

Master 1201

Chapter 1201 – 1201. Even Shock The Dragons!?

"Let me understand this, you have united the elves partially in your village, assisted two monsters to become races, bonded multiple other races, returned ancient runes to study, and created a forging method that has been long flawed? What else is there?" Rise had finally broken character after everything. She had been called out by the other dragons and now was looking at Walker who was claiming so much in the name of Genesis.

"I guess you could say I have been very busy. If it helps, I also have the title of young sage. It really helps me bond with Fleur more. I think it will be a very big part of my life the older I get." Walker knew this to be true. He would focus more and more on natural mana the further he went in his studies of it. The more powerful that fleur got the more he would have to understand and learn. "Also, Genesis isn't a village. It is a city. A place everyone can come together as one. A village would be small and a city is large. It is a place with limitless potential." Walker had to make sure that they started giving Genesis the right respect. He wanted them to see the future that he saw every time he thought of Genesis.

The royal drains looked at Walker before accepting that they could send scouts across the ocean without any further talk of it. Current knew that he had the best dragons due to their affinity but Ventus would also send some in the heist air flow to try and see what the cause of this was/ Walker also knew that he would be hearing of this again some day. It just wasn't pressing at the moment since things in the dragon society moved slowly compared to other races.

"Do we even need to speak about the fact that another volcano erupted and poured in to the earth territory?" It was a long understood fact that Ignus and Terron would equally rule over such places since the volcano would cause more earth as it cooled but before that happened it would be a palace of pure fire elemental mana which was perfect for the hatchlings of fire dragons to grow.

"No, you can have the volcano. I know you have a village that is too cool for the next clutch of hatchlings. They would get nothing but my elder is ready to raise three." Seeing them so readily agree convinced Walker that they really did care of the young to a degree. But the fact that it was based on them growing in pure elemental mana was where the rogue dragon problem would begin.

"I wouldn't mind speaking about the movements of the skeletal dragons. The three that have partnered up in the demon lands. They are too close to my village and seem to be at peace with the demons. That means war with others." Mordant had watched from the shadows for some time to find this out. He was very unhappy to see any skeletal, rogue, or darkness dragon that had left the villages to join up with others. It was illogical and could only breed a negative outcome.

"Walker held a hand for a pause, "Midnight, come here. Leave Su to finish speaking to the others." Midnight felt that Walker needed her and moved out of where the other champions and guardians were. Su could vaguely hear Walker and let it be. When Midnight entered, every royal focused on her. They didn't know why Walker would call her.

"Midnight had a mother that was a darkness dragon. It was a little more specific than that but the main elemental affinity was darkness. Her father was a skeletal dragon. If there are skeletal dragons joining together then there is the potential of finding her father. I would like for her to have the chance to meet that father. Worst case we are forced to right their wrong. Best case, we separate them."

Midnight had never really thought of meeting or even searching for her father. It was not that important. She had seen how Remey grew up just fine finding her own family in the orphanage. Now Midnight had the party. But the thought hit her differently when Walker said there was a chance. It was one that made her heart stir with both interest and rage. She might need to take down the very father she meets for abandoning her and her mother. But would she be able to do so? Would she be powerful enough?

"Capture the skeletal dragons? That could be arranged. We do have many unanswered questions about how the skeletal dragons come to be. They are not rogue yet they have less sanity and an affinity for a particular kind of darkness and other elemental mana. The fact that they are so close to death in mind and body at times is strange. It was once thought that they may be able to use natural mana. But we have no such proof."

The theory that Mordant outlined could relate to the cycle of life but the very end of it. Midnight and Walker would need to research and try to understand all natural mana better before they could make such a conclusion. "If it is possible to trap them, then yes. We would like to. You see, the demon lands are a place that Genesis will need to go some day. Not right away, but we have business with corruption there." Walker knew that killing two birds with one stone was good. But bringing dragons to help free the demons was even better. There were still sin title holders that would need to be dealt with.

"Hmm, I will watch from my villages and gather information. Come when you are ready to enter the demon lands and we will speak of plans." Mordant did not deny this and seemed that he would welcome this. Walker felt that it was partially because of the darkness dwelling circlet around his arm.

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Chapter 1202 – 1202. Flying Free...Lazy?

"Now, about the mana crystals that were supposed to come to my territory...Ventus! Where are they?" Rise had an ongoing problem with the wind dragons leaving the crystals in places that were nowhere near where they needed to be.

