

## Master 1161

### Chapter 1161 – 1161. Big Change

Since Su was still tired, she opted to take a seat near where Alice and the high priest were. She thought it better to recover so that she would sleep training her control of light elemental mana which she still lacked. It would go a long way for her to be better at controlling mana in general. She didn't plan to bring all skills in to every aspect of her fighting but she knew that even being able to sense it better would radically improve her battling styles.

"Alice asked for the high priest to set up a room for the egg. It is perfect because it only allows the light elemental mana to gather inside. I think that we have done a lot to help it hatch faster and grow stronger." This was something that Onyx was more sure of than anything. It mostly spawned from the fact that he was able to sense the purity of the light elemental mana align with the mana gathering within the heavenly serpent egg.

"I can't say that the appraisal will be much different than it was when I was given the egg. If it is then I will just tell you about what is different. I just don't want to get you too excited. The appraisal first said that it would need a hundred days to hatch. You spent all of the gold that was yours to spend on this. You can't believe that you won't need more. Also, what about researching your own race? Have you forgotten your goal? I know you have quests for it." There was a heavy and serious tone in Walker's voice that made Onyx shrink back a little.

He knew that he was being reprimanded because Walker had some worries about him. He also knew that it was because Walker cared for him. But that didn't mean that Onyx was going to back down. "I believe that this heavenly serpent will be just like me and want to do the same as I am. I will help it at any cost. I also can take my own quests when needed to afford more light elemental crystals..." He trailed off and thought about what else he should say. But he had not been idle while Walker was away.

"I reached out to the tamer's guild. Elise said she would have a friend of hers help me out. There is a giant anaconda tamer that searches for everything serpent related. He should have records and potential locations for me. I might be able to go out on a journey to find more of my race." There was a hope that Walker had not felt from Onyx before when this was said. Onyx did not feel lonely at all by any means. He felt blessed by the world to have such a family and so many relationships with others. But he knew that he was still just thrown in the category of monster. He wanted to be a race like the goblins had done. He wanted to be able to say he found his people and brought them together. He wanted to follow Walker's example and push higher than before.

"Then I will support you. But if you get in to trouble and need help you should ask me. Never feel that you can't. We are family and everything I have is yours too. Just don't forget your goals. I can't have you

working yourself to death. What kind of older brother would I be if that was the case?" Onyx raised his head in pride hearing this. "Speaking of working to death, we should check on Lisa when we head to dinner later. I want to make sure everyone has a good meal together so I will try and cook a little tonight." Walker had made that decision then and there. He knew that everyone would appreciate the bonding time.

Onyx let Walker take the lead to open the door to the room set aside for the heavenly serpent egg. In just a glance, Walker could see the changes. The crystal clear layer that the shell was turning in to was spectacular. It shined with a brilliance that only pure light elemental mana could produce. There was also the fact that a lot of the striation along the egg had smoothed. If anyone looked at it now next to how it used to be they would think this was a completely different egg. It was starting to live up to the name; heavenly serpent egg.

Since Walker had said that he would just say the difference in the appraisal, Onyx was looking at him with eager eyes. Walker knew this and carefully walked around the egg before using his all around appraisal skill. His surprise was clear and he couldn't find the words for the changes that he had found.

"Not only has the hatching time changed from a hundred days to sixty but, it says that it will have accelerated growth because of the pure light elemental mana that it has received. You and Alice have done an amazing job!" Although it was still a long time away, the heavenly serpent eggs were many days ahead of schedule. Knowing that it would be able to grow faster when it hatched also put him and Onyx at ease. This was even better news than Onyx had imagined. He immediately rushed back out to tell Alice. He didn't care that she was hyper focused because he knew that she would feel the same joy that he did over this.

Through the last few days, Alice and Onyx had gotten much closer than they had been. Their shared ability to use the light elemental mana was just the start. They had been bonding over their cares for others and how they could ensure that the heavenly serpent was closer to the best life it could live.

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## Chapter 1162 – 1162. Grocery Shopping

Part of Walker wanted to meet the tamer that Onyx had mentioned. Being able to speak to a tamer that specialized in giant anacondas would be a wealth of information that might be able to help him

understand some of Onyx's needs in the future. Onyx was still fairly young and only grew so fast because of the things they had experienced. Being able to have the tips and tricks might help Walker when Onyx needed help most.

There was also the fact that a tamer that was obsessed with snakes and serpent type monsters could be a good ally to have. There were a lot of serpent type monsters nearby because of the swamps and the grass lands. Let alone when Walker went to the mountains, which was more often than he would have expected.

"Brother, what do you have planned now?" When Walker returned to where Alice was sitting, Onyx asked him for his plans. Walker was ready for this though. He wanted to invite the high priest and Alice to dinner as well.

"I was planning on cooking a big dinner tonight. I hope that Alice and the high priest can come as well." His invitation brought a smile to the high priest's face. The last time they had eaten at the mansion he was impressed by the food and now he would be able to have it again.

