

## Master 1181

### Chapter 1181 – 1181. Life Lessons

"Remey, duck!" Gil shouted in warning for Remey to lower her head. They had managed to bump in to a wild boar while on their trip. Remey had managed to keep it in check but it was stubborn and refused to run off.

The arrow let free by Gil was nothing special. It was a basic arrow that he carried for when it would be needed. Although his aim was precise as usual. The arrow went straight to the eye of the wolf boar and it fell like a ton of bricks to the ground.

"That small communication can be the difference between hitting your ally and hitting the enemy. Remember that the small time used for that will save and protect lives." The two archers that Gil had with him were the quiet boy that had watched the others to fight and a very lucky elf who had managed to show off enough skill to warrant some extra teaching.

"As Gil said, listen to those that bring you out to gather and find herbs. If you ignore them they will not be responsible for the results that follow." Remey had found an herbalist and a young alchemist to come with her as well.

The herbalist she had found was true to the phrase, a diamond in the rough. The girl had once been a forgotten demon thought to be nothing. Even when she was with Lust in the water elf castle she was left in the dungeons ignored. Within the short time of being in Genesis, she had somehow managed to increase growth in a single field of fire affinity herbs by nearly double.

The alchemist with Remey was an elf from the forest elf city. He was slightly arrogant but had every right to be. He had taught himself alchemy and created his own formulas to better the basic healing potion. The potion took longer but had better results. The outside the box thinking was foreshadowing to a brilliant future within the alchemy guild.

"So, what herbs did you say might grow around here? We have dinner and then some now so we might want to make this our last stop." Since Walker, Su, and Midnight had left, Gil and Remey had been out with their four students. They had managed to spend an entire day just going over safe traveling practices which would help the four greatly.

"They are just some porcupine mushrooms. They are spiny but great for the elderly and their brittle bones. Exactly what should be added for soup." Remey and her two underlings had large bags on their backs for collecting these herbs. They were nearly packed full.

"I understand why we would need a guard when we go out. How would we escape if we were alone?" The demon girl carefully pulled up the spiny mushrooms while asking the question.

"Run. Or trick them. Both work." Remey wasn't particular. Survival was about whatever worked and if running or tricking a monster worked then it was fine to do so.

"So we could avoid the monster if we are weaker, right?" The quiet archer spoke up and looked at Gil carefully for the answer.

"You can run and avoid, yes. But if you leave behind your client then don't go back to the guild. It's unacceptable. You should move them to safety. If they insist against your advice then notify them that you will end your quest there and return. That's the best way to get them to listen." This was a common tactic used for dangerous situations. Many adventurers had needed to do so to avoid potential death.

"Understood. Putting themselves at risk and putting all of us at risk are very different things." The quiet boy fell back in to his normal silence but was clearly thinking this through. All four had heard what Gil said. It made the herbalist and the alchemist think very hard since they had not considered that they would be stopped from pursuing important herbs due to dangers, even with guards.

"Now, don't base things on me. I have the ability to fight and perform alchemy. If you are just a plain old alchemist your chances of winning a battle are lower. But not zero. Some alchemists and herbalists learn to use their knowledge to defend themselves. Just like this." Remey pulled a very small vial from her waist and tossed it in to an open space just outside the trees of the forest.

When the small vial shattered on the ground a small explosion occurred causing a puff of black smoke. "That potion is called a stunning [potion. It makes a flash of fire then smoke to cause coughing and blinding effects. That can allow someone to escape. For an herbalist, you can use poisonous herbs to your benefit. Some gives off fragrances that confuse and require antidotes. Just because you are not a combat system does not mean you can not fight." Thai lesson seemed to make their eyes open wide. Gil and Remey had not gone in to such lesson just yet. This would give the herbalist and alchemist a head start when it came to others of their age.

"Does that mean we could use our skills in tandem? We could fire potion like that attached to arrow if we work with herbalists and alchemists." The two archers under Gil had the same question at the same time.

"That is exactly the lesson I wanted you to learn. Just because you are protecting someone doesn't mean that they will be unable to help in the travels. I won't say to force them but having them act is better than standing and doing nothing." This would go a long way for the two archers in protection and escort quests. Overall the two could say that they had guided their students well. "Alright, let's aim ourselves back home. We will stop and make a meal halfway back."

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#### Chapter 1182 – 1182. Shake The City

A massive black tail slammed on to the ground cracking it and denting the earth. It has smashed in to a shield made completely of light. The reaction between the two was spectacular. The shards of the light shield broke away and covered the ground before fading back in to the air. In the next moment, a melodious voice of power caused another to appear.

"Weak! Your shields are weak and I can smash them with my tail slam in one hit!" Onyx had been hard at work training his shield slam to be able to take down anything. He had also been trying to change his size faster so that he could sneak and defeat opponents faster. It was all part of his future plans to leave Genesis and travel to a new location which may contain more abyssal serpents or remnants of them.

The figure singing was none other than Alice, however, in the last few days while Walker, Su, and Midnight had been away, she had picked up her training. The trials and failures she put in as she tried to change her songs to become powerful were nothing compared to the strain on her when she faced Onyx. The two had made the commitment to push through more than just their limits. They wanted to be completely different people when their friends returned.