"My dragons should be able to fly freely in the air without burden. If they carry so many crystals so far it will affect their growth. As a proper royal I need to support them." It was just the excuse to be lazy that anyone would expect and even Walker was ready to shake his head in disappointment.

"That is unacceptable. You know that I am raising the next head of the generation. They need the light elemental crystal I should receive as compensation for allowing you uninterrupted flight through my village's air." The wind dragons were the ones to fly wherever the air elemental mana was strongest. If that took them above other dragon's territory then they were expected to pay a fair price as compensation to avoid troubles.

"And why don't the dragonkin deliver these to the villages?" Ignus thought that the two were being strange. They were fighting about something that should not be an issue. His dragonkin were more than capable to work and deliver traded crystals to Terron, so why couldn't theirs?

"Ehm, well there are certain dangers that my dragonkin and her dragonkin struggle with. I would prefer not to lose forty to fifty with a single delivery." Rise looked away knowing that she was about to get put in her place once again.

"She means rogue dragons. They have a scent for dragonkin. Light may be my opposite in most ways, but I am very glad you are my opposite in kicking out dragons from the nest." Mordant shook his head while melting slightly back in to the shadows to avoid the vicious glare from Rise.

"Then that settles that. We need to deal with those in your territory because you have isolated your villages. Ventus also needs to remain on task instead of flying freely. This has been a problem in the past with my trade of crystals to you." Current had needed to have tough words with Ventus before that led them to fight for a few days. Now that he had seen Ventus slacking again he was ready to show her just how much older and more powerful he was again.

"I will speak to my dragons but I will not tell them to go against the airflow. That is an absolute rule. If the worst happens then they will deliver later than planned." With Ventus, it seemed this was the best they could do. Catching the flow of the wind in a jar was near impossible. Therefore, everyone accepted it as it was.

"My elders have more things to do. They must prepare themselves for the longest day of the year. The sun will be highest and we will get the purest light-"

"And we know that is in months! So this will be something dealt with now while we have the court together. I put it to a vote. Clear out the territory of the light elemental villages so that they may resume proper movement through their territory and meet trade agreements." Current was done arguing. He had lost some merit in Rise's eyes but that was nothing when it came to the problem that Walker had slapped them with entirely.

Every royal raised a hand then started to rattle off numbers to help. Eventually, the eyes fell on Walker and Midnight who were watching carefully. "I will send the vice guild master of the adventurer's guild. He is better off working alone and has certain strengths. If you would like to see the strength of a human, he will be it." There was curiosity within everyone's eyes since they did not believe a single human capable of defeating a rogue dragon. They had chalked up Walker's victory to the fact that he, Midnight, and Su were all related to dragons.

"I agree. That should be fine." Current had spoken with the dragonkin who had met Barry. They had spoken as if he was more powerful than most dragonkin and could potentially rival an elder. Such praise was held back by the dragonkin as not to insult their elders and royals, but Barry was one of the most powerful in the human kingdoms, and having him represent them would help show off another reason for the royals to back Genesis. Walker didn't hesitate to send a notification to Clara to see if it could be done.

"Just send me the map to the location for him. He will leave as soon as possible. I promise you will see strength you do not expect." It felt like Walker was taking the dragons out to the world for the first time. He had not fully grasped just how isolated the dragons lived when they were in seclusion. They had missed many races grow and many things happen in the world.

"If I remember I heard that Current went to the oceans to deal with those annoying demonic krakens? Are they still an issue?" Ventus had been waiting to ask about this. The oceans were nearly as vast as the sky so she enjoyed flying over them. She had seen many ocean monsters but none that resembled krakens.

"It was an easy to solve problem. We could use to further follow up but that can be done by you and Rise. you travel over the oceans and will spot the largest of them if they escaped. However, they were still young." Current immediately roped Rise and Ventus in to this since they would all need to deal with the rogue dragon and trade issues. It was a sneaky way to get a little revenge for the problems caused.

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Chapter 1203 – 1203. Elders?

"That sounds like a good plan. I can check the underwater rivers that come through my caves. I can sense if there are any monsters that should not be there. I remember the stories from when they one made it in to the caves and my great grandfather needed to hunt them in every corner of underwater areas. Even some isolated underground lakes had those eggs in them." Terron knew the danger that the invasive monsters could have to all areas of the world and had the story drilled in to his mind.

