

Master 1171

Chapter 1171 – 1171. Ready To Leave?

Days passed on after the training with Remey and Walker. They ended up having a long talk about the events that had transpired with Greed and the new skills that Remey had. Walker took full responsibility for the fact that he had been blind to the feelings of others around him in recent weeks. It was a big lesson about how he could stay open to the world instead of hyper focused on one task after the other.

However, Remey had also taken responsibility for the fact that everything was not on her. She had constantly piled responsibility on herself since she was little when it came to her siblings and the orphanage. It just went to show how much people forget that just because an orphanage had money that they may still not have what they need. But even further it taught Remey that she should put her foot down and ask for help. She should take breaks from her work and leave things to others. She didn't need to stand alone all the time.

"You're really going out with Gil to find herbs?" Walker was still apprehensive since Remey and Gil were not the best buddies who got along everywhere they went. It was a guarantee that the two would argue at some point.

"Yes. Yes, we are. Gil will bring two archers from his little academy adventurer thing and I will bring two herbalists. We are training and relaxing. I can help deal with any trouble we run in to and Gil is going to show us some grove that he said had red spot mushrooms. They aren't really a potion material but they can taste really good when they are cooked right." The fact that Remey had taken the idea so strongly was great. She would be able to head out without any stress and take the time to hunt for herbs while battling a little. For her, it would be a perfect mix of fun and work. Not that alchemy and fighting were work for her.

"Just relax Walker, we will be fine. I wanted to go on a trip too. Once I chatted with Remey about leaving our guild and academy to run itself. I thought it was a good hands off test. The forest elves are really pushing to be more involved since they have so much archery knowledge. I'm really just a face anyways." As modest as Gil was being, Walker knew that he was not just a face of an archery academy. At this point, Gil had become the Human equal with the elves when it came to archery. He was a role model for many hunters and archers soon to grow within Genesis.

"We will see you off first before we leave. Walker and I promised Onyx we would stop by the cathedral before we left. Midnight is already there too. I think we wanted to train her light elemental breath attack last night with Onyx." Su knew that if they didn't back down Gil and Remey would stay forever and never leave to pick up their four students for the small trip.

"We will see you three when we get back. Just tell me all about the dragons!" Gil shouted on his way out the door. Remey just cracked her knuckles and smirked. Walker knew that she was more than ready to lay in to him again if he didn't make it back safe and sound.

"So, what do you think about leaving again? Are you ready?" Su had been ready for a while. She had trained and already seen a great deal of people for some advice on blocking and using mana. She had worried about Walker and Remey for the past few days and wanted to make sure that he was up to the trip. She had definitely been focused on her own training and learned what she could in the past days to make sure she continued to see the people around her.

"We are ready. It's not just me. Midnight has really pushed herself. I think you might have taken the biggest leap though. Su the shield user? Is that a good term? I even saw you training with your earth spirit partner the other day." Su had thought that she was completely alone when she had been training. She didn't like that Walker could alter the earth fortress skill with his grand elemental manipulation. She wanted to be able to change the shape herself.

Through some bonding with the earth elemental spirit, she had some success. The spirit mark that she had gained through bonding like that was not just for show. As Walker's did with him and Fleur, Su was able to feel the earth elemental spirit through hers. That gave them the silent communication they needed to be able to change the dome shape in to a more rugged sharp shape for defense and offense. It may not be a major difference but it was one that could do just a little more damage in battle to make a difference between victory and loss.

"It wasn't that much training. We just had our own goals." The red tinge to Su's face was enough to make Walker close his mouth. If he knew anything it was that Su was not the best when it came to fighting against compliments and praise. Add that to large crowds and it was a perfect knockout against Su. Luckily, they didn't need to worry about that in the wild on the trip to the royal dragon court. They would be able to focus on the goals and strength that they needed to show to the world. "Now hurry up! We need to get going!"

"Hey! Who said we were running there!?" Walker put in a little more speed to catch up to Su who had run off ahead of him toward the cathedral.

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Chapter 1172 – 1172. Strong Bonds

"Sister, are you really ready to go see adult dragons?" If Onyx said he was not worried about his big sister going to stand in front of dragons thought to be the strongest in the world, then it would be a blatant lie. He knew that Midnight was still less than a child compared to the royal dragons that had lived for so long. They had incomparable mastery over their elemental mana and were working toward purity in them. He knew well from his recent training how tough elemental purity was.

The reaction Midnight had to this was a soft growl. She would have scoffed and turned away from anyone else if they asked this. She was a dragon too. She could stand above everyone else. Even Walker would get the hottie attitude in response. But Onyx was her first and only little brother. She could show just a little more to him.

"Even if they will look down on you, I know you will stand taller than them. I just wonder what they will think when you and Brother use natural mana. They might lose their minds. Especially when Su shows off her beginning mastery of two elemental shield skills." The training to create a light shield and the earth fortress were just two elemental skills for Su. But when it came to guardians they trumped what the others would know. There was no singular focus on elemental mana for Su. Walker, Su, and Midnight could use all the elemental manas and push toward natural mana skills. That meant that Su would always be able to counter elemental mana with the opposite. Midnight would breathe the optimal elemental breath attacks. Walker would combine elemental manas to change the world. The dragons would be unable to look away from them.