A vicious look of determination bloomed on Alice's face. She was not letting Onyx get away with the insult of her shield being weak. She had been training alongside him and knew that she had grown the same as he had. She wanted to be able to hold out against his attack even when he was at his largest size.

The light shield reformed in half the time it had the last time Walker had seen it. He would already be surprised when he returned but for Alice, it was not enough. She altered her song on the fly and the shield became more detailed and dense. The light elemental mana was much better controlled the more that Alice burned her mana in training. She had a substantial savings that was dedicated to mana potions for this purpose.

The newly formed shield met within Onyx's tail again. The difference was like night and day. There was a resounding thud and sharp crack. The shield had been broken but not to the degree before. It nearly split in two yet held shape. Triumph now showed on Alice's face while Onyx felt his scales had cracked. He had taken damage from using it too much and was not feeling the strain. This was his limit, "I will go further!"

Light and darkness elemental mana wrapped around his body. The training in the two elemental manas had been much harder. So much so that he had trained until exhaustion three times in a row. His body had felt the flood of mana and strength that he did not know was possible. That lead him to learn he could wrap his scales in mana to form somewhat of an armor like Midnight did. The inspiration gave birth to an armor that he knew would protect him.

The light elemental mana condensed on his scales while darkness elemental mana flowed around it in perfect balance. The light elemental mana was the base and the darkness the spikes that now protruded from his head and tail. The skill was known as abyssal armor. One that took his entire focus and strength to hold on to but one that boosted his al defense and defense by fifteen stat points. It also allowed him to use the skill piercing tail and piercing head butt. They were physical skills with al damage of light and darkness elements.

The repaired light shield was not shattered this time when Onyx attacked with his tail. Instead, it was perfect;y pierced like swiss cheese. The hole in it caused Alice to lose her focus and fall to a knee. Yet, Onyx also lost his control of his mana and collapsed in front of her. The two could only pant while trying to catch their breath. They had exhausted a huge amount of mana yet again.

These training sessions had become the focus of mana healers and nuns within the cathedral. They were stunned by the amazing training that was going on. Not only did it inspire them to push themselves but also to reach outside and look for ways to enhance their knowledge. Onyx and Alice had become more than just inspiration, they were driving forces behind the growth of many young healers.

The high priest on the other hand had gone to make many friends with those researching the mage tower. The earth mages in particular were very used to coming over to fix the cathedral courtyard. So much so that they had made the deal to share the runes with the high priest at the cost for the healers to visit and assist with the light elemental runes they may have understandings with.

The main reason the agreement had been reached was the discovery of healing runes. The healing runes somehow were of every elemental mana and could heal differently based on the user's affinity. It was a mystery that inspired the mages yet stumped them. They had no idea how healing worked because it was not their forte. Therefore, the deal benefited their understandings and the cathedrals. Fixing some courtyard a few times was nothing in comparison.

"I swear. You two are going to make the entire city shake if you keep this up." The high priest joked but in the back of his mind knew that if Alice and Onyx continued on like this for months then genesis would indeed shake before them. It was an interesting future to imagine of his daughter and her training partner.

#### Chapter 1183 – 1183. Small Forest

Walker, Midnight, and Su had made some significant advances toward the mountains. There was really nothing of note that had happened in the last few days. A few horned rabbits had been seen and they had run in to a merchant train headed from diamond to Genesis. The news from them was that Diamond had recovered its farmlands which the three were able to see the edge of while they walked through the area.

"Are you really sure the forest you saw is this way? All I can see is a lot of mist." The fog that was around the area was much heavier than Sui was comfortable with. It blanketed the ground so thickly that she swore she could cut it with a blade.

"Yes, this is some used to protect the forest covering the entrance to the trail." This was the same thing that Walker had guessed when he saw the little forest hiding the trail from the air. He also knew that the melting snow and the slightly warm breeze which had started to blow up from the south was to blame for the increasing fog.

Even Midnight was trying to smell about for evidence and was coming up empty. It was all dependent on Walker's perfect memory of the area that they had flown over. If it was anyone else they would not have been able to trust the direction. Luckily, Walker had the mental archive to keep maps and such in check. When he had looked from the sky it was more or less the same as looking at a map from the top.

"This should be the way." Walker lifted a hand and manipulated some of the water and wind in the air to move away. It wasn't enough to clear the entire area but it was enough to show off the small forest ahead of them.

"Brave to venture in to my territory child. Why do you smell like my Lords?" A deep shaking voice made the three stop and fall in to battle stances. "Children. If you desired battle I can bring it. You are a snack to me at this stage in time."

"What is it? Can you appraise it?" Su had the twin shields and needed to know what they faced so she could alter her strategy to one using the earth dwelling shield if need be.

There was nothing that Walker could see from his view. Midnight had trouble locking on to anything at all either. It led him to using his all around appraisal on everything around him.

'Green lily....red bark tree...twirling vine...'

The all around appraisal was not picking up anything other making it even harder for Walker to speak out. "Answer me before I make a move child. I can feel your light weight upon me. You three can not be old enough to even bother me. Two creatures smelling faintly of dragons and some tamed beast smelling similarly as well. You will have much to answer for." The voice was obvious with the fact that it could not see them. But when it said that they were already on top of it, Walker looked at the entirety of their surroundings.