"I have no stake in this. My volcanoes have no water and even the springs have dried up lately. Not that they would be able to survive in such environments. The toxic fumes alone would cause them to melt." It was a rare fact that the fore dragons had exceptionally high poison resistance. They lived in the hot environments that caused many poisons to be let out through the air. It is only natural for them to grow a resistance through the generations.

"Good, then we can ensure that they do not come back. If anyone finds them then I may reevaluate the trade agreements we have." Current had a set number of crystals for each possible trade. It was only fair based on the side of the villages and the areas where they live. But since there was better work for better reward, he left this there before moving on.

"I believe the demi-human aquatic forces are still searching the rivers along with the merfolk searching the beaches. The tamers were harshly reprimanded and have been adjusted to properly search anything between. I can have the water elves thoroughly check the lakes even though we already know that the kraken spawn did not make it there. It's better to be safe than sorry." It was just part of safety to check these things still. Genesis would be responsible for watching these areas for years to come just in case a single egg was missed.

"I would expect nothing less. I will send a few dragonkin from my main village to assist in the search when they visit to learn from your crafters." Current used it to further show that he had the most relation with Genesis. It didn't bode well for the others that now saw that there was more value in Genesis than they had realized.

"Any other matters that demand direct conversation?" Terron was sure that there would not be much else other than speaking about small laws and changes he didn't want to prolong the court since he wanted to work on his own villages.

"I am curious about the elders that may fall under our new royal. From what I see, there is no one to take such positions." Mordant said this out of genuine concern. He had been impressed with the circlet along with the fact that his darkness spirit friend could also use it. As the only dragon that had bonded with a spirit over the years, he felt a connection to Walker in this.

"I have none. There are many representatives on the council that lead Genesis. Each have their own power and will. I believe that Scylla, a general front of the demi-human race can easily take the role of one. She has some ancient blood of The Scylla. Then there are a few others such as the vice guild master of the adventurer's guild, my party members, and potentially the future elf queen. I am sure that others will arise as time goes on but like I said earlier, Genesis is a place of equals." It was a proud statement but not what Mordant or the others wanted to hear.

"You may have representatives. But it is tradition to have elders that have dragon blood. There was once a dragonkin that was not a guardian. He rose above all others and rivaled the other elders by purifying their own body and blood. It was an impossible thing that brought pride to all dragons. They are the only outlier that is seen as an elder dragon without being a dragon and even they were close. You are, of course, an outlier with your guardian. But there must be a dragon elder that falls under you. It cannot be your champion." Rise ensured that Walker knew how strict this tradition was. It didn't seem to be something that was forced because it was just the way it was. It seemed as if it was important to the way the dragons lived and would come with a great deal of respect.

"Then I will have Midnight select one of each elemental mana or elemental mana variation from the dragons you force out. Midnight will teach them whether I say it or not. Does that sound good?" There was not a look to the royals, but to Midnight. She had been silent and careful to listen. She was not going to step out when she did not need to. She also wanted to endure that whenever these royals looked upon her they saw the perfection that she was as a true dragon champion.

Hearing what Walker said, Midnight raised her head and huffed. The small gold flame she let out for show was enough to cause some of the mana in the room to shift. She had been controlling herself

greatly and in the moment she did not so that they took focus on her intentions. She would not push aside any to be her younger siblings and would take pride in that. She could have been nothing if she had not been found by Walker and the others. Now she would shown them that those they did not value would be more important than any other in the world of the dragons. She was sure she would be able to do this.

"That will take some time but it is enough. I have no issue with that and expect results beyond what you say." Rise seemed unhappy but accepted it nonetheless.

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Chapter 1204 – 1204. Temptation

"I assume that the last we have to do is prepare the bonding feast we are required to partake in." Ignus seemed excited by this whereas Ventus appeared bored. It sounded like a chore to her than anything.

"The new addition to us most likely does not know of this. Every time the royal court assembles we will send out our champions to hunt one monster as food. It is a competition that shows strength and the coming together of elemental mana. Now that we have a natural mana representation it will be even more grand." Current was the only one that took the time to share this with Walker. But he did see how it might have come to be. Since they once had nature dragons as members of the royal court, it would make sense that that nature dragon would want the other royals to come together in some way. And From what Walker knew of dragons, they had an appetite.

"If I send Midnight out she may not stop hunting for some time, however, I can see how this could be good for all of you. You are opposing elemental mana users who need to see how the mana comes together. I will gladly participate. It would be nice to step down from the affairs of villages and sit for a meal." The way Walker phrased it made sure that he was separating responsibility and position to offset it with relaxation and bonding. He believed that food was the best way for anyone to bind. He also wanted to take what the past nature dragons must have used as a root for bonding instead of fighting.