Midnight looked at Onyx carefully. She had trained with him to make sure that she would be able to grasp the light elemental breath attack she wanted to be able to use in some form. She had managed to train the fire elemental breath attack when she trained with the wandering blacksmith. She had also added the other elemental breath attacks. However weak they were, to the forging process of the bracelets. The elves had helped in getting spirits to assist in the spirit forging process for the bracelets as well. Overall, Midnight had been able to train her flying, and elemental breath attacks much more than expected.

"Sister, just because I have trained my light and darkness control does not mean I am able to combine them yet. They are opposing forces. Brother managed to do it but I am still learning. By the time you get back, I will have mastered more though." Midnight had challenged Onyx to combine his elemental manas too. His natural affinity to lighter because he consumed it was well beyond Midnights at the moment. That gave him the ability to help her train along with Alice and Su. But he also had the affinity for darkness. It was his main elemental affinity. He could also guide Midnight with that. But when it

came to fusing the two he was at a loss. He had tried to do so in different forms but always ended up with separate results.

Walker had managed to combine them but he had the assistance of his unique system. Onyx needed to take more time to learn and felt that the purity of each element needed to match before he was able to fuse them. But this was what Midnight would use to push her little brother further. She knew that he had more to him and that his goals were not small. If he could manage to do this he would be able to better reach the lofty goals he had set.

"We will miss you." Alice came back from checking on the heavenly serpent egg. She knew that Onyx was worried about Midnight leaving. Therefore, she wanted to make sure she gave her full support too. She had also managed to get a lot closer to Midnight and Onyx in the recent weeks. They had come to the cathedral and Onyx, in particular, had been training alongside Alice. She felt like a much closer member of the family now compared to before the move to Genesis.

The unexpected reaction from midnight was enough to make Alice completely stunned. Before she could move, Midnight had jumped up and pounced on Alice. She rubbed her head to Alice's face with a soft growl. She had felt the same closeness to Alice lately and was very glad to see her more often. It helped that Midnight and Onyx could feel the emotions that Walker had for Alice but it was more than that. Alice was quiet still but showed a deep care for everyone around her. If Alice had never been left as a baby on the steps of the cathedral, it was a sure bet that she would have still found her way there to help others.

"Sister, you are squishing Alice!" Onyx did his best to try and pull Midnight away but it was all for naught.

"And here Su and I were worried that we would be late to meet up with you. But you three are just having a grand old time." It was easy for Walker and Su to find the three in the cathedral. They had their spot to train and work on elemental control right by the heavenly serpent's room. If they weren't there then they would be in the back courtyard training more.

"Brother, Alice and I were just making sure that sister was going to be safe on the trip!" Midnight got away from Alice and she waited for Walker and Su to say their own goodbyes. It was not supposed to be a long trip but it would be a very important one. They wanted to send the three off with all the support they needed.

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Chapter 1173 – 1173. Perfect Craftsmanship

"Alright, so the last stop on the way out of the city is the blacksmith shop. I think we will have a pretty good surprise, right Midnight?" Walker was sure that Midnight already knew how the finished elemental bracelets would look. But he was excited to see them so he could appraise their abilities.

"Midnight probably only saw the partial product. You know how much the wandering blacksmith can change things in such a short time. I would say we will see something very impressive." Su was backed up by a few huffs from Midnight. All three of them knew that the wandering blacksmith was an artist who could change dirt in to gold if given the right tools and time.

"I'm just excited to see them. They are going to be our gifts to the dragons. I also emptied out all the materials from my storage so that he could make them with anything I had. We have a lot of things we stored up through the adventures we have taken. Not to mention the leftover pieces from past forging projects. Who knows what he managed to put together." There was a slight buzz around Walker. His energy was almost tangible.

"Just don't like them too much. You already know that they need to be given away. Just like that rouge pearl for Current. Wait, should I say Lord Current? I should, shouldn't I?" Su realized she would need to be very careful when addressing the royal dragons. She had these thoughts originally but they were not in the front of her mind until now.

"We can practice as we go. We need to make sure we are giving off a royal and powerful aura so that they respect us" There was a quick nod from Midnight who then raised her head and stretched her wings slightly. She was sure that they would see her appearance and know just how powerful she really was. Her ego was the same as any dragons' but luckily, Midnight could still be level headed. "Oh, the doors already open."

The three walked right in to the wandering blacksmith's shop to find a strong smell that caused their noses to scrunch up. It was very bitter and almost burned. "What is that?" The response was much more drastic for Su and Midnight whose noses were more sensitive.

"Polish!" The wandering blacksmith shouted which was very unusual. However, he had a piece of fabric over his face making his words muffled. Now they understood why the door was wide open. The air was needed to keep the wandering blacksmith from inhaling too much of the polish and passing out.

'Diamond gleam polish

A secret formula polish used by a very select few dwarves. The polish is made from a special boiling process with very unique ingredients. It takes four weeks to produce a full barrel of polish but it is enough for three years. This is the best way to seal and prevent damage to the item polished. It can also add mana efficiency to the item if polished properly on to rune carved items.'