'floral tortoise

The floral tortoise is one of the smallest monsters in the world when it is born. They will often have small grasses grow on their shells to hide them in the grasslands. In exceptionally rare cases they can live to be hundreds or even thousands of years old. The oldest known floral tortoise grew to be the size of a singular country before it perished and the shell became the base for an entire living race. Beware the incredible defensive prowess and control over earth elemental mana that the floral tortoise has on the later years of its life.'

Walker made a motion for Su and Midnight to relax. He knew that if the floral tortoise was as large as the appraisal said it could be that it was not anything they could deal with. However, he had caught on that it said that it had lords. Specifically, the dragons. The royal dragons had to be the lords of this floral

tortoise that grew larger than all the others that could be around. This also meant that Walker needed to tighten his courage and speak the way a royal dragon would.

"Little tortoise. I am Walker, lord of natural mana. You dare block the way of my champion and her guardian? Speak now and beg forgiveness or you shall rest here for eternity." The mana that Walker caused to become chaotic was none other than the natural mana around him. He purposefully made it rotate in opposite ways to show off his control over it.

Midnight did not hesitate to back him up. She roared louder than Walker expected making him sure that they would be believed. Even Su made her statement and slammed her twin shields together with a furious clang. The ground beneath them shook and Walker could tell they were moving upwards. He used the wind ripple skill to step in to the air and looked down at the entire small forest rising up.

The dark brown and gray head that broke the soil and rose to meet him opened yellow eyes. "Human! You..." The floral tortoise was going to continue to shout in rage when it felt the mana and saw the connection that Walker had to Midnight. It had lived for many years which led to wisdom most would not have. Seeing the bonds of a royal dragon and those connected to it were simple and mandatory for it to keep its position.

"My apologies great lord of natural mana. I wish you safe travels toward the grand court of dragonkind. I, Sylvan, greet the new lord." The tortoise lowered its head and closed its eyes knowing that it had made a false accusation. Inside it was completely stunned though. It could not understand the human and how it was equal to a dragon. Yet it could see the bonds that made it so.

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Chapter 1184 – 1184. Feel Fear?

"You are young enough still to learn. Remember me and those beneath me. I shall return on my journey back. Be prepared to offer a sincere apology and I may make your little forest flourish." Walker stepped down and retired to the side of Midnight and Su. they were sure that they needed to remain calm and act as if walking along the massive floral tortious back was fine.

Even as the floral tortoise Sylvan lowered himself back in to the earth as if he had never moved, he took a glance above to his shell. Walker did not miss this since it was all too obvious with Sylvan extending his head in such a strange way. Walker glanced at Midnight who released a slight growl causing a quick reaction in Sylvan. The tortoise returned to its original position full of more questions than it had ever had within its long life.

The moment that they crossed the farthest threshold of the forest which was also the end of Sylvan's shell, the fog disappeared proving it was only caused by the tortoise himself to hide away the entrance. Not only this, but a statue the same size as a large dragon greeted them. On the side, Walker could make out a language he was sure only the dragons knew. But what astounded him was the fact that the symbols seemed to change and become readable without him using his skills.

'The skill draconic language has been forcefully learned due to the draconic relations the user possesses. The user will now and forever be able to understand any and all draconic languages.

Draconic language- passive

This is the time worn language of the dragons. Created by them, for them, and used constantly. Their tongue relates deeply with purified mana and is often found at sights of great battle or memorial. The discovery of the draconic language can cause entire races to move away or toward the source due to fear or awe.'

The skill description was a little odd compared to what Walker expected. However, he understood why he would learn it. For Midnight and Su, it was in their blood. Walker was bonded with them and that meant that he too would have the same effect. It was a little odd though, he could feel the temperature of his blood warming slightly while reading the words on the statue.

"The great dragon, father of all dragons, greets the one that shall walk upon this land. Bow and greet your heritage." Walker read it out loud and knew that respecting this statue was part of the journey they would take. He was already watching as Midnight bowed her head slightly. She had also felt the connection that Walker had. Even Su had understood it and showed a calm and serious expression.

They looked upon the statue of the large spiky dragon which seemed to have power over them even though it was just a statue. It was impressive how detailed it was and made them all feel as if it would jump off the pedestal and attack them in an instant. "The tail points up and to the right. We head that way." Walker remembered the instructions he had been given and followed the point of the tail so that they would be able to make it to the royal dragon court.

"The trail is a lot less overgrown than I expected. Only a few dry bushes and grasses here and there. Not much ice or snow though. I wonder...Tracks." Su was in the middle of wondering why the trail that they were following would be less icy and snow covered along with the lack of plant life. Yet, as she started to inspect it carefully she was able to make out some small and larger animal or monster tracks.

"Now it feels like we need Gil so that he might be able to tell us what the tracks are from. But we can keep moving. We are ready for this. We knew that the trail would be more populated by animals and monsters. It only makes sense that they would take over the trail and travel it themselves in some way." They had already spoken about this and were mentally prepared, this was what they had been training for. But this didn't stop Walker from trying to use the all around appraisal skill on the larger tracks that were clearer on the ground.

