as cutting through the forest." Alma was a little sad to see it in this state. But she knew that these herbs would not grow in this way if they had not been cared for with a kind heart before they were left untouched for so long. Tools were rusty and vials were broken. It was rough all around. But the plants that had anchored themselves in to the stones were vibrant. "I want these."

Alma pointed out a very small stalk of yellow vines similar to her blue ivy. "These are called lightning vines. They don't actually have any lightning in them but they are said to paralyze someone like a lightning strike will. If I can make these my own I will grow them around the doorways of the main hall. That will stop anyone from moving for a few seconds at least. Once they are older they can paralyze a war elephant from the deserts. Or so I've read." The gloves that Alma wore were specifically for plants like this. She had immunity to her blue ivy since she had cared for it for so long. But against the lightning vines, she was weak.

"Remey would lose it here. I guess that's why you're grabbing what you can?" Gil knew that it was also because the water elves would want to recover this if the one that had put so much effort in to it survived. But he also knew that Remey would have their heads if she knew that they had just walked by with nothing.

"Wait, here's a journal. It has notes from every day in it." Alma found a journal on the ground and flipped to the newest pages. "My fellow elders seem to be in a fog today. Every time I speak to them alchemy is further from their minds. They are all fascinated with the woman that came from the south saying she was a traveling elf. But she feels odd." Alma flipped through the pages more.

"I can't seem to pay attention today. I keep feeling the need to go to the main hall and speak with our lady. She had started to guide us and bring us help. Who would have thought that the other races wanted to tear away our pure elf bloodlines? How despicable."

"Alchemy is nothing now. Our lady needs us. We will prepare for the worst and if the others can not agree with us they will be sent out. We must protect the elf race from these villains."

"That's all there is. There are a few alchemy notes by the alchemy journal turned in to a messed up journal about the lady that came. If we read all of them I think we will have a clearer picture of how Lust took over the city over years and years of poisoning..." They could feel their stomach churning at the thought. This was dastardly.

"Come on. Midnight just scouted out the next hallway. A group of demons just passed by and we can sneak through." Walker could tell the warnings that Midnight wanted to portray. They had already given enough time for Alma to get the seeds she needed from the lightning vines. "Neil, you go with Alma and set the traps. Gil, Midnight, and I will prepare to face Lust. Just count for ten minutes. That's all we have left." The group split up and Gil notched an arrow. He would have the first attack when the battle began. He would use the water affinity arrows in honor of the water elves that had lost their wills to Lust.

Chapter 1130 - 1130. Count Is Up

"This looks like the place. If you take those stairs you should be able to support from the top." Walker had found that hallway to the main stairs. He had a feeling that Gil would have to deal with a few demons guarding the top balcony but he would be able to handle it easily. "Midnight. You and I will go in to the room in a moment or two. Neil should be making a commotion soon."

Just as Walker had said this he heard a roar similar to a dragon. It was not quite the same power that should be in a roar but it was enough for him to know that there was rage in it. "I would say he's been holding back more than we knew." The strength of a dragonkin was not limited to what Walker had seen. The fact that Barry had been able to take one head on was amazing for the entirety of the human race. Built in realistic measures, there were not many that would be able to do such a thing. Barry had trained in the wilds alone for many years and even been in the military. Everything had made him stronger than even the strongest geniuses.

"Come pon." Walker and Midnight moved with speed to get to the main hall. They saw a group of demons falling from the balcony as Gil used arrow after arrow to take them out and freeze them in ice. The ones that ran toward Neil were completely dazed from the constant effect of Lust's poisons even though they were her spawn. But what caught Midnight and Walker up was the appearance of Lust.

Sitting on a blue throne made out of water elemental crystals was a demon that could not be seen as a demon. Walker would say she was the most beautiful human he had ever seen. But his mana felt disrupted in his body. The natural mana he had stored within the spirit mark and himself rejected what he was seeing and what he was feeling. He used his all around appraisal skill to see what the issue was.

Lust- empress succubus demon

This is the title holder of sin; Lust. She has manipulated many with poison and illusions to climb higher and higher in the demon lands. Armies have thrown themselves from cliffs just so that she could have what she desires. Her unique skill, perfect illusion, causes everyone that looks upon her to see what they find attractive. It works perfectly with her poison production skills. Therefore, those that see her fall to her will and would do anything for her. Only those with powerful bloodlines and resistances can see her for what she is. Beware the tails of Lust, they carry extremely potent poison that is not made to lull one in to her grasp; they are to kill.'

The mana within Walker reacted the moment he saw this appraisal. He could not allow Lust to take control of his mind. What resounded from him was a roar of pure resistance. Midnight was the same. She saw what she thought to be an elegant dragon able to rival her. Yet, she knew that it was a lie. There would be no dragon allowed to face her head on. She would be the greatest true dragon champion the world had ever seen.

The perfection that the pair had seen fell away in a mist of pink and purple poison. What was revealed made their skin crawl. The demon sitting upon the throne has three sharp scorpion like tails waiting to stab at anything around them. The features were sharp and pointed just like a quillfish. They would carry poisons with them everywhere. What was even more terrifying were the needle like teeth that

threatened to stab in to whatever made its way too close. The purple and pink coloration didn't feel warm either. They both knew that it was poison and evil.

"Gil! Stay focused and don't look down here!" Walker feared that Gil would fall for the illusion. But when Gil responded Walker couldn't say anything in response himself.

"How could that ugly thing measure up to Alma?! It's just a monster waiting to be defeated." His look of disgust was visible from the floor while he fired another arrow at a spawn of Lust. His heart knew who he cared for and Lust could do nothing against him.

"Just come and sit beside me. I can show you endless pleasure. A world full of power and desire. You will never want for anything as long as you are with me." Unknown to Lust that her skills were not working nor the poison, she attempted to make them bow to her. But when she noticed another of her demon spawn fall she clenched her jaw.

The sweet voice disappeared as if it had never been. She clenched her jaw and stood. "Come and defend me, my children! There are ugly things here to harm me!" The vicious growl that came from her mouth was nothing close to what she had just sounded. Her quills seemed to flax and the three tails started to rock side to side waiting for a target to come near.

"Avoid the tails and try to cut them off. I will draw her attention." Midnight used the shadow wrapping skill and Walker changed the eternal orb in to a staff form yet again. He was going to first burn up the poison mist around Lust so that Midnight could more easily approach and tear the poison tails from her.

Meanwhile, Gil was dealing with the increasing number of Lust's demon spawn coming in to the room. "Gil, Hold on! It's time!" Walker reached the one hour count in his head. Without further waiting, they felt the entire castle vibrate. Leon was using his skill and they needed to be ready.