"This is some valuable polish. You are really going all out on this job!" Walker was in awe. This was a tough process to go through because the scent was so powerful. Yet, the results were too good. He understood why a blacksmith would use this polish and why such a formula would be kept secret. Even his all around appraisal had given minimal information proving further how great it was.

After a few more swipes of polish, the wandering blacksmith showed a small bracelet. The round shape was forged to replicate swirls of wind. There were three green blue gems set inside that Walker could tell were mana gems of some sort but more condensed. The rune carvings on the bracelet had a depth that he had never seen. If he were to try and follow them he would be lost in seconds. "Beautiful. It's beautiful. This is just one!? How did you do it?" Stunned was an understatement. Su was beside herself with how impressive this was.

"For the dragons. My best work." The wandering blacksmith would not usually mention the work he put in. but because of who these would go to he was willing to share in honesty.

'Pure wind dwelling circlet

+10Matk, +30 mana, Wind purifying runes

This is a high tier accessory made to specifically boost wind elemental purification. The mana gems were refined with shards of wind elemental crystals so that they were able to hold purer wind elemental mana. Only a wind elemental spirit will ever be able to dwell within this item to assist in purifying wind elemental mana. The advanced runes used strongly attract wind elemental mana and slightly repel all other forms of mana.'

"It's perfect. This will help them purify elemental mana in to their specific mana the way they need it. It should show just how much we understand their desires and goals. I can't wait to tell you what they say." With Walker's words, the wandering blacksmith pulled out the boxes for the bracelets. They were different designs all revolving around the elemental mana they represented.

Smokey shapes for darkness, flowing water drops for water, flames for fire, diamonds for light, scraggly zig zags for earth, and the wind that they had seen. But Walker was more surprised when the wandering blacksmith handed Walker yet another box. "This is for you." His smile said that he had been waiting to hand this box to Walker for some time. The breath Walker had been taking in caught in his throat. He had a very good idea of what was in this box but he was afraid to open it. He might be taken away by the perfection in craftsmanship he was about to witness.

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Chapter 1174 – 1174. Purer Mana

The bracelet that was revealed to Walker was very much the same but quite different from the others. Walker could tell that the same care and determination were in every inch of this creation. The shining silver and gold metal was shaped in to flowing elemental shapes with different colored mana gems dividing the patterns before they changed.

'Circlet of nature

+6 Matk, 60 mana storage, all elemental purification

This circlet had the tunes of every elemental mana transcribed within perfect balance. This allows the user to more easily purify and meld all elemental manas. The user is also able to store more elemental manas within the circlet at the cost of a lower boost to al attacks. The circlet is unable to heal any elemental spirits due to the extremely high stress of advanced rune carvings. This is considered one of the highest tier creations made by a title holding master blacksmith.'

The information in his system spoke for itself. Walker could only look at it in awe and admiration. The wandering blacksmith had given him the eternal orb already. Yes, Walker had helped make it, but it was still an amazing creation. To create yet another item that rivaled it was spectacular. Two of the wandering blacksmith's best creations rested in Walker's hands.

"Thank you. This is...too much." Walker was truly at a loss for proper words to describe what rested in his hands. He feared that if he wore it that he would somehow smudge the perfection.

"Show them who you are." The wandering blacksmith whispered this in his ear before ushering the three out of his workshop. Although, Su felt a package pushed in to her hands as well when she was leaving. It seemed that the wandering blacksmith had made more but been too embarrassed to keep them in the room to present everything. Su felt this and smiled while the door closed. She knew that she would be able to thank him properly by bringing a good gift back from the royal dragon court.

"And? What did he give you?" Walker had to ask. He wanted to make sure that he was not too lost within the circlet of nature. He felt he could stare at it for hours and still be amazed.

'Earthen gauntlets

+14 def, +14 Mdef, 10 mana, earth elemental purification

These are a pair of gauntlets created for the harshest of battles. The user will be able to catch blades with their hands when these are equipped. The earth elemental runes carved upon them guarantee that earth elemental mana will more easily be purified and used by earth elemental spirits. These are designed to specifically store earth elemental mana that can be used by an earth elemental spirit to recover lost mana faster.'

"They are perfect for using the earth fortress skill multiple time. I should even be able to change the shape better!" What Su said was more than true. These gauntlets were ideal for her to manipulate the earth fortress and make it multiple times. The earth spirit within the earth dwelling shield had already come out to investigate.

The earth spirit was more than happy to rest in Su's hands while they walked out of the city. It was having the time of its life absorbing purer earth elemental mana. Walker realized that this was a good time for him to put on the nature circlet as well since Fleur had been so reclusive lately.

The reaction with the spirit mark was instantaneous. Walker placed the circlet on his wrist and moved it up to his arm. It fit as if it wasn't even there, yet the flow of pure elemental mana was clear. He could feel the spirit mark using the nature circlet to absorb more elemental mana and store it. Fleur slowly revealed herself again and poked at the nature circlet with curiosity.