'Steel shell armadillo tracks

Tracks of a young steel shell armadillo. They are very common within mountains and will rarely attack since they prefer to roll in to a sturdy ball for defense.

Spiny lizard tracks

The spiny lizard is barely reaching adulthood and has just awoken from slumber. They are very aggressive but much weaker than normal.

Rogue dragon claw marks

This is a subspecies of dragon that has been kicked from the nest for being impure in bloodline or pride. They lose much of the elemental affinity and become berserk. They are extremely aggressive and often attack dragonkin in revenge. They are often very susceptible to all attacks due to their rejection of mana.'

"What did you just say?" There was a stunned moment of silence after Su asked her question to Walker. He too was a little stunned to read that dragons would kick some from the nest and that the kicked one would reject mana purity.

"Rogue dragon...but it says weak to all attacks so we should have some advantage. It also says it attacks dragonkin so we may be able to deter it to some degree. We are not like them or the dragonkin technically." Walker wasn't very sure about this so he was sure to change the eternal orb in to staff form for safety. He would have his mana at the ready the entire hike through the mountains to the royal dragon court.

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#### Chapter 1185 – 1185. A True Roar

Walker and Su seemed to be on the same page when it came to the fact that they did not want to deal with a rogue dragon which was obviously a monster and no longer a member of the dragon race. It was even worse realizing that such a monster would have a huge physical strength that could most likely defeat any of them in a few attacks let alone one.

"The tracks are a little dried. That means that everything has passed through some time ago. The most recent look like the ridge sparrows that live right around there." Walker spotted the nests of the ridge sparrows. They were a very fast earth and wind elemental monster that ran from anything larger than them. Their only food source were small insects that ate away at grass and other foliage.

"We will still be avoiding them. We are not here to clean up the monsters kicked out of the dragon's society. We are here to bring our ideals and represent Genesis." Su had been steeling herself while Walker spoke. She knew that she needed to be much more serious. Every step could bring her closer to death. It was something that made her almost excited.

Normally, Su would not feel such things. She preferred defending and healing people. The atmosphere in the cathedral was one that calmed her soul and brought out her best qualities. Yet, she was faced with the extreme potential for death. If not the monsters roaming around it would be the royals living near the royal dragon court. Her dragon blood screamed for attention. For dominance over any that faced her. It was her true battle instincts finally melding with the dragon blood line that Midnight had shared with her.

To show her distaste for the fact that anything would stand in their way, Midnight growled until Walker felt it was no longer their bodies that vibrated. It was their bonds. Su and Midnight had accepted the battle they would face and Walker could only bring himself to match and surpass their fortitude. "We

move forward in the open along the trail. Nothing will stand in our way and every royal up there will know we are coming."

Su took a deep breath along with Midnight. The two matched their release of the loudest roar possible. Walker could only follow with a roar imbued with natural mana. Fleur was even resting in front of him, increasing the power with her own stored natural mana. She had finally become interested in this journey.

'The skill nature dragon's roar has been taken from the world dragon system. The user has released a cry to the world. It shall be heard by the dragon race.

Nature dragon's roar- natural mana cost, user mana cost, nature spirit mana cost, dragon champion mana cost, draconic guardian mana cost, world's acknowledgment

The fusion of all mana that a natural royal dragon can possess. The gathering of such mana cries out beyond that of just nature. It rises to the level of the word. Therefore, it is the way the world dragon once spoke to their race across the world. It has no effects other than instantly sending a single message to the entirety of the dragon race. Any with dragon blood will hear the call. Those without dragon blood will hear a roar echo and know nothing of its significance.'

This was a call for the dragons and only the dragons. Since they three had finally accepted all that was ahead of them they had managed to toss aside any fear they had. So what if there were tracks of strong monsters? Who cared, they were powerful too. The dragons would face them eye to eye and respect them or they would stand taller to prove themselves. They had avoided this facing of fears and worries for too long. It was time to be serious or give up altogether. A hero never gave up.

Upon a mountain plateau sat multiple thrones. The shadows of those sitting on them seemed to store from slight slumbers while some thrones were still empty. "Current, is that the one you spoke of? The one that called out to hear him roar?"

"Indeed. You have guessed right for once. What do you think? Would you try and face someone like him? Still looking down on a human? Still think that head of rocks could stand up to him? Look at the records and tell me how many dragons have used natural mana since our founders. Tell me, do you think a human can match and rise above a dragon now?" Current had thrown around haughty words of pride. He knew well that there would be an upset and that was what he wanted. Too many years had passed without the significant growth of the dragon race. But this could be the symbol of growth they needed.

"To wake me with those words...to pull me from my shadows...I wish to meet this one. I wish to see who can make my champion turn their head to look down the mountain." A fog of dark mist seemed to speak from another side while Current smirked even more while still looking down on the other thrones.

"I arrive and this is what I hear? Someone wishing for attention. This is why I hate these meetings. It's bad enough that I must leave the skies." A large figure became smaller and smaller until a slime dragonkin figure with flowing horns came to rest upon a throne covered in wind like patterns.

