

## Master 1151

### Chapter 1151 – 1151. Come Watch

There was no trouble in finding the wandering blacksmith. He was surrounded by multiple blacksmiths that were all trying to learn something from watching him make a simple knife. "I don't know why he takes so many normal orders. He could be making more of those spirit forged weapons. The elves even come by to ask him to help." The conversations around were what Walker would expect.

"That's because he only makes what he finds interesting. Just because there are amazing things to make doesn't mean they are what he wants to make. How many people have kitchen tools made to last a lifetime? Because that is what you are looking at. That knife can last through an entire chef system user's life. Then it can be passed down to their apprentice." Walker made sure to make his words loud enough for any to hear.

"That's what the runes are for! He is adding them to keep the knife clean as it works and prevents damage. Rodney had followed and was giving everyone an angry look. "He is also the only one working. I would expect that all of you would be doing the same with the deadlines we have to make. But I guess all of you will fail the crafting competitions since you were not able to get your work done and ended up too tired." It was impressive how fast everyone returned to work or left the room entirely. Rodney had really learned to throw his weight around. "I will let you be. I have to chase down a few more people or the higher ups will lose themselves. It's great to see you again Walker, Midnight!"

"He really has gotten pretty impressive himself. He used to just work the front desk and now he is running around to all the people in charge. He might be more of a higher up than he knows." Walker laughed a little while Midnight looked around at the materials strewn about the room.

"He's a good kid." The wandering blacksmith seemed to really like the attitude that Rodney had. The knife was put down as the wandering blacksmith had just finished polishing it. He placed it in line with a fifteen piece set that was made for a chef that had arrived and opened up a restaurant that specialized in home grown foods from the demi-human fields. They would be catering to those who enjoyed the homegrown cuisine that wasn't yet in Genesis.

"I found you to make something a little different. And I'm sure you don't want to hear this, but I was hoping that you could use the true spirit forging methods?" Walker saw the wandering blacksmith raise an eyebrow and focus.

"So, I want to make elemental bracelets that spirits can dwell in. They will be gifts for the different elemental royal dragons so that they can find a spirit to partner with them and help them purify mana.

They will be made with elemental affinities and should be tough to resist the strength of dragons. But they will need to be able to store mana as well. I know some of the runes had already been transcribed from the mage tower and hope that some of the specific elemental runes can be used. I also don't mind if you want to use any and all the materials I have." Walker was ready to drop his entire inventory then and there.

Walker waited while the wandering blacksmith pondered this job. It was not very unique in the way of materials but what it lacked in materials it made up for in reason. He had never made things for dragons before and he could only think that they would be something that showed off the highest skills he had. It also allowed him to vary the spirits he would work for rather than just making a predetermined design.

"You can add any designs or styles you feel represent the elemental specification. I'm fairly certain that if I even tried to make something artistic like that I would end up ruining the designs." Walker was sure that the wandering blacksmith had skills of a much higher quality than him. This was also why the wandering blacksmith started to nod his head yes. He knew that he would have the creative freedom he wanted instead of having to make something in a specific style. These were his favorite kind of orders.

"The boy can watch." The wandering blacksmith pointed to Rodney who ran past the door.

"I will let him know. This was the first that the wandering blacksmith had invited someone in specifically to watch. Walker knew it was something that Rodney had earned and that it would be a massive leap for his knowledge. Without any hesitation, Walker left any materials he had in his storage and headed out to get Rodney. Midnight did not hesitate to take a sharp breath and breathe out a golden flame in to the forge. She was ready to train every elemental breath attack she could in the forge today.

With those goals met for the day, Walker then focused his eyes on the alchemy guild. He wanted to see the progress that had come to pass since Remey was so focused on it. He could already see the fields for herb growing making progress along with the new greenhouses. He was sure that Remey would appreciate the herbs and seeds that he had gotten from the overgrown alchemy lab in the water elf castle.

When he gave them to her she might get distracted with a new potion idea or try to grow them immediately. But what he knew more so was that she would want to find out how they had managed to survive without care for so long. She would want to know all the secrets to them so that the herbalists could replicate the results.

Chapter 1152 – 1152. Pushing Through

Pushing through to the alchemy guild was the hardest challenge of the day. Walker found that so many people had come from far and wide to try and join so that they could participate in the competition in a few months. They were sure that they would be able to fall under one of the best master alchemists and become the next great alchemist to walk the world.

Some were there because they had reached the limits of their current knowledge and experiments. They knew that they would be able to learn more and push through their hardships to discover their next path. Then there were the herbalists. Many had found that their city's were too crowded or that the herbs they grew needed round the clock care. The alchemy guild allowed for other trusted and skilled herbalists to watch the important herbs. That alone was enough to attract skilled herbalists.

Many people filled the front hall discussing ideas and trying to trade things with each other. It was clear that Trish had hired more elves that respected her to work in the guild since they had a better understanding of herbs in general. Walker even spotted some of the appraisal experts from the Garnet family helping with appraising various herbs. It seemed that the Garnet family had cast off the idea that they would only be auctioning and working with merchants. They were not working with guilds causing them to be better known and more well rounded in general.