She had been resting for so long because she was trying to gain strength after the battles she had assisted in. But that was not the only goal of a spirit, she was just a high tier nature spirit at the moment. She needed to absorb more natural mana and purify it to grow stronger and reach a world spirit one day. She was just too young for now.

"It's pretty amazing, right? When we get back you can thank him too." Fleur nodded her head many times in response while Walker just let her hang on his arm. He couldn't help but think about how cute Fleur was. But this attention toward Fleur managed to get Midnight's attention and before he knew it he had a dragon leaning on him trying to get his attention and a potential snack.

"Walker, do you remember the route that we need to take? It could be hard to focus on it since we saw it from the air last time." Su was making sure that they had the route properly planned while they walked outside the city. They needed to be sure of every turn since it was a route not recorded on any map and only in Walker's mind.

"Yes. We need to follow the dragon's tails. The statues point us in the directions we need to go. I can't believe they have hidden a mountain trail so well. Even if we knew that we needed to follow the statues, finding the start of the trail would be tough. Luckily, it was pointed out. That small forest that blocks the entrance had some good covering it to hide it away." This was the way that the dragons had kept their privacy. It wasn't a worry that they would be invaded but a worry that they would be annoyed. It would also be a grave insult to them if another was to trample in to their royal court. Luckily, they had their measures against it.

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Chapter 1175 – 1175. Check Ahead

"Since the weather is warming up we might have to deal with some migrating monsters." Walker could still feel the chill in the air, but it was significantly less than it had been. It was as if the cold was barely hanging on to the season before it was pushed out in to the warmth.

"I'm more worried about the mountain path that isn't heavily traveled all year round. I did some light reading before bed the past few days and do not feel like dealing with some of the monsters in the mountains." The idea that the trail they were on had not been traveled was a stressful one. Not only did it mean that there would be monsters potentially living on it, but it would also mean that they saw the trail as their territory and the three of them as invaders.

"Yes yes, I know you will beat them up if they try and attack us." Midnight's growl was matched by her showing her teeth. She would easily protect Walker and Su if she needed to while they were out. "You might get some interesting snacks while you are at it. Steel plated armadillos, spiky rock lizards, limes stone golems, I think we might even see some of those birds that can't fly...what are they called?" Walker knew Su might have remembered the name off the top of her head since he had never actually learned it other than the fact that they were bird type monsters that couldn't fly.

"They are dusty ostriches. They are super heavy and spend their time eating metals in the mountains to make their beaks and feathers tougher. That's why they can't fly anymore. The book I read said that they used to be able to fly before they realized their earth affinity and began to change over the last hundred or so years." The books that recorded these monsters had been very old. But they had clearly shown that the dusty ostrich had once been a dual elemental affinity monster. Now that they were a singular affinity monster it was clear that they had changed over time to become this.

"Yes! That's the monster. If we get the feathers they are supposed to be great for a feathered chain mail. High fashion according to Lisa since they are good for looks and for defense. I remember her telling me about the feathers. Apparently it's becoming more popular to travel and have style or something. But I think that it is the clientele that Lisa has more than what people really wear." The look that Su gave Walker was asking a single question; really?"

"You say that after you have seen the things she has made us. They always match, follow a similar color scheme, and really show us off to the world. Lisa is the one that is setting these trends.' It was adorable to Su that Walker would blindly follow what his little sister said. But she did wonder what was actually going on within his mind when he said these things.

"Well, regardless. If we see one of the dusty ostriches then we can snag some feathers. Even if they aren't for Lisa we should be able to make some good armor for Remey or Gil. They need better moving armors so they can use their skills easily." What Walker did have to say had merit in this case. They

would need to be able to move through their skills without the worry of any armors catching or slowing them down. The wandering blacksmith had always done an amazing job of ensuring that the armors would never be a problem. However, it was better to hand over better materials for him to work with. It was already a fact that Lisa and the wandering blacksmith could create amazing armors. Especially since the entire party had two sets of armors. One, the best gear they had to defend and go on adventurers, and second, the armor that could show off their royals and heroic traits.

"Midnight, how about you scout the trail ahead? I know that the guards have walked this and a lot of merchants have come through so we shouldn't have anything to worry about, but it's better to be safe than sorry." Midnight had not been very involved in the conversation so Walker thought it best to assign her to scouting. She also had worked with Gil to do so making her the best option for the task. Su was too bulky with her shields so she gave away her location. Walker could fill the role but it was not his strongest suit.

Without any other words, Midnight used her shadow wrapping skill to hide going forward on the trail. She had been true to the goal that Walker had placed on her; which was to use her skeletal armor skill constantly. She had managed to learn to hide the sounds of it while she used her shadow wrapping skill. It made her even more dangerous in a battle since her opponent would be unable to hurt her if they were lucky enough to sense her coming.

Walker also knew that Midnight was proud. She knew her scales were strong and could take a decent amount of abuse in a fight. But if she were to get hit she would get hurt. That was just a fact. Whatever they could do to be safer, was what they should do. As long as Midnight realized this and kept it in mind, then Walker would have done his job as a good brother.

"We should make sure we get a lot of ground covered. I think it will be better for us to be earlier."