"Then it's settled. The guardian will remain, the champions will leave to hunt. I remember that the mountain has become quite populated in the last few decades. Your champion may take one of the spatial treasures handed down to use. They reside in the royal court and are made by those who have

passed on for such traditions." Ignus enjoyed sharing the existence of the spatial treasures. They were something amazing to him and for Walker to disagree would be a lie.

Spatial items and treasures were rare. Even rarer than Walker's storage skill. But somehow one of the ancient ancestors of the dragons had managed to procure enough for this tradition. It was mind boggling. "Midnight, do your best and show off a little. I know you have wanted to let loose a little." Walker wasn't sure that Midnight would hunt alone and did worry for her safety. But he knew that she would not fight beyond her limit and take care. He trusted that she would do her best and avoid the larger dangers. If she could not take down a large monster, then she would outdo the other champions in numbers. It was just who Midnight was.

With Walker's approval, she shot out the door as if there was nothing more than hunting on her mind. One of the dragonkin outside barely managed to hand off a spatial gem on a long chain as she went by. If they had not been so calm and caring for the job they were given then she would have been out hunting without any worry.

"You seem very confident in that hatchling." Since Ventus did not know what Midnight was capable of in her dragon and dragonkin form, she was in the dark. Therefore, her question was one that everyone wanted the answer to.

"Well, do you want to hear the story of how we met and what kind of training we have done? Midnight has been through a lot with my party and as far as I am concerned is my own sister. It's not just the fact that we bonded through a blood contract. It's much more. I even think that without the contract we would be in the same place as we are now." Walker didn't mind sharing the story with the royals. They would find a way to hear it all in the end since they were interested and would be sending dragonkin to Genesis.

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"Finally, they are off hunting. We can all relax and wait for them to return. Then we can stand behind our lords while the feast begins." The light elemental guardian was the most excited for this time. They had held themselves at attention constantly and this was the only break they would have until they journeyed home.

"Before that, a final moment for the lost guardian of the water dragons. We do it ever since they were lost and it's out of respect. If any of us were lost we would do the same." Su did not disagree with the

fore guardian. She bowed her head for a moment looking toward an empty chair set aside for the water guardian.

"So, that old champion already said that we needed to respect you and that you were the same as us, but do you really think that's true?" The darkness guardian looked at Su. he had a more open mind like the lord he served but he also wanted to test the waters of the new addition.

"I can stand on my own two feet. Unlike all of you, I am slowly mastering multiple elemental defensive skills, I have an earth spirit partner to help me protect what I care for, and Genesis will rise well above the dragons one day. The united races we have there contain an endless potential. It's a matter of time. Something I now have because of my bond to my champion." None was a lie, but her quick and smooth response made the other guardians raise their eyebrows.

"It's not like I will ever see this place. My lord and champion never leave the volcanoes. It's the same with you two right? If you can't be near the sun or flying in the flow then you won't go there." The three guardians hung their heads. They knew they would lack the choices to travel due to responsibilities. It was a burden that they accepted upon themselves and readily lived up to. It had been their choice to take this role and they cared immensely for it.

"Hmm. I could go where I want. I don't see why you could not organize a time to come to Genesis and have a meeting where all the guardians meet and train together. I think it might actually be better for us." Su widened their eyes yet again. Never had such a thing been done due to the fact that they had the tradition of meeting during the royal court.

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Chapter 1205 – 1205. Talking It Up

Since Su had brought the potential for another meeting up the other guardians wondered if it would be possible. They wanted to be able to do something like that and train differently. They also wanted to see a place that they had heard about when others had re[ported to their lords. It would be foolish if their lords had not done some investigations in to the new royal before the court assembled.

"Genesis even has a large training area for mages. It should be ideal for everyone to let loose a little and show off their skills. I am sure that there are things that can be taught as well as learned. Not to mention the foods that come from every races' territories. There are an endless combination. By the time I return I fully expect there to be a change in trends." Su genuinely looked forward to it. But she wanted to make sure that these dragonkin were even more tempted to come to Genesis. She knew that Walker would convince the royals in some way to visit or send those beneath them, this was her part.

"And your armor and shields, they were made there? By different blacksmiths? The runes, they are from there or others?" This was another thing that Su was waiting to bait them with. She knew that the runes that the wandering blacksmith had altered and added to her twin shields along with the earth dwelling shield made them much better.