"Sir hero. How are you today? Do you need any assistance?" One of the staff members ran past the counter and right to Walker as soon as they noticed him fighting for a space to get in. At first some in line were angry that they were ignored but when they heard how Walker was addressed they made room. They knew that it was best to curry favor with someone known as a hero since they could change the way the city treated them in a few words. Not that Walker was going to influence anyone any which way. He preferred to see the hard working and determined rise to greater heights. It was only fair.

"I was going to share some of the herbs and herb seeds that I found at the water elf lakes with Remey, but maybe it is too busy for me to interrupt her. I didn't expect things to be this crazy around here." The staff member hurriedly shook their head. They were sure that Remey would have their job if they didn't bring Walker with them to give her the herbs and seeds.

"I will lead you there right away. Please just follow me. She is in the middle of a short class that should be ending soon. I believe the topic was foraging for herbs and the equipment needed." It sounded like a good basic course for new alchemists and made a lot of sense. This was the first place for alchemists to come together and learn proper techniques without the need to pay for a master alchemist to be their teacher. Many alchemists that were not supported by nobles could now learn.

The people in line let Walker go buy without any issue. Many actually made note of his face so that they could offer greetings and try to get in to a good relationship with him. They wanted to be able to say

that they had the support of a hero and one of the founders of Genesis. That alone would make them stand out over many of the other alchemists, merchants, and herbalists.

"Now, tell me. If you find purple thorns with yellow flowers, do you pick them bare handed? If not, what do you wear? Leather gloves? Chainmail gloves? Or do you coat your hands in grease?" Remey was sure that this was going to trip some people up. She had just distributed the basic alchemist guide the day before. She had spent a hefty sum of the guild funds to print a large number of copies to give out for free to every low level alchemist that came and successfully registered.

"Grease! The poison is water soluble and will absorb in to your skin. But if you cover your hands in grease then even if the thorns pierce your skin the grease that touched the thorn will block the poison inside the thorn." The girl that answered Remey was very sure of herself.

"That is another correct answer for you. I expect you to keep up the hard studying. If you have the time I hope you form a study group with some of the other students here. Working together will get you much further than studying alone." The class would have turned on this girl if Remey did not say this. The girl had answered many questions perfectly. Now that Remey guided her to start a group the other students could learn with them against each other.

The staff member managed to get Remey's attention and Remey pointed at Walker coming in the food. "As you all know, this is my party member Walker. He just returned from the water elf lakes and I am sure he has something interesting to show off. You are all very lucky that he came in at the end of my lesson. That means you get to see what he wants to show off first hand. I expect you all to take notes!" Remey used this to her advantage. She also used it so that she would have an excuse to see the herbs and seeds first hand. It was a good way to hide her excitement and also get what she wanted sooner.

"I could never say no to my party's alchemical brawler. She makes all the potions for the party and is an indispensable member. You should see her in action one day!" Walker threw some expectations right back at Remey before he started to pull more things from his storage.

#### Chapter 1153 – 1153. Alchemy Basics

Walker had the clippings from many herbs picked in a thrush. The roots he had were not saveable to keep alive but could be used in potions or other things. He also had the seeds which were mostly in vials that had been cracked or had been strewn about the ground of the overgrown alchemist lab. Remey seemed to be vibrating in place while she held back her excitement. She could tell what some of the herbs were at first glance whereas some she had no idea since they were so rare.

Remey knew exactly what the lightning vines were. She had seen them before and she was already wearing gloves to pick some up. "Can anyone tell me what herb this is? And who can tell me what properties it has? What uses does it have?" Remey knew that Walker would explain. She also knew that Walker would also tell her that these were grown by Alma in some manner. Remey had noted that the blue ivy that Alma grew were strangely shaped and had slight striations on the base of the vine. She could see the same on the lightning vines here.

"That's a yellow vine!?" One young alchemist shouted this out and was met with the shake of Remey's head. The same girl was looking at it from the back row but pondering it carefully.

"That's a lightning vine but it was grown too fast!" Walker could say that he was very impressed. He had no idea how to tell if an herb was grown too fast and lacked the current appraisal to say that in the least.

"Exactly. These are lightning vines. They were grown faster due to another elves' skills. What properties do they have?!" Remey yelled out the next question while every single one of the young alchemists racked their brains for the answers that they had seen in their lives thus far.

"Poison! They had poison that paralyzes people like lightning elemental monsters!" The boy that shouted out sounded as if everything had just clicked within his mind. He had a wide smile because he knew well that he was correct.

"Exactly. They have a very potent paralyzing poison that stops motion. They can make even large monsters stop and fall in place. But they are not deadly in the least. Now, what can they be used for!?" It appeared that Remey was not yet satisfied with their performance. She wanted to hear the last bit as soon as possible to move on to the seeds.