"I agree. If we get there earlier then we can socialize and make ourselves known before the court is called in to session." Walker and Su were on the same page. It was also for Walker to learn more in depth knowledge about dragons to help Midnight and Su out in the future.

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Chapter 1176 – 1176. Specific Skill

"Looks like Midnight found dinner. That's good since I cleaned out a lot of the extra food and such in my storage." Walker had pulled out all the crafting and forging materials from his storage. He had also gotten rid of the alchemy ingredients when he was at the alchemy guild. Now that he was on a roll, right before they left he pulled out most of the extra food that they would never eat. He felt it was better to allow his mother to take it and make the most of it. All that was left were the basic rations they needed for the journey.

"If you are cooking then we won't leave anything left." Su and Midnight had expectant looks for Walker. He felt that it might have been a mistake to show off the cooking skills he had learned.

"Alright, I will cook it. But you need to take watch first for the night." Walker knew how to use the cards he had to his advantage. He wanted to sleep a little first. "We are only stopping for a little bit though. I think we should travel through the night. It will help us get to the mountains faster." The three had only traveled for a few hours at this point. However, they wanted to get through the grasslands quickly. They were avoiding the river though. There would be flooding since the snow was starting to melt.

After quickly skinning the brown rabbit, they continued on their way. It was food for later. "Maybe I can try and look for some wild winter vegetables. I know that I saw a lot of them in the market. Those white turnips should be showing about this season. I know the monsters and animals go after them quickly. Midnight, point out where you got the rabbit. I bet that's a good spot for white turnips." It was not a detour to their journey at all. Walker was able to look for food and they would keep on the move

The spot that midnight brought them to had more than just one set of brown rabbit tracks. "It's good that you held back and didn't chase them all down. If you had, they would have taken a hit for their spring season. They should just be coming out of slumber from the cold." Su made sure to praise Midnight for being respectful of nature and its animals. The brown rabbits were normal animals and not monsters in the least.

Midnight was going to raise her head in pride when she sniffed the air and growled heavily. The hole that the rabbits had been living in nearby had been dug out a little while she was gone. She had chased the brown rabbits away but she had not dug in to their den at all. "Walker, in front!" Sun slammed the twin shields together in front of them while Midnight prepared to pounce.

Walker already had the eternal orb taking spear form in front of him. There was a monster forcing its way out of the den after digging in to it.

'Razor clawed badger

The razor clawed badger is a monster of extremes. When it is not hungry it is considered the most docile hunter in the fields. When the razor clawed badger is hungry, in particular, after it wakes up for the day, it will stop at nothing to get food. They are known to throw themselves in to vicious thorns and imminent danger just to get a bite of food before attacking again. The best practice when facing them is to avoid the claws and kill them immediately.'

"Avoid the claws and take it down as fast as possible." Walker came up behind Su and channeled water elemental mana to wrap around the spear form of the eternal orb. He had trained slightly with making weapons out of elemental mana and now he could put it to use somewhat. The ice that formed increased the range of the spear and Walker used a quick stab.

The razor clawed badger didn't even flinch. Instead, it threw itself forward with a snarl toad Su's shield. She was pushed back slightly which was not expected. For a small monster, it was very dense and could hit pretty hard. Unfortunately, that was not enough. It had bounced off Su's shield and been left wider open for Midnight to breath out a burst of red hot flames.

The hair burned on the razor clawed badger causing it to lose its sense of smell. The smoke blinded it and gave Su the opening to bash it away with her shield. This flipped the snarling and confused badger on its back. Walker did not waste the chance to step in to the air with the wind ripple skill. He used the wind wrapping skill to speed his descent and stabbed downwards with the spear piercing through the razor clawed badgers' head.

'The skill jump spear has been taken from the leaping spearman system. The user had automatically learned the skill leaping spear.

Leaping spear- 3 mana cost

The user uses a small amount of mana to push downward with extra force. The mana helps their muscles deliver a heavier force to pierce what they are leaping to strike at. This skill can only be used with a spear in a leaping downward motion.'

Walker looked about seeing that the badger was defeated. However, he was more stunned by how specific the spear skill he learned was. He felt that he might never use such a skill again due to the

specific conditions it needed. "I wonder what a leaping spearman is? He was a little flustered trying to figure out if he had ever heard of a leaping spearman in his entire life.

Su just glanced at him, "Leaping spearman?"

"Eh, it's nothing." Walker shrugged and stored the body of the razor clawed badger away.

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Chapter 1177 – 1177. Cubs

"Is this what you are looking for!?" Su wanted to look around since she was sure that the white turnips were around the area. Without knowing the exact look of the leaves, she picked out some heartier dark green colors from the slowly growing grasses.

"Yes, that's what I am after. You can toss them right in to the hot coals of the fire and only the skin burns off. The rest will stay nice and soft inside to eat. They are perfect for kids and really anyone." There were a few other reasons why they were the most popular winter vegetable. However, the convenience and easy cooking was the main reason. "It's a nice cluster of four. That makes sense since the brown rabbits made their den here. They basically had a perfect snack when they woke up." Walker pulled up all but one so that it could grow back later. The other three were stored away from when they stopped.