"Of course we will come. We need to get out and experience some different foods every now and then. We will even bring some of the peach pie from your mother's bakery. I ordered some earlier today so that I could have it around but this is a much better time for it." Hilda's peach pie had taken the cathedral by storm. In just a week since she released her new recipe, she had managed to get the largest positive feedback from any baked goods she made.

"My mother is selling peach pie now? But peaches aren't in season...I wonder where she got them. Maybe the forest elves?" Walker was a little curious where his mother would be able to find a steady supply of peaches. But since the pie was so popular he had no qualms with the fact that she was able to do it at all. "Well, in any case, I am going to hit the market and see what I can find. Maybe I will get something interesting." Walker made sure that everyone knew what his plans were. Since Alice was so busy with her new inspiration and Onyx wanted to help Su train more, he figured he had the time. The high priest had his own duties to attend to since so many of the healers had been watching the training instead of working.

Walking through the city alone was pleasant for Walker. He wasn't used to the feeling of being alone with his own thoughts. Fleur was resting in the spirit mark still and he could tell that she just needed the time to absorb natural mana. It was a good thing since he wanted to be able to make a big splash when he went to the royal dragon court. It was also a good chance to think about the training he would do the next day to prepare. He figured another few days of training to get a better handle on his movements skills. Then he would try to make weapons out of elemental mana on the move.

"Sir hero! Come and grab some of our massive green onions. We used water and earth elemental mana to double their growing size. They have a very crisp texture and hold up to high temperatures!" The forest elf that got his attention was one of the first to be able to sell things in the market.

"I see you have expanded nicely. Your stall is triple the size and you have double the workers. That means you should be able to help me. I need vegetables to make some dinner with for everyone tonight. I'll take those giant green onions but I need a good mix to go with...hmm, chicken?"

The forest elf merchant looked very happy to hear this. Without a second glance, he was rushing around. "I have golden root potatoes, giant green onions, some finger length spicy peppers, and my personal favorite, some red peppers. A good trick will be to roast the peppers and add them last. That's the secret to the flavors." It was clear that the forest elf had taken a lot of time to make himself familiar with his produce. "Then head over to my coworker and he has some blackened foul already spice rubbed. He will treat you right." It was the fastest that Walker had ever gotten things put together.

"I heard blackened chicken. I can set up five portions. If you are feeding a lot you might want to grab those spring greens mix for a small salad bed before the main course. Then if you get those mixed nuts to top it you have a pretty fine fresh and crunchy combination."

"What are you telling the hero!? He needs the silk goat's cheese. It is perfect for a salad. Don't lead him astray. Just because we are produce merchants doesn't mean we can't sell the cheese we were given." The third forest elf thrust the cheese in to Walker's hands. "This is on the house. Remember, you helped out my family. I can't make you pay for this. Also, business is too good to us." There was laughter from all the forest elf merchants before Walker turned away, storing seven bags of food to cook. With all the energy they had provided, Walker was really fired up to cook and even learn some cooking skills. He had a lot to look forward to.

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## Chapter 1163 – 1163. Chef Walker

Since everyone in the family was still out and about with their jobs or activities, Walker was left alone in the mansion with the kitchen to himself. It was a very rare occurrence since his mother was always in

the kitchen. Even after she finished at their new bakery, she would be in the kitchen experimenting or taking on the duty of cooking for the family.

"Let's get top learning skills." Walker had a long life of watching his mother use different cooking techniques. There were not many that were unfamiliar to him. But since he lacked the skills he was not good at them in the least. Now that he had the ability to learn the skills, he knew that he could take that hard learned method and change it in to a perfected form.

The sharp knives that the wandering blacksmith had made to replace the old knives were able to slice the chicken off the bone cleaner than Walker should have been capable of. He had gained a skill that helped him break down hunted game but this was beyond that. The blades went right to the bone and easily scraped the meat from them without any issue. He even felt that he could cut off flakes of bone without any trouble.

The peppers were the next to be the target of his cutting. He knew that he needed to roast them over the flames first to soften them so he tossed them right in to the hot coals like his mother had done before. The skin would bubble and blacken but when he pulled them out he was able to pull that layer right off leaving a smokey flavored red pepper. The softness and easy to slice nature made it a simple wash, pull the seeds out, and slice in to thin strips. The fragrance it had already made his mouth water.

Beyond that he was dicing the golden root potatoes in to medium sized cubes to soak in cool water he gathered with his water elemental manipulation. He smirked knowing that other chefs would most likely need to get water another way while he had the cheat of pulling it out of the air, literally.

'The skill elegant knife work has been taken from the master chef system. The user has used past knowledge and experience along with calm mana flow to learn the skill elegant knife work.

Elegant knife work- passive

As long as the user finds his inner calm they are able to better slice and dice using a sharp knife. Overall they are able to better use any knife. They will be safer and more efficient in their cuts and have a much lower chance of cutting themselves or damaging what they are cutting unwillingly. The knives are also able to last longer and sharper due to the better care taken with their use.'