"I think...I think.... I think that they are antidotal and can be used to treat pain." A very timid boy right in the front row spoke up just loudly enough for Remey to hear.

"That is correct. Now shout it louder and I will give you these lightning vines for your own collection." Remey knew that this was enough motivation to make the boy face his fear of speaking. Walker knew this was something that Remey had learned from her siblings in the orphanage. It also made him want to ask her how they were doing since they had all moved to Genesis with them and less and less of them returned to the mansion every day as they found homes of their own.

"They are antidotal and treat pain in the right potion and salves!" The boy took a deep breath and shouted out to the room. Remey felt her ears ring a little since she was not expecting such a small boy to be so loud.

"Now that is how you answer in my class. Take these and be careful. I think you will be able to make salves with them as a training task. When you come back, share them with your next instructor." The herbs were put in to a bag and handed to the boy who was redder than a tomato since he was so embarrassed.

"These seeds are hard to distinguish and I know all of you lack the skills to define what they are. So, I will tell you. Even I need to research some of these' but these here are very useful. These are water lily seeds. They are larger and very soft. It is rare to find them properly preserved without water because they grow fast and die fast. They have a very high mana absorption rate and are perfect for increasing a mana p[otion from low tier to mid tier on a budget. The trick is growing them and timing the picking of the lily properly." Remey demonstrated by placing one of the seeds in a glass of water. Within three minutes it had already sprouted.

"This seed will grow in to a full water lily within seven hours. It needs to be picked at about six hours when the lily is about to bloom. By the time it is picked and thrown in to the potion it will be blooming and adding the pollen inside to the potion you are making." Remey had demonstrated this for the respective reason that they all needed to know that some herbs were not worth picking when found in the wild. Some were better off to be left and the seeds hunted.

"If I want to mass grow those as an herbalist, should I make sure that many alchemists are on standby?" Another younger student called out. She looked like a young elf who had three potted plants by her side, clearly an herbalist in the making.

"It is better to give instructions to the alchemist using them or to grow them one by one when the alchemist needs them. If you dry them they are useful but lose a lot of the efficacy so they are better off replaced with other herbs." This seemed to end the conversation and Remey waved for the alchemists and herbalists to leave. She wanted to speak with Walker now.

Chapter 1154 – 1154. The State Of The Water Elves

"Now that they have left, tell me why there are so many poorly picked herbs." Remey made the demand with all seriousness. She knew that it could not be intentional but she wanted to know why this was the state of things.

"There was an overgrown alchemy lab. I would say that it was a few years before anyone had taken care of it. We were moving through and ended up waiting for Leon to make his move as you know. So, we used that time to grab what we could before we rushed out. The lightning vines were one of the things we let Alma use. Although, you already knew that one." Walker gave a brief summary of what the alchemy lab looked like and the state of tools.

"So it reflected the state of the entire castle at that point. I have heard that alchemy labs can become wild if not taken care of. The old man told me that his friend abandoned alchemy completely when he retired leaving his lab to overgrow. When they realized the lab wasn't taken care of it had been a few weeks but that was enough time for some purple flame ferns to take over half the room." This was a story from a long time ago that the old master alchemist had told Remey. It was an early lesson she learned when he had been speaking idly while he worked and Remey watched in awe.

"I would think that they are recovering it but I brought what I could. They didn't seem to have any issues with that since they were basically cleaning house anyways. I think it will be some time before they have their own alchemy labs again." It would be a few months if not years before the water elves were able to run their alchemy labs again.

"How many do you think will come here? I know they can find work in the alchemy guild since they should be very good at making potions. These herbs and seeds are hard to cultivate. Like this, these are rattle bush seeds. They grow pods that dry out and shake like a rattle. But where they are tough to grow is in the fact that these pods are covered in very sharp and hard to remove barbs." Remey was impressed that the seeds had even been taken. She knew that none of her herbalists they had now would be able to handle growing them but an experienced water elf herbalist would have the chance.

"They should be here today or tomorrow. I know I mentioned that they should travel on the mountain eagles slowly so that they aren't overwhelmed. But knowing how anxious they were to see other elves...I would guess they will be here soon. You can ask them when they get here if you can get past Alma and Gil. They will probably get to them first." Walker remembered the way that the water elves had started to idolize Alma and Gil before they left.

"Guild ma- Miss Remey." The staff member received a glare because Remey was not a fan of being called the guild master. From her perspective, there shouldn't be a single guild master even though Trish and the old master alchemist basically threw the title on her behind her back. "The forest elf representative is here with guests to meet you."

"Speaking of the water elves. Can you have someone come and appraise these. Then keep them separate so that the water elves can look at them as well." The staff member jumped to it and before Walker realized it, Remey was dragging him toward an upstairs meeting room.

"Alma, I knew you would be here." Walker didn't have any plans for the rest of the day other than stopping by the cathedral. So, he was happy to see Alma and be able to join them even though he was roped in by Remey.