"Let's hope that we don't find another razor clawed badger. That thing was mean." As much as Walker was sure that the claws were valuable and would be good for them to sell, he knew that there was a lot of danger in a ravenous monster that didn't care about pain. "And no, I don't think they will taste good. You can see how tough the muscles on it were." Walker stared Midnight down since he could tell she was thinking that it would be another snack for her.

"I would agree with you but there is something more up there." Su looked in to the sky and could see a few crows circling the trail ahead. It meant a few things. Another monster was there right that second, or worse, that a monster had come through and left its meal. That could only signal more monsters to come in to the area to fight over what was left.

"We can try and take a detour around it. But it might be better to see what it is. We can get a feeling for the monsters in the area and report it to Clara. We are still close enough to the city that merchants could run in to whatever caused it." It was a good idea to be proactive with this. Many monsters were moving or coming out of slumber from the cold this time of year. If an unfortunate merchant went out alone with a guard, they would be at risk.

With a single huff of approval, Midnight crouched and started to move toward the crows. She was going to keep herself low to the ground so that she could see what was there and what they might be able to deal with. "Shh, I just checked the quests available in my system from the guild. Apparently, there is one to scout out the stoney bear territory. They have their eggs hatch in the cold leaving the mother to care for the cubs when it warms up. It's a monster very protective of their eggs." Checking the system for what Clara had sent their way based on their area was a wise idea. No matter how busy Clara was she still held to her responsibility as the party manager. It was a quality that put her above the others. Her ability to send them individual quests after becoming adventurer's guild master was one of the most useful skills since the party was often split up recently.

"Then we should head away from it. If that's the issue." Su had no sooner spoken than Walker had accepted the quest for them. She knew this would be the case since it was better to have a tally on how many stoney bear cubs there were. She also knew that the stoney bears would head back toward the mountains after they had woken up from their muddy dug out dens. That was the only reason they moved to the fields other than the fact that it was easier for their cubs to survive in the fields.

His look at Su showed that he knew she was going to give in to the request anyways. All they needed to do was confirm how many cubs there were so that the merchants heading this way would be able to avoid all of them. The worst possibility for anyone would be to get between a mother stoney bear and her cubs. It was not uncommon either since they blended very well with the browned grass during this season.

Their slow movement was rewarded with a view of the grass that had been flattened in a small battle. "It's hurt!" Su found that there was a large stoney bear hunched over three small and fluffy looking stoney bear cubs that had yet to get their muddy brown coloration in their fur. What lay beside them was another, larger, razor clawed badger.

"Just stay here. Midnight, if anything goes wrong then jump in." Walker let Midnight use her shadow wrapping skill to blend in to the dried grass and watch from afar. He knew that the stoney bear would throw its life on the line for the cubs and he was risking things here. But the cubs would need a mother and leaving it to perish was out of the question.

"Just stay slow and get out fast," Su whispered knowing that if Walker had not stepped forward first that she would have made him take out a healing potion so that she could move forward.

"I promise, I won't hurt you. Just stay still and I will heal you." The stoney bear mother focused on Walker and growled heavily. It was not going to let him anywhere near her cubs. If he so much as flinched she would be sure to stomp him in to the earth with the last of her strength.

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Chapter 1178 – 1178. A Protective Mother

The calming waves skill was not one that Walker used often. It was mostly due to the fact that he believed that skills had a time and a place they could be used best. Now was one of the times that he thought it was worth the risk to use. He would be alerting any other monster nearby of their presence, however, he would hopefully calm the mother stoney bear so he could heal it.

"Just stay there and I will heal you. I don't want to harm your cubs. They need you to survive so I can't let you stay that way." He could see the pieces of fur and skin that the razor clawed badger had torn from the stoney bear. Just as the razor clawed badgers were tough, so were stoney bears. They could resist a great many attacks before they fell. Unfortunately, that meant they could be left with wounds that slowly killed them. This was the case with the injuries the stoney bear currently had.

"Just breath slowly and stay there. Stay with your cubs and I will heal you then leave. I won't even need to touch you if you let me come a few steps closer." There were no lies to Walker's words. He let his actions and words speak for themselves. The warm feeling he had on his back resonated with the calming waves skill.

Fleur made herself known and moved to rest atop the stoney bear's head. She was pulling at the natural mana around as well which seemed to be enhancing the effects of calming waves. "That's right. You will be ready to be on your way soon." The soft voice that Walker used was similar to the way he had seen and heard Alice sing.

For many years Alice had taken the time to learn how to sing better and better. She could add many emotions in to her words that would move many. Not only did her songs heal but they provoked deep

emotional responses when those who listened allowed themselves to resonate with the words. When Walker copied this he felt the mana flow through his body and in to his words.

'The skill soothing tones has been taken from the songstress system. The user had experienced the skill soothing tones many times and learned the skill soothing tones through actions.

Soothing tones- 5 mana cost per hour

The user is able to smooth their mana flow and meld it with their words. This skill is highly dependent on emotions and the state of the user. Those who hear the words infused with the user's mana will be affected by the mana. The user will be able to assist in the calming of those who hear their tones or words mana. If the one hearing this is in an enraged state there is a very high chance for them to be brought out of it.'