This skill showed in Walker's cuts immediately. He had long seen the way his mother used a knife and now he was able to nearly perfectly replicate her movements. The pride that swelled in his heart when he noticed this only increased as he moved on to the roasting pans. The golden root potatoes were the bed to soak up the drippings and be mashed up after the roasting process. The roasted red peppers would be mixed in last after cooking. The giant green onions were being finely julienned to a feather like thinness.

The finger length spicy peppers were the wild card that he was excited to add in since the family rarely had spicier food but Walker had been craving it lately. There was also the fact that Onyx and Midnight had never had spicy food before now so it would be a surprising new thing to taste in their lives.

The peppers were easy to cut thin like the giant green onions. But Walker made sure that he kept the seeds inside them so that the spice level would remain on the higher end of the spectrum. The good part was that his family had nothing against spices since his mother had always made them try a variety of flavors. It gave them a tolerance to any spice or flavor making them able to eat just about anything. It also made them have a higher realm of knowledge when it came to what foods were or what dishes should go with others.

That was why Walker was able to easily make a sweet onion vinaigrette with some of the green onion bulbs at the end of the green stalks. The giant green onion had a tougher bulb but it was perfect for caramelizing and shaking with vinegar and a little sunflower oil. It easily mixed in to the wild greens salad he had made brightening it up. The addition of lemon juice just further elevated the flavors as he began to taste things.

'The skill flavor evaluation has been taken from the taste tester system. The user has significant knowledge of flavors when in relation to food and the skill has been automatically learned.

Flavor evaluation- passive

The user is better able to distinguish flavors from mixed ingredients. They can easily remember specific tastes and bring them to mind for descriptive purposes. They are also able to better evaluate the quality of things they taste. This skill is often gained by chefs and critiques.'

This just made Walker happier as he went through and tasted everything again. He wanted to surprise his mother by showing off his cooking since he was always away or busy lately. It would also be a good way to show his appreciation to those that always had his back. It took him some time but he had a beautiful spread on the table as everyone started to return to the mansion. The high priest and Alice

didn't even knock since they came in with Hilda who had just arrived to the surprise of dinner already made.

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#### Chapter 1164 – 1164. Sit Down Dinner

Stunned. That was the only thing that everyone was able to feel. The blackened chicken that Walker had bought already spiced had browned up and become crispy in the oven. The roasted vegetables and smashed golden root potatoes made their mouths water. The vibrant greens salad with mixed nuts and a giant green onion bulb vinaigrette made the room smell fresh and bright. There was too much to love about a simple but elegant meal.

"Since when can my son cook like this?! I thought your mother was the baker here, but you suddenly can cook? Did you actually gain a cooking system and have been lying to us the entire time?" Garret thought that Walker had really gone above and beyond. There was so much food to feed everyone that they wouldn't be able to handle everything without the high priest, Alice, and some of Remey's siblings. Even the old master Alchemist and the wandering blacksmith had managed to make it back to the mansion for the night.

"He's your son too, you know. But he does take after me." Hilda was full of joy seeing that Walker had taken the time to learn skills and show them off that were related to her system. She knew he had always tried to gain these skills growing up and now that he could he had made it happen. Not only did she feel fulfilled but she knew that Walker had realized a goal he had had for his entire childhood.

"I wanted to make a good dinner for everyone. The high priest even reserved your peach pie. I heard it has become the cathedrals' favorite treat."

"He's right with that. My healers have been trying to hoard it for themselves. If I didn't reserve one I would completely miss out on the chance to eat it." The high priest flattered Hilda who seemed happier to hear that her food was popular now that her bakery was fully open.

"Well, now that Walker has outdone himself, let's eat." Hilda was not going to let everyone be held up by talking about food that was getting cold. She would want everyone to eat while it was at its best so that was what they were going to do.

There were many topics that floated around the table while they ate. Onyx was bragging about how he and Alice had managed to get the hatching time of the heavenly serpent down to less than a hundred days. But what went even further was the fact that Alice and Su shared their new skills.

Alice was able to directly show off her strange singing that could protect her in battle and Su showed a very small version of the light shield she was learning. Su was far from mastery over the skill but everyone could tell it was not some simple light. The shield could block something solid and it just needed the time to condense and block hard hits. Eventually, Su would be able to use it to heal herself and others slightly as well. When that day came she would be able to focus on the other things she had been holding off on.

Alma and Gil had spent a lot of time together with some of the forest elves that had joined the archer academy. They had specifically sent for the younger elves back in the city to come to genesis and learn. Since the forest elves were so knowledgeable with archery, they were the perfect base for the academy. This went even further since the adventurer's guild had called over many of the young archers. Gil was no longer in charge of five or so archers, he had an entire class of forty that were in various stages of learning and sharing information.

Somehow, Remey and the alchemy guild had found time to continue their research in affinity potions. The old master alchemist had shared a lot of his knowledge and between Trish and him, they were on their way to the first ever earth affinity potion being made. They just needed the herbalists to finish some of the herbs that needed warmer weather to grow. When they managed it the dwarves were hoping that there would be some relations made with the rock elves in the mountains if they could be found. It could help them expand their caves faster.