"Yes, we have multiple blacksmiths with high skills. We also have one known as the wandering blacksmith. He is a man of few words but even the dwarves bow to his skills. He is the one that made these. Believe it or not, my twin shields are not of the best materials. They were technically lower materials, some of which were my champion's shed scales. But he was able to make them into this. Now the pair has been modified a few times and the true spirit crafting technique used to create the earth dwelling shield." She saw the curiosity revolving around the true spirit crafting technique and felt that she had more than changed their perspective of her and Genesis.

"The true spirit crafting technique uses the mana of an elemental spirit to create an item that they can dwell and live within. They can gather mana faster within them, rest safely, and even more...." Su let the earth spirit rumble the marble floor and cause it to crack. "Activate skills. This one has an earth fortress skill that my partner can use to protect me and those around me. But I am learning from it to manipulate the skill myself. I was lucky to find such a kind and protecting partner." The earth spirit left the shield and ruined Su's prideful act but rubbing its face against her cheek. It was very happy to be praised and shown off as a powerful partner.

"Ehm, and of course, the others in Genesis had begun to bond with spirits. I am surprised that the dragon society does not involve them more often since they have the unique ability to attract and purify mana." This had been on Walker's mind as well but he had already made his way through this thinking while speaking in the other room. Now Su was about to reach the same page in her area.

"From what we know, the elemental spirits do exist around us but hide or avoid us. Our lords purify their own mana without need for others help."

"Your lord of flames is not the same as others. My lord of darkness has made a bond with a darkness spirit and they work side by side. There are many dark spirits within the shadows watching calmly. If one

desires to show itself around me I would be glad to learn from it. They are made of pure mana and could teach me great things." The guardian of the darkness champion was proud of his lord and did not fail to show it.

"I used to have a darkness spirit that was around and liked to hide in my shadow but it decided to bond with Walker and form with others in to the nature spirit, Fleur. You could also meet the wind spirit with my party member Gil. She is a little free when it comes to her actions but it's what wind spirits do." Su made sure to add in the other spirits within Genesis. It was a great temptation for them to be able to potentially find partners and dwelling weapons while there.

"I believe that we will be heading to Genesis even without the desire to go. If this is what the lords are hearing and are convinced...well. My lord may not readily agree until later." The earth guardian had broken his tough defenses and given in. He was now accepting everything that Su was saying and ready to see just what Genesis was all about.

"You would all be welcome there. We are a place that welcomes all equally. But you would need to walk among the other races without issues. There are no grand parades or welcomes. Just equals learning and growing." The other guardians actually became more excited by this. They had always been outclassed due to their positions compared to the other dragonkin. This would be a change they had never felt in their lives.

While Su continued to weave the stories of Genesis, Midnight had made her way out of the royal court building and past all of the dragonkin. She had found her way to a large mountain plateau with some dense foliage resistant to the wind. The area was rugged and tough for plants to grow but they still managed to find a way.

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Chapter 1206 – 1206. Prime Hunting

Midnight sniffed the air to try and find anything interesting. Her goal was to find something that would require skill and challenge to hunt. She wanted to show all of them the sheer power that she had since she believed she was radically underestimated. She also had the feeling that the other champions would be showing off by getting the largest prey possible. But the problem with that was that it wouldn't be balanced.

In her time with Hilda, Midnight had learned more than she let on. She didn't always eat only meat. She had learned the value of wild vegetables. Between, Walker, Hilda, and Remey, she could recognize many. She knew what would go well with what and how it would cook. This made her dart for the area with all the vegetation. It also meant that she might find smaller animals or monsters better for stewing and roasting. The large monsters that would get captured by the other champions would take longer to cook and not be as soft. She had her refined tastes!

The addition to the spatial treasure lent by the dragons for this event to show off each other's champions was just a bonus. It meant that she would be able to get many things to bring back instead of relying on Walker like usual. It also showed that the champions were trusted with something so valuable.

A soft breeze moved through the large plateau she found herself on and a scent caught her attention. It was one that she found familiar but a little different. To her, it smelled like the horned rabbits. However, from what Midnight had learned from Gil and Walker, the horned rabbits lived in fields, not in mountains. It was off so the best procedure was for her to find cover and sneak.