"Just hang on, I will have you healthy and up to keep moving soon." The slow steps were painful to watch for Su and Midnight. But Su would have been doing the same. She had calmed children when they were hurt and afraid of everyone around them in the same way. Midnight was crouched and ready to leap out with all her might in a second.

As the stoney bear slowed its breath, Walker knew that it was losing the energy to resist even if it was not calming down. He pushed himself to take another step even closer. He moved just barely in range of the stoney bear to use his healing skills. The green tinted glow of healing caused the bear cubs under their mother to try and growl. They whined quietly making their mother lower herself over them in protection. However, she did not try to resist Walker's healing.

"Just a second more. Just stay still and you will be fine." The stoney bear appeared to have clearer vision and looked at Walker right in the eyes. For a moment they could feel something tugging at their minds before Fleur leapt up and floated back over to Walker looking at the bear herself. The feeling of natural mana in the air became dense as Walker finished healing the stoney bear as much as he could without harming it by forcefully healing wounds.

He stepped back while still holding the gaze of the stoney bear mother. Before he could blink the cubs dashed out from under their mother in the opposite direction and the mother followed while glancing back growling. They left the larger razor clawed badger where it lay after she had fought it off. "Never again." Walker fell to his butt breathing heavily. He had not been taking full breaths out of fear that he would scare the mother and cause her to attack again.

"It's fine. Everything is fine. It's healed." Su reassured Walker while she caught her heart beat and tried to calm it. She had not realized that she had not breathed either while this went on.

"I didn't want you to rush forward and try to heal it. I don't know what would have happened if I needed to come out with a healing potion. But those little cubs didn't deserve to lose their mother. They were a bit too cute." The laughter between them broke the tension while Midnight seemed interested in the razor clawed badge on the ground nearby.

"It's safe to say that one is related to the other that we found. The smaller one is the male and this is the partner it had. They must have been hunting together," Su knew well since she had read about the razor clawed badgers before. But she was still stunned to see the damage that it had caused to such a powerful monster above it.

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Chapter 1179 – 1179. Night Time Dangers

"I would say we should stop now to eat. I don't think my heart can keep going until the bears have moved well on." Walker was not ready to come face to face with any other monsters. Instead, he opted to store away the second razor clawed badger and move away from the area that other monsters were sure to be attracted to.

"That's a good idea. We should rest and eat after that. I thought that we were going to have to turn around and find a new home for those poor bear cubs." This affected Su more than Walker had noticed earlier. She didn't want to see anyone or anything lose a family. Since she had nearly lost her mother to illness this hit her much harder.

"We can always do our best to help others. Even monsters don't drive that." The firm tone assured her that Walker meant this from the very core of his being. When Midnight nudged her and looked in her eyes she could tell that it was the same for Midnight as well. They would all stand together for situations like this.

"Ehm, yes. Let's move and set up a short camp for three or four hours." Walker wasn't sure if he had seen right but he thought that Su had shed a single tear before taking the lead away from where they had just found the injured stoney bear.

It took a little time for Su to get herself out of her head after the event with the injured mother stoney bear. But it wasn't too much of an issue because they were able to help it and keep the cubs with their mother. What was more worrying to her was the fact that such a small monster comparison had caused such a large amount of trouble.

"I don't think we should let any of those badgers pass by if we see them. They are terrorizing everything around here."

"I think you are thinking with your emotions and not with your head. They are naturally like that. If they weren't then some other monster would grow out of proportion. It's part of the ecosystem. Everything works in the way it is meant to work. But that doesn't mean we can't help out when we see things like that.' Walker had already sent a message through the system to Clara who responded by completing the quest. Knowing that the bears were moving back toward the mountains was good. It was even better that the knowledge of the cubs was passed along since that meant multiple bears would be in the area for three years to come until the cubs were ready to leave the mother.

"I know you are right but I don't like it." Su had to give in since there a logic in Walker's words but it was not the things that she wanted to hear. It was frustrating knowing that there was the chance that it would happen with other animals and monsters. But she could only save what she saw happening. Trying to save someone or something that she couldn't reach would just lead to self torment.

"Midnight, come grab your food!" Walker had set aside two of the vegetables and most of the rabbit for Midnight since she had managed to lead and scout so well. Walker also didn't need much since he was already able to snack on some jerky he brought before. Su was also not in a major mood to eat a lot but would make sure she did since it was better for her health due to their travels.

The three took their time to rest and make sure to prepare themselves for the night travels toward the mountain. They were not unfamiliar with the potential dangers of the night but it was better to be rested and ready. That was why they slept earlier and ate earlier. The sun was just about set when they put out the small fire they had and cleaned up the tent. Midnight seemed even more energetic than before. It was partially due to the benefits that came with night.

The shadow wrapping skill was much more powerful during the night since Midnight was mostly black scaled. It would hide her in general but now she would be nearly impossible to see without heightened senses. This also made their traveling safer because Midnight had exceptional night vision and was able to see what was around them. She was their main deterrence and safety while traveling.