"I plan to head to the royal dragon court in a few days. Midnight, Su, and I will leave together and head in to the mountains. It might be a longer trip than I expect but we should be back for any competitions and such." This silenced the table. Even some of Remey's bickering younger siblings knew that this was a big deal.

"How long could it last? A week or two?" The trip to the mountains was about this long and Alma wasn't sure what would take long at the court.



"I'm not sure. It could take some time to convince them to welcome us. I am a human and so is Su. We might not be the same as every human but that is what we were born as and we need to be ready for their reactions to that. But we all have natural mana and the ability to learn it over time. Even Su and Midnight should get there one day. I just have Fleur helping me out." Waker knew that natural mana would play a huge part in the dragons welcoming him.

"You will be back safe and sound. I don't doubt you in the least. Just make sure you come back with a good story to tell everyone in the cathedral." The high priest had grown to respect and trust in Walker. His voice cut the tension and brought warmth back to the table. Everyone felt they could breathe easier hearing his words.

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#### Chapter 1165 – 1165. Flapping

Since the dinner had gone well and everyone had the chance to catch up, Walker was feeling ready to do some good training for the day. Midnight had also planned her own training and when Walker found that she had been jumping off the top of the mansion he decided to work on his wind elemental mana skills. He wanted to try and use it to propel himself upward while using the daggers he had the day before.

The main idea he had would be for Midnight to jump and for him to use the wind to push himself up in the air at the same time. Midnight would need to time the wind right to catch it and use her wings to flap higher in the air. Walker would need to control the wind around him to boost his agility and jumping height to get above a potential enemy. He had the wind ripple skill but using it was not the same as a sudden burst upward or over all his body. He wanted to be able to use the wind to better speed his body completely.

The reason he was so fixated on agility was the speed of Gil's arrows against Lust. Walker had been able to see them but he knew that blocking them would have been a very tough challenge. If Walker was going to be around dragons that could use elemental at a pure level, he wanted the ability to dodge or block attacks easier. He was sure that the dragons would test him in some way, whether it was mental or physical he did not know.

Midnight was just absorbed in the challenge of being able to fly before she got to the dragons. She knew that a dragon at her age shouldn't be as grown as she was already. But that did not matter at all. She was a true dragon champion. She should be able to fly and defend those she cares about better than anyone else. Being able to fly was a small and easy thing for the other dragon champions she was sure to meet. It would also make it easier for Walker to move more freely in combat because Midnight could take to the skies and defend the party or attack with her elemental breath attacks. The possibilities were easily more than she could imagine.

"Come on! Flap your wings harder! You can do it, don't give up and extend them fully while using every muscle to push them down!" Walker had been reading a lot of books on how monsters could fly. With some guidance from Elise, he had been able to grasp the idea behind flight. A dragon in particular had dense muscles that would power their wings. They would be small in comparison to some other monster's muscles, but they were specially designed to give a dragon more range of movement to change direction and catch the air. Midnight should be able to move in a circle by changing the way she flapped her wings.

With the guidance that Walker had been giving her, Midnight was feeling her confidence and flight skills rise by the moment. She had not expected him to stay up late and push himself to learn these things just to help her. Since that was the case she took every word with care and tried her best to copy what he was saying. It proved to be the best training she had in some time. Neil had managed to encourage her but could not fly himself so missed some things that Elise had told Walker about.

The attempt went better than the previous and Midnight managed to catch the wind for a few flaps before she slowly flapped to the ground. She was not able to consistently put out enough force to push herself higher just yet. But it was much better each time. "I think you will have it down sooner than later. I think you just need a little more muscle training. And yes, I will keep trying to get the wind to wrap around my body." Midnight was also carefully watching Walker. She could feel the way the wound moved and saw that Walker was having a hard time making it move around his entire body evenly. He often found himself stuck with only his torso or legs being able to have the wind pushing them.

"I think the real question you should ask yourself is why you are trying to control the wind so much. You make it all go one way but you forget that it is already all around you." Alma stopped by because she had breakfast with Su and Remey earlier. Now she was leaving after consulting the mansion library for some books about the monsters in the lakes and streams. "I have heard the mages that practice wind elemental say things like that. It seems to help them." She shrugged and continued on her way with her books.

It was true that Walker was hyper focused on making wind do everything and forgetting that he could control the general area of air around him instead. Forcing a very small area of control was making him

too specific. That caused him to control small amounts of air elemental mana instead of larger by displacing the air around him. He could use this the same way a storm used the hot and cold air to cause wind currents.

The ideas seemed to fit the pieces in to place and Walker made Midnight get back to the top of the mansion for the next try. This time though, he was thinking of pulling on the small amount of fire elemental mana in the air to cause a change in temperature. It would be a combination of two or three mana s but one that should prove worthwhile.

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#### Chapter 1166 – 1166. Fly High!

The wind was perfect for working with fire elemental mana. Walker already knew that air could feed fire to become stronger. But when adding the water in to the mix it created an opposing force that could make the fire chase the colder air mixed with water elemental mana. This was the effect he wanted for the skill he was trying to learn.