"I didn't expect you to be here. I guess it is perfect timing. I brought along the elder with the most knowledge in alchemy to meet Remey. He said that he was planning on sending two of his apprentices here to join the alchemy guild so that there could be a branch in the new water elf city. One of them is an herbalist that specializes in semi-aquatic herbs and another is an alchemist that specializes in defensive boosting potions."

"Really? Semi-aquatic herbs? You know that we have some special fields for the merfolk to grow their herbs along with regular fields. Having someone take the space between the two and put it to use would be perfect since it was wasting away." Remey sealed the deal on the herbalist right that second. But she was equally if not more, intrigued by the fact that there was an alchemist that specialized in making defensive potions.

"You see, my apprentice has always been weaker when it comes to his defense and health. That made him want to supplement his lifestyle for safety. Therefore, he has focused on potions that temporarily add earth and water elemental mana to the body. The earth strengthens the skin and sometimes the water is able to help deflect the damage. The potions are very costly but they have a very valuable benefit." The water elf elder knew exactly how to hook Remey. It was almost comical.

"Then I will allow him to come as well. He should be able to trade that knowledge for the things we know. I bet Trish will have a nice conversation with him about the difference in herbs and techniques compared to the forest elf city alchemy she had grown." This was Remey's card to play. Trish was famous among even the other elves for her potions. This was the deal that clinched the elder in to a full on conversation and caused him to forget that Walker and Alma were even there.

#### Chapter 1155 – 1155. Just Chatting

"Well, it appears we have lost Remey and my guest. Who would have thought I would be forgotten so fast." This wasn't too unexpected but Alma still felt a little sting.

"You should have known it would happen. You brought Remey something alchemy related right after I brought her something. Now she is going to be caught up for days. Not that it's a bad thing. She will be busy enough as it is in the next months or two." Since there would be competitions, Remey had to focus on those and how they would work. Since the colosseum being finished would be the focus of everything then she would need movable equipment for the entire event, not to mention enough for the high number of applicants.

"I expect the city to be even busier. I think it's good though. It sped up the trade between the forest and here. Now many people will have fair prices on different goods through every kingdom. Genesis is acting like a border for everyone so that there are no disputes. It's stressful but working well." This was something that had been noted by every representative. They knew that the buffer would mean a tough job to start for the guards and merchants but would smooth over very quickly.

"Did you get your new identification yet? I need to. It condenses everything and the guilds have craftsmen everywhere to make sure that everyone gets one. Whoever thought it up is a genius." Walker had seen people with the small plates of metal that could identify them. He was jealous that he had missed the chance to get one early and had it on his to do list for the week.

"Yes, I got one first thing this morning as an example for the water elves. They needed them as well. It appears that Lust threw a great many items away. Despicable. They are still finding some of their treasure in the muck of the lakes. Luckily their real treasures are still sealed away under their castle." The water elves had many things unique to their water affinities and losing them would have more than ruined their culture. Thankfully they had been untouched for years and survived the incidents caused by Lust.

"Oh, that's good. I didn't even think about that but you're right. I bet there are many historical artifacts or items that could have been lost..." Walker had not focused on such a thing and really only thought of treasure as weapons or gold. Not that he usually needed to worry about treasure. "I expect them to work well in Genesis. They should be able to adjust with all the new people coming every day. Their water should be a very big help."

"I agree. I think they will be part of us getting our own fields started for growing. We have plenty of farmers that came from the demi-humans that need help making the land good enough to grow. They already started plowing even though the ground is still frozen. But apparently, it has started to warm up just enough to begin so who am I to say not to?" Alma had a sense for the season as an elf, but that did not mean she had the slightest idea about when it was best to start growing food.

"I didn't realize how far they would set up the fields. Assuming we would keep expanding though..." Walker could imagine just how large the city would be in the next few years. They would be in a rush for space up until the end of the next year. Right now though, there was space to use as they saw fit. "What else do you have planned for the day? Anything big?"

"I planned to visit those elves left to Gil's training. Apparently, they went out again and one of them met a frost wolf pup. It did not go well but Gil's father and two other seasoned hunters were there to help. I want to see if they learned a lesson. Unfortunately, younger archers are always too arrogant for their own good since they feel they can fire an arrow without consequence." It was understandable. Long range attacks could make someone feel invincible. "How about you?"

"I need to visit the cathedral and speak with Onyx and Alice. I also want to see the new skill that Su is working on. I can't get left behind. She's a little too motivated and it makes me feel like I will be left behind before I know it." The curiosity that Walker had was not small. He wanted to see just what had Su so fired up. He also wanted to spend some quality time with Alice. He knew she would be busy but just having lunch with her would make his day a million times better. Thant and Onyx had spent a decent amount of gold so he wanted to check in and see what it was all being used for. Making sure Onyx was spending wisely was part of an older brother's job.

"I did hear that Su was working on a new light elemental skill. She even told me she was trying to focus on now. I wonder if she will be breathing fire like a dragon soon. She wasn't shy about explaining the changes after pledging to Midnight. But Su is trustworthy and strong. She would have done anything to protect her family anyways. A pledge was just additional proof to the world." Alma didn't see the point of the pledge since Su would always choose to save and protect. It was just who she was. Yet the pledge still happened and it came with added benefits for Su, so, no one had any issues with it even though it would require Su to train much more to discover the new skills she had and the new potential she had.