"You act like your skies are so wonderful. You have never known the true joy of being buried deeper in the earth than any could ever go. The true pulse of the earth around you." The moment seemed to pass and the two different elemental royals began to pridefully bicker about their purity and elemental manas. Only Current remained thinking about Walker, Su, and Midnight.

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#### Chapter 1186 – 1186. Inexperienced

"Coming from above!" Su raised her shield when Walker called out the monster leaping from above them. She raised one of the twin shields and blocked the leaping cat. Claws scraped down on the shield but left no marks. It was nothing compared to the improvements that had been made under the careful eye of the wandering blacksmith.

"Midnight, you run behind and cut off escape. I am using fire!" The fire elemental mana condensed on the eternal orb staff before a single fore bolt shot at the falling mountain cat. The previously grey speckled fur burned and the cat let out a howl as it lost its sight.

Midnight followed Walker's plans and leapt at the mountain cat ending the attack in a second. "Good team work. I know that we just screamed to the mountain that we are here but to be attacked the second we started moving again..." It was more annoyance than anything for Walker. The mountain cat should have been afraid of them but never came in to contact with anything other than the other monsters in the mountains. It didn't know the dangers that it would face going after the three creatures it had never seen before.

"That was a mountain cat right?" Su didn't have a good look at it before it had been burned and finished off but she could tell from the cat like howl. " They usually live in three or fours so we should watch out for more in the area." Midnight started to sniff the air and look carefully but found nothing around.

'Mountain cat

This young mountain cat was very inexperienced in battle. The fire would be of poor quality materials if not for the burns it suffered. Normally silent and sneaky, the mountain cats are a devious predators when stalking small prey. Often they work together to take down larger prey which has made many liken them to wolf packs. They are known for their weak darkness affinity that allows them to better hunt in the early morning or late night even though they do hunt at all hours of the day.'

"It seems like this was a young one. We should look out for any others that are older. But they may have already run away after seeing this one fail. They would be wiser." It was easy to guess that any monster that hunted in a group would run away.

"That's good. Because there is some dust rising up the mountain and I would say it's something that heard us. I would prefer it to be running through." Su pointed out the cloud of dust and the slight sound of cracking rocks in the distance.

"I would say that it's coming down the mountain. We will see if we have to deal with it." They had already established their mental strength to deal with anything that faced them. This wasn't some arrogant show of power. They were here to be equals with royal dragons and they were ready to be as such. Small monsters trying to touch them would not only make the other royals see them as weak but it would ruin any relations with Genesis that the dragons could offer.

The skeletal armor that midnight had formed with her skill seemed to be slightly different than the last time that Walker had analyzed it. He was sure that it was due to the growth and the intense training that midnight did regularly. However, that did not mean that Walker had initially noticed the other element mana that gathered within the bone armor.

The feeling that Walker got from the skeletal armor was unique. It didn't just hold the darkness elemental mana that had been Midnight's base affinity before she had awakened the bloodline of a dragon champion. There were heavy earth elemental and light elemental manas that had taken to it. This meant that Midnight had managed to add those elemental manas to the skill as she trained through her elemental breath attacks. It only went to show how her training affected her other skills as she began to mix elemental manas like Walker did to create natural mana. It made him wonder if she would

have a skill change from skeletal armor to natural armor or something when Midnight succeeded in mixing every elemental mana.

"There's the next statue. We are heading to the left." This was away from the cloud of dust. Walker would not have seen the secondary trail if he was not following the tails of the dragons. The mountains were not perfectly carved out for a trail. This was a natural path through the jagged edges and rounded rocks forged by nature. Moving between rocks and discovering the pathways was part of the adventure.

"Look at the rocks. It seems like they are a mix of a few different kinds." The colorations through the rocks were of multiple ores and marbles. It was clear proof that not many had traveled here since they would have attempted to mine out veins of valuable ores like this.

"It's a good thing we didn't bring the wandering blacksmith. He would move here and start crafting without any worries." Walker joked but he too had the desire to try and mine some of this. He still had the necessary materials and tools to use the portable forge skill. He had only gotten rid of the materials that he knew were better used by the wandering blacksmith or that he would never get to using. The temptation to forge had been pulling at him for some time. There were many things he wanted to learn more of since he never wanted to be at a loss for the right skills in a situation. He truly wanted to be an all rounder.

"No, we are not mining that." Su stopped Walker's thoughts in a few words. She would not be stopping their trip and delaying just to get some more materials that Walker would not be able to use until after they returned home.

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## Chapter 1187 – 1187. Statues

"I wasn't going to stop us to mine it. It's too beautiful to just start tearing it up-" Walker was caught by the sound of crunching. When he turned around he found Midnight had scraped out a naturally forming earth elemental crystal and crushed it together between her teeth. "You could have just asked me for a snack you know?"

The stifled laughter from Su only encouraged Midnight to chew her snack faster, it was impossible to stop her but Walker still felt that it was an odd moment to start scraping away at the stones they were passing by. He was impressed however, he had not felt the condensed earth elemental mana where Midnight had and pulled the crystal from. It meant to him that he had been slacking on his grand elemental manipulation and sensing. He needed to remain better focused on such things when he needed to.