Being able to wrap his body in these opposing air currents could help him boost his agility while moving around. This meant that he would not only be training his elemental control but also his ability to dodge and get in to better battle positions. It was covering many bases. The understanding he had of these three elemental manas was also increasing by leaps and bounds. He needed to control the areas he was moving through and in doing so he had to take in to account the way these manas flowed naturally.

The next gust of wind that Walker made also wrapped around his body. He found that it was able to push the air around him in to a sphere like repulsive force while moving him in the direction he desired. He was also able to use the grand elemental manipulation to push even more of the wind upwards beneath Midnight. The results spoke for themselves.

Midnight was able to catch more wind than before. She flapped with even more vigor because she could feel the closer connection between her wings and the air beneath them. The feeling was exactly what she had been missing. The feeling of bonding between the air and her wings was something every creature that could fly needed to find. Now that midnight felt it she could feel every muscle that worked together throughout her body to flap her wings with power.

The first time that she really began to rise was this moment. Each flap that connected in this flurry of emotions and adrenaline made Midnight fly higher. She moved awkwardly at first since it was a new feeling but Walker could see the light flickering in her eyes when she did. This was what she had been chasing the entire time. She felt like a powerful dragon able to rise above the world and see the world for the first time.

"Go higher!" With simple encouragement from Walker, Midnight took off. She was not able to hold it due to her lack of experience and stamina but in the last moment, she was able to flap her wings hard enough to rise just a little higher above the mansion. That was all she needed. She no longer would need to chase this feeling. She had it. She could do it again and again. She would be able to fly indefinitely one day and today was the start!

"That was great! You flew so high." Walker knew that Midnight needed the praise and encouragement. He could also feel her energy and desire to keep improving. This was no place for them to stop and he was ready to go again. He didn't even notice that he had also received a system notification.

'The skill wind wrapping has been taken from the gale elephant system. The user had trained using three elemental manas to manipulate the wind replicating this skill and automatically learned it.

Wind wrapping- 3 mana every five minutes

This skill allows the easy mixing of air, fire, and water elemental mana. The wrapping of different temperature winds allows arrows to be deflected easily and the user's agility to be increased by +10 while in use. The user is also better able to use wind elemental skills and use the wind mana around them. This can also be used to send large gusts of wind from them at an increased mana cost.'

The pair continued their training for another few hours before both of them were collapsed on the ground too tired to continue. Walker had incorporated training dummies to jump over and slash at while Midnight had begun to try and breathe fire while flying. The added challenges had greatly stressed their minds since it required high focus. Yet, that was what bred their future strength and increased their training.

"I think we can call it a day. I want to make sure I check out a few things around the city before we leave. Remey should be able to give me some potions for us to take on the trip." Walker knew that Remey would prepare them without him asking. But he was also planning to touch base with Remey

when it came to her training. She had a lot on her plate when it came to alchemy, but she still needed to remember her role in the party.

Midnight just huffed softly in response and Walker couldn't help but laugh since he knew she would be falling asleep sooner than she wanted. But that wasn't an issue. She needed the rest to recuperate and be able to train the next day even more. When it came to their trip they needed to be as ready as possible.

After he cleaned himself up, Walker set out. The mansion was more or less empty since everyone was busy as always, this meant that no one would stop Midnight from eating to her heart's content. But it wasn't too worrying since she needed the food to keep growing stronger. Walker swore she was taller every single day. It made him worry that she would need her own addition to the mansion to live. One with a massive bonfire to stay warm. Not to mention the food she would eat. But that was all assuming she would not go out exploring on her own at some point.

These weren't things that Walker liked thinking about all the time. Yet, it was to be expected that Midnight and Onyx would go out on their own. They were fast growing and no one could hold them back.

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#### Chapter 1167 – 1167. Pushing Buttons

"I don't care if we need to make more equipment. We will do it in rounds and just make the event longer. It's not in the budget!" Trish was done spending gold for the guild. She had brought the hammer down and was changing the way the competition would progress. The herbs were covered with the adventurers' guild and now the equipment was an issue. But she would not have more made. She wanted it to be reused every wave of the event.

"That's fine. I just want enough to have an even group." The old master alchemist was concerned that the even would go too long and they would run out of time. But when he spoke he saw the death glare that Trish was giving and decided just to accept it.

"You two really need to calm down. I can hear you from downstairs." The two looked at Remey who was holding a large barrel of herbs.

"Says you. You are usually the most fired up. Ever since you started making potions that temper of yours has become less than a spark." The old master alchemist was glad that Remey had calmed down and become more level headed. However, he did miss the witty comebacks while they argued over potion ideas. It was a little good and a little bad.

"I can show you temper old man. Just let me see you mess up the next batch of earth affinity potion testing." This was a sore spot since the potion was still not coming out properly since its shelf life was minutes instead of weeks like other potions.

"I come to find you and of course, you are arguing about potions. Well, no more. We are going to train. Get your knuckles and get outside." Walker came in and brandished two gauntlets of his own. The eternal orb had taken the form of gauntlets. They went up to Walker's forearms and shined with a silvery light. The flow of mana around them seemed to be the same as Remey's interchangeable knuckles but had a balance that emanated natural mana.