#### Chapter 1156 – 1156. Rare To Hear

Since it appeared that Remey was occupied, Alma and Walker took their leave. Walker also wanted to go see how Gil was doing with the archery academy and his goals. Unfortunately, he seemed to have ended up with too much on his plate for the day. It was also not a major goal to improve his archery skills since Walker was more focused on than anything. He did wonder if he could use his elemental to create arrows on the go.

This wasn't something major in his mind but he had the idea that he would be able to help Gil if he ever ran out of arrows. It would be a rare scenario since Gil made plenty of arrows and had his special quiver which held a near infinite amount. Yet, it would be good if Gil couldn't use any of the elemental arrows

that he made. Walker could manipulate the area around them and create an arrow that didn't have the mana condensed within so that it would do purely physical damage.

There was also the fact that Walker had been neglecting learning to create himself weapons out of the elements he could control. He had the frost whip skill and a few others related to earth and wind elemental mana. But he should look for a general combination of them that worked without the use of the eternal orb. It would be bad if he was in a situation and could not rely on the eternal orb for whatever reason, then he would need to pull weapons from his inventory or make one on the fly.

He could always rely on his storage for weapons and other things. But in the midst of battle, it may not be optimal to pull out a sword, hammer, scythe, or even dagger. It could be too easy to predict. But when he created a weapon from an element around him it would be a surprise that an enemy never saw coming. That was the benefit to being able to use close combat and . Something that Walker needed to train together with his dance of seasons skill. The dance of seasons would radically change the way Walker battled if he could train with it more. He had just been too busy lately.

His thoughts kept him occupied until the cathedral loomed in front of him. He had nearly walked straight in to the high priest who was just standing up from a bench near the front to greet him. "I think you need to take a seat instead of me. You're looking a little distracted." The high priest knew the feeling of being deep in thought. He had often pondered the future of members of the cathedral itself.

"I just have a lot going on and can't seem to find the time to train. I kind of wish I had a time stop skill or one of those portals to a training world with sped up time. But if I get skills like those I think I will end up distant from my family and end up a completely different person."

The high priest wasn't sure how to respond to this. Of all the things to be thinking about, Walker was thinking of time. "You know, I would never think of such things. So many times people wish for more time but in the end, do we really want it? Would we grow apart from those we love? I think at my age I always want more time but if I had it would I actually do the most with it? I can't say, but you have a very good point." There were some enlightening feelings with what Walker had said. These things also resounded with Walker because he knew he would be living much longer than a normal human now. It was something he had yet to come to terms with in any sort of way because it was hard to wrap his mind around.

"So, what brings you here today? Coming to check on Onyx? If he stays here any longer he might just eat too much light elemental mana." The high priest knew what Onyx ate and that the cathedral attracted light elemental mana in the form of healing easily. Since Onyx had been there he was able to help the

heavenly serpent egg hatch and eat without issue. There was also the bonus of easily training with his light elemental skills.

Walker shook himself out of his own head and replied, "Yes, I also want to see Alice since I have been gone again. I heard that she was training with Su to learn a new skill. I thought it might be good to watch and learn." Walker was not used to condensing the light elemental mana in to a physical form. If he managed to watch Su and Alice train then he might get some hints on how to do so as well.

"If you watch them I think you will have it down sooner than you think. Those shields that Alice makes might not take many hits but they can stop Su for a moment. You and I both know that Su is a tough young woman." It was rare to hear the high priest commenting on someone's toughness and strength. The fact that he had such an idea of Su meant that he had been very impressed with her training.

"Su has saved many people and will keep on doing so. If I ever need someone to protect me I trust that she will be there even before I know I'm in danger." It wasn't so much as Walker's bond with Su but the feeling he had. Su was just the kind of person to always be there when someone needed protection or a shoulder to lean on. She truly cared for others.

#### Chapter 1157 – 1157. Hot Blooded

The pair were still chatting as they walked inside the cathedral. Walker was looking around but didn't see Alice or Su meaning they were in the back courtyard training. However, there seemed to be very few injured or sick around. "I can see you looking around. We have been slower today. It seemed that after that cart incident people are actually paying attention to their safety. I would say that they want to be in top form for the next few months." It was definitely the competitions that spawned this care for safety. Those that had been injured had fallen behind.

"Safety should be important all the time. But, I can't be angry that people are focusing on it because of that. As long as it's focused on. Does that mean you have had a lot of different tasks to work out?" It was expected that the cathedral would have other projects when they were slower.

"Yes, we have been able to send some people out to visit villages near us. We also sent a small group from here and Diamond to the northern city. They should be able to see the grand cathedral and much more experienced master healers. It will bring this cathedral to much higher heights. I just wish the journey was shorter. It will take half the year." The high priest wasn't happy to be missing people for so long but he knew the value of such a trip.