The three of them squeezed through the narrow trail just to find another statue of a smaller dragon. The last one had been the same as the first but now this one was different. It had curvier characteristics and flowing horns. "Welcome my brothers and sisters. May you fly higher than the sun to strike down those beneath you." Walker read out loud what was written beneath.

"So this is a wind elemental dragon. I was going to guess from the shape of the horns and the extended body. But now it makes sense. I wonder who it was that they have a statue." it was odd that there were not any other details, Walker knew that they could learn more when they were at the royal dragon court. But until then they were left in the dark.

"We have not seen a wind elemental dragon yet so we are already learning more than we did before. I think there will be dragon statute of all elemental dragons. We do know that the statues show off important figures in draconic history. If they have names or quotes we can remember them." Walker had already memorized this one and the previous. But he was sure that they would learn more and more. The statues seemed to be getting more frequent as well since he could already see a much larger statue ahead.

"This one has to be an earth elemental dragon." Su knew this from the jagged spines on the back and the larger shape of the statue. But what showed off the true earth elemental affinity was the shovel like claws that could easily carve through the earth. Even more, the earth spirit came out of her earth dwelling shield to inspect the statue since it could feel the mana purity used to form the statue from earth whereas the other statues were not made in such a way.

"Feel the ground move with your soul and become one with it." Su read the simple quote but knew that it had to be related to the earth mana purity that the dragon must have reached. To get to a point that they would feel at one with the very ground beneath them would be more than a large accomplishment. It would be the height of the royal dragon's goals to purify their mana and affinity.

"I feel like the earth dragons may be some of the largest we encounter now that I see this statue. It's even crazier knowing that the statues are smaller than the real life dragons." It was a matter of respect when it came to the realization that the dragons were larger than what they saw now. Walker, Su, and

Midnight did not have the ability to match them in size. They didn't have much power to match them in general...yet. They still had time to grow and time to become more powerful.

The sharp growl from Midnight was enough to get Su in front with her shields. The earth spirit moved back toward them ready for a fight. "There's a steel armor armadillo. It seems like it's already hiding in a ball though." Walker stopped Midnight from moving around to get ready and attack. The armadillo had sensed their mana and knew that it was not any match for dragons. It didn't matter that the three might not have been strong enough to battle it. It just knew that it smelled dragons and the best chance for survival was to curl up and hope.

"We can pass right by it then. No need to fight it if we don't have to. I think it will also do well to keep anything following our scent from behind at bay." the fact that they had not had any monster come from behind was not forgotten. Su knew that many would pick up the foreign scent and come looking for them.

"Let's hurry past then." Walker moved forward with Su. Midnight held her eyes on the armadillo right before she was about to leave. She wanted to ensure that it didn't get any wise ideas.

Just as they left the area, the armored armadillo slowly uncurled and rushed in the opposite direction. It had learned at a young age that it should avoid dragons and anything similar. They were strong enough to crush its defenses without even trying. But even worse, some could swallow it whole and still be hungry afterward. This was how it survived and how it would live on for many years. Or at least how it would have.

It came face to face with something not unlike it had just run from. But it was blinded by hate for what it smelled. The armadillo had just managed to get in the way of this monster's hunt. What it had chased would not get away from it. It hated the scent of dragon and the roar it heard even more. It was fair to say, the armadillo did not survive for long.

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## Chapter 1188 – 1188. Creeping Up On

There were five more statues that they had passed while hiking up the mountains. The trail seemed to be less and less marked by animal prints the further they went. However, they could all feel the dragons nearby. It was a gathering of mana that seemed to be harder to control and manipulate. It made sense that it was the pure mana that the royal dragons drew to themselves through their training.

"We have to be getting closer now. It's almost dark though." Su wanted to keep pushing but understood that there was a significant danger that came with that.

"We are definitely a few hours away but I don't want to be caught tired and in the dark. Those last few rocks and hills were tough. It will be better to rest and clean up so we can look our best when we arrive. I can't feel any change in light elemental mana too so I would guess that there is a royal still not there yet." Since Walker had realized he was not fully focused on the mana around he had kept himself in check with it. Now he was careful about the density of which mana was in the air.

From the looks of Midnight, she was ready to lay down and nap by the fire too. Walker could also tell that she was concerned that her scales would not be cleaned well enough to face the other dragons. It would be the first thing that he helped her with in the morning since he had brought the cloth to help her shine them to perfection. "Then we will be camping here. I will start to get a space cleared for the tent." Su took the job on to herself while Walker began to pull things out of his storage. Midnight had taken over the watch of the area so that the other two could work safely.

There was no underestimating that this place was dangerous. They all knew that the area was teeming with monsters and they were only as safe as they had been because they scared some off with the roar from earlier. Furthermore, the scent of dragon was a major deterrence since the monsters did know the danger of dragons. It was very common for a dragon to come through and defeat anything within its path because it was showing off the dominance of its race.

Therefore, when Midnight saw an older looking mountain cat leaving quickly and quietly she did not overreact and call out to Walker and Su. It made sense that it would be running away. Plus, she didn't feel like fighting at the moment. She was tired from climbing. As much as she had energy to eat and play around, she had been using her claws to dig in to the stone and keep a good grip while climbing some tough parts of the mountain.