"Who says I nee-"

"Let's go so I can kick your butt down the street in front of every alchemist! You are soft Remey! All you do is hide in a lab and make potions. You can't stand up against a monster anymore!" Walker turned and left Remey stunned. He had never confronted her like this and she didn't know what to do. There was a twitch in her eyebrow that seemed to be growing while she dropped the herbs in her arms.

She had not felt so offended and angry in a long time. She had focused solely on Alchemy and been able to do so much, yet Walker showed up and just throws her lack of training in her face? The old man was telling her she had calmed down? What kind of world was this? How could they insult her this way?

There were no words for her anger. She attached the water and fire elemental knuckles to her left and right fist while rolling her shoulders. The few students and staff that had heard Walker shout at Remey were deathly afraid. They had learned to fear Remey a little since she had a unique system that allowed her to be the only one that could fight in the alchemy guild. They didn't know so much about Trish's explosive potions so they were in the dark with that secret.

When she came outside, Remey found that Walker was standing in an empty herb field. He was just watching the herbalists walk away who had been working nearby. As soon as Remey came nearby, he touched the ground and a ring of earth was made. "What do you have to say about it? Any excuses? Skipping training? Not letting the guild run by itself with Trish and your mentor? Not going out like you said you would with younger alchemists and training them up personally?" Walker remembered that Remey had mentioned she would take young alchemists out to learn how to do some things, like avoiding monsters and gathering herbs. But this hadn't happened. She had shut herself up to experiment, deal with rules, and just stay in the alchemy guild running things even though it was one thing she said she didn't want to do.

"What is it? Your siblings all found places to go and the orphanages had too much finding now? They don't need you so you can slack off and pretend all of your responsibilities are small?" Walker was intentionally poking the sleeping bear. He was waiting for Remey to snap and remember her rage as a brawler. She had pushed herself to a point when Greed attacked but it had amounted to nothing. She wasn't able to fight it off and he knew this had an effect on her. Yet, Remey didn't make an active motion to change that potential. She just accepted it and focused on alchemy.

He slammed the gauntlets that the eternal orb had formed together with a resonating clang. The mana seemed to stir in the air and Walker felt that he was ready for a second round of training. He was after Remey so he could improve a section of battle he had avoided. He also wanted to snap Remey back to the fiery battle hardened adventurer who could flip to healing and alchemy in the moment. She needed her balance back.

"Let's go, Remey! Show me you deserve to be part of this party! Tell me if I can rely on you to protect the city of Genesis while I am away!" This roar matched Walker's charge forward. Unfortunately, he had already gotten to Remey with his words. She had stopped hearing him and allowed her anger to cloud her vision. She slammed her knuckles together.

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## Chapter 1168 – 1168. Blinded

Although Remey was angry, she had not chosen the water and fire knuckles for no reason. She knew that they had adverse reactions when they were used together and that was her goal. If she always relied on her strength then she would one day find herself against an opponent stronger than her. She would end up beaten down without any tricks.

After having Trish teach her more about battle potions she had managed to learn about the elemental manas within the potions they were making. A lot of this knowledge had come from the experiments revolving around elemental affinity potions. Trish, the old master alchemist, and Remey needed to be very careful with the ingredients they used. If they did not follow the elemental affinity for all the herbs for a certain potion then it would fail or even explode. That was one reason that Trish had so many battle potions to defend herself.

Before Walker even reached her, Remey slammed the two knuckles together using her elemental fist skill. The water elemental fist brought the water in the air and the fire elemental knuckle drew the fire elemental mana in the air. The result was a burst of hot steam that blinded Walker. If he had known it was coming he would have been able to react faster, but he was completely taken by surprise.

"Taking me for a weakling?! You think I can't stand on my own two feet? I'll put you in your place!" Remey's attack broke through the steam. Her knuckles had been switched without a single sound and Walker was the prime target for a knuckle coated in earth. The hit was hard and sent him tumbling back.

He managed to roll on to his feet to see that Remey was using another of the earth coated knuckles to slam in to the ground and cause the ground to shake around her. Walker knew she had come up with multiple combinations to use the elemental fist skill but this was stunning.

She had used her elemental fist skill with the earth knuckles to cause a small area of the ground to shake and further thrown Walker off balance. From what Walker knew this skill was called tremble and steel armadillos were known to use it against their enemies. But Remey had managed to learn a monster skill because she was able to replicate the earth elemental affinity and move to do it, proving that it might not be exclusive to monsters.

The only reaction Walker had was to use his grand elemental manipulation to calm the earth. Yet, this gave Remey more time to dash forward and switch her knuckles again. The wind elemental knuckles made her fist fly at him faster. But when Walker started to duck he found he had been tricked again. Remey had used her fists to push her body forward and twist, The result was a drastic change for a high kick coming at his arms.