"Huh, good for them. I forget about the cities past the desert on the other shores. It's nice that people are able to go toward the ocean and take boats up the coast again. That desert was not a fun place to go." If he had to go to the desert again, Walker wasn't sure how he would handle it. He only saw a small fraction of the danger the last time he was there. In all honesty, he had been extremely lucky in his rushed journey.

"Again! Hit harder!" Su shouted in hot blooded strength as Onyx whipped his tail down toward her shield. He had been the one testing her shield since Alice was resting and checking on the heavenly serpent egg.

The strike of Onyx's tail was nothing to laugh at. Even though he was using his shadow to restrict his size, he could still hit with tremendous force. This meant that he could push Su back a decent distance with her defense. The only downside was that he would be unable to follow up attacking since he suffered some backlash. Just because a monster was higher in stats than a human or other race did not mean that they could use those stats the same way. Most of the other races had learned to focus their strengths and weaknesses in some way whereas a monster was just naturally strong in an unfocused manner. It was why Midnight and Onyx were not unstoppable forces even though they were technically the strongest within the party.

However, Walker was too busy watching to think about these things. He had seen a small amount of light start to condense on Su's shield. She didn't have the mana controlling skills that Walker did so it was very impressive that she was able to make this happen. She had shared a bond with Midnight unlike Walker's. This made sure that she had an expanded elemental affinity like Midnight's.

When Su charged toward Onyx the next time it was clear that there was a slight light shield around her twin shields before she slammed them together. It seemed that she had started to use her shield bash skill and charge forward with it. It was beginning to be more than just a light shield skill. It was turning in to a combination skill the way that Su was training. She wasn't just using her mind, she was letting her instinct take control of what she was doing while training and it was obviously paying off.

Seeing this convinced Walker that he could help a little. He started to use his grand elemental manipulation skill to force the light elemental mana around the back courtyard of the cathedral to surround Su. She felt this change and she was able to grasp on to it without even distracting herself. The results spoke for themselves.

Light started to condense over the twin shields that Su had put together. Walker saw the scrapes and bruises from her training healing slightly. It was an interesting effect to have. Yet, this was not all that

was happening. Su was able to move with her shield close to the ground leaving no gaps for any attacks to go under her. This protected her feet when she began to charge forward with the shields facing Onyx.

Her cry of power rang out again and Walker felt that his blood was boiling. This was more than just Su yelling. It was a cry for power from the blood she had obtained and the changes her body had undergone. It was close to a dragon's roar like Walker and Midnight were able to do.

In the next moment, Su collided with Onyx's tail and Onyx was the one forced back. The light elemental mana on her shield fell away but Su was standing tall while trying to catch her breath. "Shield charge and shield bash combo skill with a light shield addition? You really had to go all out and surprise me." Walker praised the combination that used not one, but four skills. "And you even started to use dragon's intimidation. Your roar might make Midnight feel she needs to compete." He cast a healing skill to help Su recover while she calmed herself and looked around. She had unknowingly attracted the attention of more than just Walker and the high priest. Many of the healers had come to watch her training and looked in awe.

Chapter 1158 – 1158. Just Sparring...

"Brother, Su has been working very hard today." Onyx knew that Walker understood this but still felt it was worth saying. He had just been knocked back and felt how much stronger Su had gotten just in the day. "Every time she attacks it feels like she has gotten more powerful. I don't know what it is." This was enough to put Walker on edge. Su was still adapting to the changes in her body. If she was improving so fast, then wouldn't he fall behind soon?

"I'll need to get more serious myself. I didn't think that you were getting stranger that fast..." Since Su was still catching her breath, she was not able to respond. However, she held a smug smile that told Walker she was willing to challenge him at any time.

"Now look at what you managed to do. We will need to flatten out the courtyard again. You dug right in with every step there." No one but the high priest had noticed that Su had pushed on the ground so hard while charging that she had dug small divots in the ground with each step. It spoke to the heaviness of her armor and shields but also to the force she put in every leap forward.

"Let me fix that quick." Walker used his grand elemental manipulating to flatten the ground again while the high priest nodded in approval. He wished that Walker had been there the entire week so that this could have been fixed as the training had gone on. The number of times that Alice, Su, and Onyx had damaged the ground was nearly uncountable at this point.

Before Walker could speak he heard a soft song starting. But what caught him up was that he couldn't make out the words. They seemed to evade him when he focused. However, the light elemental mana had made gather in the courtyard seemed to bed to the words faster than he knew. In an instant, there were three swords of light moving through the air towards him. His reaction was nothing too spectacular.

Walker jumped to the side and rolled while pulling the twin blitz swords from his storage. He slashed at the light swords and managed to block them as they came at him again. Without any hesitation, he began to dance the second act of the dance of seasons; spring. His agility increased and he was able to move more freely while defending against the swords. He had not expected Alice to see him and immediately show off. But whatever she had discovered had made her much more efficient in singing her songs to manipulate the light elemental mana. So much so that Walker felt he might have been caught off guard if he was not so much faster and higher leveled than her.