"Midnight, we aren't starting a fire tonight. We are sticking with what we already have made." Since Walker wanted to be sure that they could rest through the night, he was not going to be starting a fire.

The chances of attracting something with any food cooking were too high and they needed the rest to be ready to show off the next day. The dragons would expect the best.

"Are you really polishing up the bracelets again?" Su wasn't sure what Walker was so worried about. The wandering blacksmith had already finally polished the pure elemental dwelling circlets before they had received them.

"I just want to be sure they are partially filled with mana and ready for them to see. I can't say that I'm not a little worried that they will take us as nothing more than some small humans at first. I want this to be the first thing they see when they think of Genesis. High quality, perfect craftsmanship, and three representatives that know how to handle themselves." Walker had started to imagine the first interaction even though he didn't know what would really be at the royal dragon court.

"They are fine. Let's just set up for the night. You already started to clean out nicer armor and clothes for tomorrow anyways." Su made sure to keep Walker balanced and out of his own head. She had really felt that he was going to get out of hand if she didn't make sure she watched him. But he was also watching her and had managed to keep water around while they walked all day for whenever she or Midnight needed it. He had started to pay much more attention than usual. It was even better that she was seeing him use the all around appraisal skill more often.

"Come on Midnight, it's time to eat..." Walker called out for Midnight but found that she was not running toward them as much as possible. Instead, he was greeted by the sight of brilliant golden flame breath. "Move!"

Walker shouted while he started to form a flame bolt with the eternal orb staff from. Su pushed forward with the twin shields in hand ready to block. Midnight had been checking out the area around them and found that she was not alone. She also found that the mountain cat she had seen running away was on the ground in much worse shape than it had been. There was an enemy around and she needed to let Walker and Su know.

As soon as she had found the defeated mountain cat she had zeroed in on the dark scaled shape moving through the darkness. It was not something she would have easily picked out without knowing something was around. Her warning couldn't come in the form of a roar or growl. She had to use her skills to her advantage and inhaled a deep breath. When she released the flames she was most used to because of her golden flame heart, it signaled Walker and Su perfectly.

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## Chapter 1189 – 1189. Combinations

Su's twin shield slammed together and she began to gather light elemental mana around them. Her charge increased in speed while Walker shot a firebolt toward the dark shape that Midnight had shown them by using her golden flames.

The attack that midnight had used didn't seem to have done much damage. It did release a loud roar from the creature that had been stalking them, making all three worry. It had been very similar to a dragon's roar but it had been twisted and seemed to be off in comparison. The fire bolt that Walker had sent out was right on target. The crack of it hitting whatever was out there caused yet another distorted roar.

While Su charged forward and managed to get in front of Midnight, Walker began creating light orbs. He threw them out to illuminate their fighting area. Midnight and Su became visible just as Su reached the enemy. But what was revealed was not something they wanted to see.

The large shape was that of a dragon without wings. They appeared to have been torn off and healed while the body was covered in scarred and dark scales. The teeth were brown instead of the normally pearly white that a dragon prided itself on. Instead of balanced horns, they were jagged and broken as if they had been constantly slammed in to something. Walker could tell that the scales had not been able to handle the attacks of golden flame breath and Walker's fire bolts.

"It's a rogue dragon! We need to avoid direct-" Su reached the rogue dragon and it barely pushed back against her force. Yet, it did roar again in pain because the light elemental mana had added some attack damage to her shields. Upon hearing Walker and realizing what it was, she backtracked as fast as possible. The twin shields were slung around her back and she pulled the earth dwelling shield forward. She knew that the earth fortress skill would be the best defense since it relied on the earth and attacks. She could also work with the earth spirit to change the form to a spiky fortress that would cause more damage when attacked.

Midnight unleashed a vicious growl that used her dragon bloodline to its fullest. She knew that it would distract and enrage the rogue dragon that Walker had told her hated dragons and dragonkin. Her thoughts were to distract and then use her shadow wrapping skill to become invisible to the rogue dragon trying to cause them trouble.

Walker saw this and moved himself closer to Su after tossing another light orb out. He knew that using the melee weapons he had was useless and committed to using the al skills he had. At the moment he was sure that Su would be preparing to use the earth fortress skill. "Use the skill and I will boost it with my manipulation. We can make a huge spike to lure it in to."

"Heard!" Su communicated her recognition then rushed to channel her mana in to the earth dwelling shield to mix with the earth elemental mana that the high earth spirit was using to create the earth fortress. However, she made sure to send her will to the earth spirit and felt the response. They were in perfect sync as more earth elemental mana condensed around them because of Walker's influence.

'The skill combination earth spear has been taken from the joint mage system. The user had learned this skill due to their high bond and attempt to create a skill with two other beings.

Combination earth spear- 10 earth mana cost, 10 mana cost, 10 mana cost

The three beings that share their mana must include one earth spirit. They will act as the central bond of this skill. The two other users provide their mana to boost the draw of earth elemental mana and manipulate the shape. The earth spirit will change the form of one of their skill in relation to their partner. This is a powerful earth elemental skill that can cause severe piercing damage to any target. The mobility is extremely poor making it best used for close combat surprises and traps. This skill must have three beings to use.'