In the last moment before Remey's kick hit his head, Walker used his eternal orb gauntlets to gather a cushion of wind. It was part of him using the wind wrapping skill and his grand elemental manipulation skill to defend the main force of Remey's kick. "Tell me! Can you feel my punches!? Can you feel my



training!? Do you think I just sit and make potions all day? Do you think I won't be in that colosseum showing every challenger who the best brawler is!?"

There was what felt like a rock in Walker's stomach as he realized that Remey had been straining herself to keep up with alchemy and also train. He noticed for the first time the dark circles under her eyes and how unkempt her hair really was. She had not shown her usual temper because she was too tired to show it. She had been pushing her body well beyond what was necessary to make the potions for those in need and prepare Genesis to free the demons when they were ready.

"Do you think I wanted to just sit there and let that stupid monster take over our city!? Do you think seeing everyone lying in the streets suffering was fun!?" Remey threw punch after punch at Walker. He could feel her emotions with every swing. He was the fool here. Everyone had failed to see that she was cursing herself for this failure and no one else.

The next attack was much tougher than Walker could handle and he was pushed back with his heels digging in to the soft dirt. Remey swapped knuckles again and slammed together one fire and one wind elemental knuckles to make a brilliant flame wrap around her right fist. The sudden heat made Walker pull water from the air in a rush. He used it to wrap the eternal orb gauntlets in time to catch Remey's punch.

The steam produced showed that this attack was nothing weak. But the fear Walker showed was due to the effects it had on Remey. Her fist was burned and she was sweating profusely. However, she did not flinch. She showed a red tinge in her eyes and continued to push. She changed knuckles again and showed the darkness elemental knuckled with the earth knuckle. Walker was not sure what was coming but he knew that the attack was just beginning.

Before he had a chance he watched the shadows bend and his perception of Remey become twisted. The ground shifted and Remey used the tremble skill again. The shadows made it hard for Walker to raise his own fists and try to block. Instead of the solid hit he thought he would get, he felt his fists deflect Remey's hit. Instead of his face, it drove in to his shoulder. He fell back and twisted as the second fist hit the ground causing the tremble skill again. Remey was still not done. She had lost her reason and was in a brawler's fury.

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## Chapter 1169 – 1169. Foolish

When Remey slammed two light elemental knuckles together, Walker wasn't sure what to do. The intense blinding light compared to the shadows twisting before shocked him. Remey had developed so many tactics to change the way that she could gain an advantage in a battle. It was well beyond what he had expected.

There was only clarity after the next hit came in to contact and sent him sprawling yet again. The eternal orb started to shift into two different gauntlets with a larger surface area that seemed to be shield like on the forearms. This was Walker's subconscious change when it came to the battle of offensive brutality.

'The skill quick block has been taken from the defensive monk system. The user has learned the skill quick block out of instinct.

Quick block- 1 mana cost

The user is able to follow the flow of mana with their instincts and raise their hands and arms to more easily block an attack. Their hands and arms are strengthened slightly using their own mana to better block and deflect damage. The user can not counter all the damage they receive unless their body is strong enough.'

This skill wasn't even shown in his system for a second before Walker started to move his arm to deflect the next hit. It seemed that Remey had burned up a lot of mana using her elemental fist skill repeatedly. Now the only thing that was fueling her were the pent up frustrations and annoyances of the past weeks. Her feelings of powerlessness that drove her to train when no one was looking. The fact that she couldn't help anyone at the moment that Greed took over. And even worse, the idea that her party leader would come to her saying that she was not living up to her responsibilities.

The force that assaulted Walker was much more than Walker knew Remey capable of. He was facing strength that came from her berserk like state of mind where her emotions took over her actions. He was able to slowly find a way to let her push her back until he started to dodge again. But by that point, he had taken enough hits to be bruised and sore. He managed to finally dodge in time for Remey to lose energy and fall to her knees panting.

"I was wrong..." He knew he had messed up and that he should have dug deeper. But this was something he had let slip by him because he was so focused on other things. He had let the water elf's battle against Lust take precedence over what was happening around him. He just rushed off to another adventure without checking on everyone first.

Gil may have recovered, Su had faced everything with Walker and been fine. Midnight and Onyx had managed to bounce right back. But Remey was so used to standing up for her siblings and those around her. Having that taken from her and being powerless had cut her deeply. He may have been able to help the water elves but his ignorance had cost someone dear to him their mental fortitude. Even when he had returned he just went on with everything and didn't stop to really pay attention to how everyone was doing.

It was time to deal with the consequences of his actions and make things right. Just as Remey started to fall forward, Walker jumped to catch her. He held a mana potion to her lips along with using healing skills. Remey was able to fight full of emotions and finally let all the pent up stress free. But she had damaged herself in the process of the fight showing that her will could truly push beyond any pain.

"I promise I won't let this happen again. I'm a pretty big idiot for ignoring everyone and how they were doing. I will try to be better in the future." This promise was something that Walker needed to make good on. He had a handful of titles now, an entire city they knew him and his family, but what was it all worth it if he didn't know them? If he couldn't live up to those titles?

"Yeah...you kinda are sometimes. Thicker skull than a charging bison." Remey laughed as she managed to come back to her senses. She was in no state to just hop up and walk back to the guild or the mansion. Walker instead helped her lean on him and headed back inside after dispelling the earth wall he had made.