"Is that the fastest you have!?" Walker planted his feet and raised the twin blitz swords in a stance he didn't know he could perform. It felt that it was second nature based on the warriors he had seen use swords. Without really thinking he had copied it and begun to use it.

'The skill dual stance has been taken from the starlight swordsman system. The user has learned the skill dual stance from the constant battle experience and memories of stances while using dual bladed weapons.

Dual stance- passive

The user is able to easily fall in to a corresponding stance related to two of the same weapon being wielded at once. They are able to use their skills related to having two of the same weapons slightly faster. They are also able to resist the attack and parry the attacks toward them slightly faster. The user is also able to better learn dual blade skills at a slightly faster rate.'

There was a smirk on Walker's face when he read this. Whatever a starlight swordsman was, they had a great skill with dual weapons. Walker envied the slight boost in learning experience that would come with this and the system he didn't know much about. Although, he now had the skill and was ready to use it to the best of his ability. To do so, he started to pull on the air and water around him. The mana started to condense much better than usual to form icy extended blades on his twin blitz swords.

The air was sharpening the water as it froze. Walker had thought of this combination over time when using the frost whip since he knew that the wind made everything feel colder. He was also able to see

the ice and snow shaped by the wind when they had gone up to Adairs' village in the mountains. It was time for him to put these combinations to practice and use them properly.

His next slash shattered one of the three light elemental blades that Alice's song made. The resulting gust of icy air was enough to chill everyone watching to the bone. But Alice was not done yet. She raised her voice and Walker almost made out some of the words. He still was not sure what or how she was doing it but he pushed on against the newly formed three light elemental blades moving even faster.

The show of agility and ice made the courtyard feel like winter was returning instead of fading. Su had started to regain her breath and was watching while Onyx curled up to watch next to her. "I thought they liked each other but now I might say they are enemies." She was feeling recovered enough to joke around a little with Onyx.

"They are getting to know each other. Brother missed Alice, and Alice has been working hard to be able to journey with him. They know more about each other than ever before." There was no way that onyx wouldn't see the truth of this little sparring match.

#### Chapter 1159 – 1159. The Swap

Walker was not as experienced when it came to battle but she was learning faster than before. She could see how Walker was moving to dodge and change his options. She had been standing in one place and singing, yet, as she saw Walker moving she realized that she was an easy target. All someone would need to do was get to her and everything going on would end. If Walker wanted, he could use or just throw one of his swords at her to end the entire battle.

She couldn't help but try and copy the way he moved to always see him and observe the area. Walker had not caught on that Alice had been doing this. It was impressive to watch her learn though, the high priest was feeling more and more proud as this sparring went on. Never had he imagined that his adopted daughter would be able to hold her own against anyone or anything. He had always believed she would have to hide away within a city and be protected by the walls. Now he could rest easy when she decided to head in to the world.

The song of swords was only a partial verse that came from the full song she had made. She lacked the ability to use it the way she envisioned because of her lack of mana. As much as she wanted to boost her mana she could not because that required improving her level which was slow. She could get gear that improved mana storage but it would make her heavier or would be expensive. Not that she lacked gold, but it was not something she wanted to spend it all on. She made sure not to let Walker know though, she knew too well that he might go out of his way to get her something.

Walker spun around to counter one of the blades that Alice had tried to be sneaky with. She thought that the light blade could come around from behind him and deal a decisive blow. Unfortunately, this was not the case. Walker was paying attention to the number he slashed apart and how they reformed. Since Alice had started with three light blades he knew that there would be a third coming from any angle. He was also making sure he paid attention to his elemental manipulation skill which could sense the light elemental mana behind him.

In the next moment that Walker tried to slash down, he noticed that the song had changed. There were pauses added in making the swords change speed and attack patterns. Alice had learned to slow and speed her song while watching Walker. She noticed that his dance was not to a perfect rhythm and that he was moving in different ways depending on how the sparring match progressed.

The first light blade made Walker feel as if he could easily slash it multiple times, Yet the next two were faster than he would expect from the way the battle had been going. Walker cursed that Alice was discovering these things while also loving the fact that he was also improving. His sense for battle was increasing constantly and he was able to discover where his flaws were.

There would have been no situation up until this point where Walker would have been able to safely realize he had small flaws in his movement. He might have had great skills but they were nothing if he did not understand and use them properly. The dance of seasons was a perfect example. He knew the movements and how the different acts worked with the specific movements. But he had not trained his body to move through those moves fluidly with different weapons. This was something that came with time and training.

Therefore, the best skill at the moment was dual stance since it helped him learn. But he couldn't just use swords in the future. He needed to change things up and try weapons he didn't use often or at all. That was why when the twin blitz sword disappeared from his hands and Walker dove forward, Alice wasn't sure what was going on.

In the next moment, two basic steel daggers that Walker had asked the wandering blacksmith to make in case he needed them. This was the time to test them out and try to learn something new.