Luckily, Su also had this benefit. She had a very good sense at night since she had shared her blood with Midnight after the pledge. Walker was much more comfortable knowing this as well. The simple fact that they could easily travel in the dark alone was a blessing. Fewer worries always made a journey progress better.

"Let's get on with it. I would say we just need to watch out for bats and those fist sized mosquitoes that start to come up from the south during this season. I doubt we will see them though. It's a little too cold still." The mosquitoes were an annoyance that came from the southern demon lands. They were one of the most annoying monsters since they would swarm and attack small groups of monsters by drawing their blood.

They would not bother most people since they were not their favorite food but farmers tended to have problems against them since they went after cattle. The bats were more concerning. The bats would start to come back north the moment they felt a change in temperature. The ones that ate fruits in the forests were no issues. But the carnivorous bats were the ones to watch out for, especially since the three would be wide open in the fields.

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Chapter 1180 – 1180. Glowing Daisies

The night was not too busy. The sounds that the three would hear now and then were fairly quiet and in the distance. Only once or twice did they need to stop in the first few hours. It was mostly to make sure they were on the right trail.

Many trails that went through the fields were crisscrossed due to the different directions merchants would come from. As much as anyone could attempt to regulate them, it was an impossibility. Hence the reason why there was a big movement to make a proper road from other cities to Genesis.

"It's getting a little colder with the breeze." Walker handed Su one of the extra claims to stay warm. If they were too cold they could have a slower reaction. Midnight seemed not to care. Part of this was her gradually growing understanding of other elemental manas. The understanding of water elemental mana would help her resist the cold better than other creatures.

"At least the cold means monsters will be held off. Just a few though." Su didn't want to jinx them by saying they were in the clear.

"Agreed. The wind is blowing around our scent so anything downwind could follow us." The worry was real, but this was also why Midnight would be able to pick up on anything ahead of them without the need to scout ahead for a while.

A soft growl of confusion made them stop. Midnight was staring right ahead with her face scrunched up. What Walker and Su saw were small purple plants that were poking through the melting snow. It would not have been something confusing if not for the fact that the plants were glowing with purple light.

"What are those? Should we have brought Remey?" Since Su knew that Walker and Midnight were not experts in alchemy, this plant was a mystery to them.

"I'll appraise them before we move closer. I don't like the glowing part. Just makes me feel weird." It wasn't that the plants were odd. They were small purple leaved flowers. It was not entirely unusual since the party had seen similar plants in the forest. Yet, the glowing part that they saw meant mana was within these plants which could cause different outcomes.

'Spring break daisy

The spring break daisy is a plant that grows at the very start of the warmer season. The moment the snow begins to melt the dormant stored mana is activated in the bulb of the daisy roots. It will grow quickly to break out of the earth and snow and absorb light elemental mana. They are ideal for lighting pathways within gardens and can help reduce fevers when steeped in tea. When removed from the ground they will return to a dormant state for up to six months.'

"Wow. They are amazing. So they can be beautiful and help the sick. Let's pick some on our way so we can give them to Gil's mother and Remey."

"I can give some to Alice for the cathedral too." Both Walker and Su found benefits in this. Midnight didn't seem opposed either until she saw the small figures farting around the flowers. Her growl made Su and Walker focus up and look more closely.

'Crystal dragonfly

The crystal dragonfly is an insect monster known for laying eggs in the melting snow. They only hatch when snow begins to melt and mud starts to form. They are often ignored later in the season but during the start, they are avoided. Their bites can cause very painful itchy sores along with a pheromone that attracts other monsters. They are considered very dangerous at certain times. The wings of the crystal dragonfly are perfect for any potion requiring strong water elemental mana.'

"And those do not seem friendly." Walker could count more than twenty zipping around. They were the size of a grown man's fist so they seemed weak. However, Walker knew this wasn't the case. If he was bitten then he would be in pain for some time while also drawing more dangerous monsters near them.

"We are going around. We are only three and having walking bait for monsters is not worth it. Maybe we will see more of those spring break daisies elsewhere." Walker nodded to Su since this was the best practice. Charging in against a speedy flying opponent would not be an easy battle. They would not come out unscathed.

Since there was a risk of the crystal dragonflies noticing them, Midnight had a breath ready to send out flames. She watched intently while they skirted the area where the daisies grew. It was only an added twenty or so minutes of creeping around but it was a worthwhile endeavor.

"At least we are still on trail and can keep a better eye out for those monsters ahead. I can even hear them buzzing a little." Walker had managed to catch on to the very soft hum of the crystal dragonfly wings.

"I'll keep my focus in case we hear it ahead." Su memorized the sound while she took the lead. It was better that she was ahead in case there were some that got too close. She had the higher defense and resistances in case they did bite here. Walker didn't hesitate to wrap his cloak tighter. It was better they bite that than his skin. Midnight was the only one that didn't need to worry due to her scales being so tough.

"We should be making good time to pass by home by the end of the day." Walker looked ahead at the rising sun which broke over the distant mountains. The city of Diamond would always be their home even if they lived in Genesis now. It was just unfortunate that they would not be stopping there to say yellow to a few people.