The old master alchemist and Trish didn't even flinch when they saw Walker helping her back. They were at fault too and would be lying if they didn't see what had happened or heard what happened from a window. Where the other alchemists and herbalists were too afraid to look, Trish and the old master alchemist had. They could feel their own ears turning red as they realized how foolish they were as well.

"You know there is a place for the guild mas- for Remey, to sleep." Trish caught herself and held the door open to the office and lap reserved for Remey. It had a spare resting room in the back just for the guild master. But Trish knew that Remey didn't like being called that. Now she saw why. It placed massive stress on a person.

"I know of a few good recovery medicines. One that is conveniently in a soup recipe." The old master alchemist wasn't the best at expressing his emotions. Yet he knew he could show it. This would be how. He also would be able to take on some more of the workload for the guild. He hadn't even thought that Remey would want to join the colosseum brawling competitions in the future. How had he missed that? Let alone her training?

The two felt foolish, even more so than Walker who hadn't even bothered to start and clean himself up after training, if he could call it that. He felt that the bruises showed how ignorant he really was.

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#### Chapter 1170 – 1170. Lessons Learned

Once Remey was asleep and resting comfortably, the three had no words. They were able to see it in each other's eyes. They knew their faults and that they had missed many things. Remey was a hero just like Walker. She had the title too. She wouldn't have it if she just wanted to focus on alchemy and fool around. She had the alchemy love because she had wanted to help her siblings. Now she had an entire city of family. These were Remey's new adopted siblings. She would take care of them all.

This fact went over their heads and left the three blind. They could have taken this added stress away earlier but had missed it. "I will take on the daily run of the guild. I have people I can put in place for classes. It will be the same as the alchemy building used to be. I can cut back on experimentation. I have abused the time I have." The old master alchemist was not going to let things fall the way they had before. He wanted to make things better for the future. He was older, yes, and he knew that he needed to put this in place before a sad day came when he could no longer teach or make potion experiments. It was time to use his wisdom to properly guide others.

"I always worked alone. The assistants and apprentices I had were just there to help. I never worried about their wellbeing and that might be why I was always alone. I just assumed that was the life of an alchemist. I made it to the tip of the forest elves, but is it all worth it? That young woman changed my life and views of alchemy. And I repaid that by heaping on mounds of pain and stress? Should I even be a master?"

Seeing that Trish was throwing off the title of master that she always seemed to insist upon was humbling. They could tell that she was showing her real face and regret. She had long forgotten to be a person and just lived above others. She had a long life and still many years ahead of her. She couldn't imagine that she had begun to think that she was the only one that mattered even though she would not be where she was now without others coming in to her life. She had been all too blind.

"I assumed everything. I didn't so much as ask her if she was alright. I didn't even give her the time to tell me what she would need. I just let her add more work and rush away. If I had taken the time to really look I would have known. I will be better." The three felt this promise was more than just words. They saw their flaws and admitted them. They knew they were at fault and their blind eyes could not remain as such.

There was nothing left to say, leaving them all silent. After a few minutes, the old master alchemist returned to guiding new proctors for tests and classes. Trish took over the main production side for the alchemy guild and started to make things more self sufficient instead of needing people to direct it all the time. She had plenty of examples of the other guilds running without their guild master or vice guild master present. She could implement similar rules and regulations. This would give Remey and anyone else the time to relax and focus on themselves without stress.

They all believed that Remey had been sleeping away in the room adjacent to their conversation. However, she had heard every word and felt that the world was just a little brighter. She was also promising to herself that she would never allow this to happen again. She had seen the state that Walker was in after she had allowed herself to lose control. She also knew that she could have easily made herself sick going on this way and that her friends and family would be worrying about her for weeks after this. She would be better in the future as well. It was a promise to herself.

"Gil, do you know where Walker is? I thought he would have brought Remey back here for dinner so she didn't stay in the guild all night again." Su found it odd that Walker and Remey had not returned.

"I actually stopped by the alchemy guild today to drop off some paperwork for the next group of archers going through lessons. I needed mana and health potions to bring for safety reasons. They are staying in the alchemy guild. They had some sparring matches and a good talk. I think we will see things change a little. Also, we have some things to talk about too." Gil let Su, Midnight, and Onyx in on what had transpired. They too had not noticed anything. But they had also been too focused on their own tasks. Su had barely even stepped in to the alchemy guild to see Remey.

Even Gil admitted fault. He had focused solely on archery and the elves. He had not been majorly thrown over the Greed issue since he had managed to bounce back easily enough. But he had not

looked around him at everyone else. Just his parents and Alma. He knew he should have brought things back to his entire family. Not just his direct family and the elves.

Between Midnight and Onyx, there was a lot of silence. They knew exactly how important family was to them and they felt they had missed something their instincts should have seen. For monsters with higher senses, they had missed some obvious things due to their natural resilience. It brought them much closer to understanding their feelings and those around them. They weren't just monsters. They were more than that and they would remember it much more clearly now.