The shorter blades were more or less foreign to Walker. But he knew that he could move around faster since he was not carrying as much weight. This gave him the agility advantage over the changing speeds of the light swords. But where it truly started to show Walker's strength was when he dodged and used

both of the daggers to block. He was copying his actions as he did with the swords, yet, when he used the daggers he could deliver quick decisive blows breaking the light swords faster than before.

These new movements threw Alice off since she was not expecting the swap. It also threw off her focus when it came to recreating the light blades, which she was now remaking more than before. It also caused Alice's mana to drain faster and her to become frustrated. This was the chance that Walker took to get in closer and closer until Alice was right in front of him.

The sudden close combat made Alice freeze up. She had never needed close combat and had yet to think of it since she would have had someone shielding her. Luckily, it was Walker that was sparring with her, so in the blink of an eye, his daggers disappeared and his hand reached out for hers. If this was anyone else they would have remained completely stunned and frozen. But this was Alice. She grabbed Walker's hand and immediately gave him a stern look, "Next time." She would win the next time they sparred. She would make sure of it.

#### Chapter 1160 – 1160. Progress

"Are you going to tell me how you manage to sing like that? I couldn't even tell what words were coming out of your mouth so I have no idea that there would be light elemental swords coming for me." Walker was still very impressed with the skills that Alice had shown off in their battle.

"She has been training a lot. Yesterday she suddenly started doing that and managed to make a shield faster than I could even start to draw light elemental mana toward me. I think it's called mondegreen." Su came back from where she had been sitting to watch and joined in the conversation.

"That's a skill that some people use to confuse others. I have met some rogue or thief system users with the skill but after some research, I found that it is a skill some song related systems use. It is the reason you can't quite understand her words. She sings in a way that makes them sound like other words so it all ends up seeming nonsensical." Since Alice was his only daughter, the high priest had taken a lot of time to research such things. He had been very impressed by the skill appearing within his daughters' singing. But more so, that it would help protect her.

Alice was standing very proud in front of Walker waiting for his response to this. "So you can pretty much attack to surprise the enemy at all times. It would even be better if they misheard the opposite or something else. It's the perfect skill to keep you safe and your opponent on edge." Walker was no fool, he knew that Alice might end up against someone or something that could speak properly and understand language. If this happened, then Alice would be able to confuse them and survive better.

"You were so fast too!" Alice had not expected how embarrassed she would feel as everyone focused on her. It was unusual since she was used to having an audience when she sang. However, she knew that the people around her were impressed and cared for her the same way she cared for them. That seemed to make it all the more embarrassing.

"I'm not all that fast. I was using my skill; dance of seasons. It has five acts, that was spring. It boosts my agility a little while I dodge. It also lets me use certain elemental mana better but I need to be able to fight in close combat. I need to train. There were a lot of things I did wrong and I could have left myself wide open." This was what Su and Onyx had been waiting on. They had been watching carefully and keeping note of what Walker did.

"I agree, you land on your toes a few times instead of the balls of your feet."

"Brother, I also saw you hesitate when you swapped to those daggers. It was a good choice, unfortunately, it could mean you are injured," Onyx feared that the half second of hesitation while Walker decided what he would do was going to be the moment that he was hurt.

"I noticed that I wasn't landing right too. If I rotate in the air I think that I will be too far back and adjust too much. I need to practice it more. But I need to go through every single act. The one I'm worried about is the fifth act; symphony of seasons since it makes me use natural mana mixed with my mana. It will be harder to use but a very good way to train. I didn't realize I hesitated though. I don't often swap weapons at higher speeds in battle. I will think about that." Walker was a little worried that he would hesitate more if he didn't get used to the motions.

"Alice. You need to make sure you move from the start of a battle. If you worry that you will get in the way you will be down and out before you know it." Since Su had been training with Alice she was not going to be sugar coating it. Alice didn't want that either. She wanted the blunt evaluation of her movements so that she could improve.

"I agree. But I think you could try and change the way you use the swords of light. They were the same patterns most of the time. They are light. They might not need to stay sword shapes or they might not need to move the way a sword does. You control them completely." Onyx had a sense for the way the light elemental mana was and he knew that Alice could adjust the size and shapes of her sword by changing the words to her song slightly. If she could do this while singing she would be able to do much more.

"Wait, why focus on words at all? Why not blades or spikes or needles in general? You can shape light in to any shape right? Then sing of blades not swords. If you are more general then you can make the song what you want it to be." Alice was already writing before Walker had started to say his thoughts. Everyone watched her scribble down ideas and eventually sat down focused on the spot.

"Brother. Would you like to come and appraise the progress of the heavenly serpent egg? We have been working very hard to make sure that it gets more than it will ever need." Walker was finally going to see what the gold that Onyx spent went to. He would be able to give Onyx a small talk about spending wisely and also seeing the progress that had come from the near round the clock care that Onyx and Alice traded off. Alice on the other hand was too stuck in her epiphany to go with them. The high priest stayed behind to see what he could do to help.