Walker didn't even know that he, Su, and the high earth spirit were using a combination skill. It was the moment of battle and they knew that they needed to work together to win. But this was why they had gained the skill. They had not thought to work alone. They had recognized the physical danger and put themselves together to defeat it. Their quick thinking to rely on each other was the key to their success here.

"Midnight, lure it here!" Midnight had been running around the rogue dragon angering it more and more. She could see the rage within its eyes and knew that the rogue dragon did not possess intelligence or a single ounce of understanding. It only knew that it wanted to destroy those that it hated and that it would throw itself at whatever it was no matter what.

She revealed herself yet again and breathed out another breath of golden flames. She used the golden flames since her golden flame heart allowed her to more easily breathe it at a faster speed. It was also

harder for her to draw in the proper mana for the flames she wanted while in a high stress situation. This was something she needed to work on at a later time but that would come.

The attack caused the rogue dragon to turn toward her and see that she was no longer wrapped in shadows and trying to hide from it. The rage that it had howled out in a broken and high pitched roar before it charged head on. Midnight dropped the skeletal armor skill and jumped in to the air. She flapped her wings to barely get above the rogue dragons as it moved forward too fast to stop itself.

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#### Chapter 1190 – 1190. Midnight's Claws

Midnight knew that she had done her job well while she watched the rogue dragon miss her by inches. This training she had been doing to fly showed its prowess now in battle making her feel that she was finally a true dragon. Who cared if she could not fly consistently. She could use her wings to maneuver above and down on her enemy without trouble.

The moment that she breathed out another breath of flame on to the back of the rogue dragon made it howl in pain while still moving forward at intense speeds. The problem with the power that it had was that it had forsaken all al skills it could have had. This stopped it from controlling the earth or anything that could have slowed it when its body could not do so.

"Now!" Walker and Su shouted in unison while the earth elemental spirit revealed itself above the earth dwelling shield. A complicated mix of mana and aura of power spread between them. Not only could Su and Walker feel their hearts beating together, but they could feel the warmth from the high earth spirit. They had not realized how proud it was to be the stepping stones for those around it.

The high earth spirit was by far the least talkative of all the spirits that Walker had encountered. Su had also managed to speak with it a little due to her spirit mark with it. But they mostly communicated with their emotions and the feelings of mana. Now that they could get a clearer image, they knew that it had grown more than just attached to their party, and their family. It saw itself as one of them that could hold them up and ensure that the path they walked was stable. In this moment, they were completely one.

Earth beneath their feet shook and condensed until a large spear of solid stone sprouted from the ground. It was slow but that did not matter. The rogue dragon was moving too fast and had no reason within its mind. The force behind it propelled it head first on to the earth spear without even a flinch away.

Su and Walker looked in front of them expecting the rogue dragon to fall. However, its rage was not so small enough to be taken down. It lost its mind and brain to the earth spear, but its eyes still glowed red with fury, the grudge that it had against all dragons and dragonkin for kicking it out of the nest when it hatched pulled it beyond what should have been normal.

Large jagged claws reached out toward Walker who could only attempt to create another skill. He had used too much mana at once in tandem with Su and the earth spirit though, his body wasn't as fast as it had been a second ago. This left him open to an attack that would have done significant damage to him. Would have done.

Midnight fell from the sky above the rogue dragon and breathed fire in to her claws. A golden flame remained on her sharp curved claws while she used them to shred in to the muscles of the rogue dragons' back. She refused to allow any harm to come to her family. She refused to just watch. She felt the pieces come in to place while she had been training and implemented a skill she had only been shown in books. The flame bound claws of a dragon were known to be a skill only those that trained themselves to the limit could obtain. Midnight had done this many times over in the forge while she used her fire to create items with the wandering blacksmith. She had just never registered that she could do this.

"Midnight! You used golden flame claws!" Walker knew at a glance that Midnight had used this skill. It was written in the book he had shown her months ago so that she could get more ideas on how to train. He never thought he would witness it and felt his heart lighten in the fact that she had just used it to protect him and Su.

After their attack, the earth spirit showed some fatigue and melted itself in to the spirit mark that Su carried. It would rest after using its full power at once with the others. "You did well. Rest as much as you need partner." Su whispered to it with her heart open. She was proud that it showed how it truly felt in that moment and could only hope that it knew the value she had for it as well.

"This trogue dragon nearly hunted us. But it didn't know the danger it would face against us." Walker stood next to the still growling Midnight. They looked at the many scars on the rogue dragon and knew that it had blindly thrown itself at many enemies. "This has to be why the dragons that leave villages are

hated and eliminated. They could become vicious monsters like this. It didn't even care that it had been pierced through its head."

The three looked at the body in horror. For something to have so much rage was incredible. The pride a dragon had was part of their existence. To remove that meant to create an undying rage that was nearly impossible to quell. Midnight silently pledged to never allow herself to fall to this. She would continue to work and rise beyond.

"We will show them what they failed to clean up. We need to change this aspect of dragon society. Imagine if this is just one of many left to fall. How can we let that happen to young hatchlings over and over?" The words that Su said were exactly what Walker and Midnight felt as well. The young hatchlings should not have such a fate before they even have a chance to grow.