The shadows wrapped around her skeletal armor which she had been dead set on keeping until she left the royal dragon court. Midnight had trained so well that she could keep it running for much longer than originally. Not only was this aligned with the goal that Walker had, which was for her to be safe during long travels, but also for the fact that she was alone and could be safer when scouting. Of course, this was a slightly different situation.

The bushes around the plateau had sharper leaves and Midnight could feel them pulling against her scales. She saw that a few of the bushes were covered in a white and blue speckled berry. They smelled sour and had too much coloration. From what she had learned from Remey, they were most likely poisonous. However, that did not mean they were useless. Remey had mentioned that some poisonous things were very valuable when used in medicines so Midnight was still sure to use her claws to sever a branch or two to give to Walker. She knew she could make Remey proud when she gave a gift from a mountain area that most would never be able to travel.

Pushing further in to the bushes, Midnight heard the movement of wind. It was similar to smaller animals flapping wings which made her even more excited. She barely managed to hold herself back as she crept forward towards the sounds. The scent of horned rabbits was stronger but now there was a very fragrant difference. Instead of mud, there was a scent of herbs mixed with it which matched the bushes around the area.

Small white shapes very similar to the horned rabbits flew in the air on white furry wings. They had three small yellow horns at the top of their heads with sky blue eyes. If anyone else had seen this they would believe they had found some amazingly cute monster hiding away at the top of the mountains, but Midnight saw the perfect and plentiful ingredient for a roasted flying rabbit dinner.

As cute as these rabbits were, Midnight could tell they were secretly vicious. The flight they had was exceedingly agile and the change from hopping to flying was by no means, slow. The horns were also made to be able to pierce things which made Midnight sure that they were also venomous just like the horned rabbits in the fields. The addition of two more made it much more likely that the poison would make it in to the target. Even further, these rabbits didn't seem to have teeth for eating vegetation. Their teeth were sharp and needle like. They were predators who were comfortable being out in the open air.

While circling them, Midnight noticed that the slight breeze caused the flying horned rabbits to alter their positions. To be able to fly they must have been very light making them even better for an ingredient but easier to predict. In just moments she was able to discern where they would land next. Once reaching the nearest bush, Midnight lowered herself in to a pouncing position. Fire built in her chest while the breeze started to push the flying rabbits down to the ground again.

The moment they landed and had not adjusted themselves perfectly, Midnight leaped out from the bush. A blaze of red flames hit four of them that just landed while some flames wrapped around her claws. In a matter of seconds, Midnight had slashed two more with her front claws. She turned to the left and pushed off again toward another three. They had no time to react to the surprise attack and fell to Midnight.

The next two that she targeted had finally begun to run away but were still not fast enough. The remainder had flown away in fear of the dragon that came after their lives. They were the predators of this plateau and had not faced something like this before. Instead of battling it out, they had run. Midnight was victorious in her rare catch for the feast, yet, this was not all she would gather.

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With her prey safely stored away in the spatial treasure she had been given temporarily, Midnight moved on toward the center of the large plateau. She could see that there were a few thick trunked trees. Their leaves were thin and sharp making them able to withstand the winds of the mountains. But they had very tough and rugged bark which seemed to be tougher than sandpaper. Midnight wondered for a second if these trees were tougher than some metals because when she tested one with her claws it made a slight scrape instead of actually cutting in to it. Naturally, she cut off some branches after wrapping her claws in flames to help her cut in to them.

The skill to wrap her claws in her elemental breath was a very surprising addition to her repertoire. She had trained for some time and when it clicked and began to work, Midnight felt that she had been missing a brilliant part of her skills. She had used her claws to fight multiple times, shredding through tough opponents or items. Now she was better at doing so and would be able to cut through tougher things. It would give her an edge against monsters with high defense.

The tree branches she cut seemed like they would be ideal for Gil's arrows. She knew that having a tough base for the arrow would lead to having a better arrow overall. It was a lesson she had learned while sitting by the fire taking watch with Gil. he had idly mumbled about creating arrows and what he looked for. It was not expected that Midnight was listening but she had been.

The scent of other things caught her attention in the next mountain breeze that passed by. The side of the plateau was a cliff. Normally monsters would avoid them unless they could fly, luckily, Midnight had the wings to keep her safe as she probed the edge to find strange white vine blending in to the icicles melting on the side. These vines were still growing through the ice the same as a normal vines would grow through the soil. In addition, a white fruit hung from each the size of a normal man's fist. They had a very sweet and floral scent that Midnight could relate to other fruits she had eaten before. If Su had been here she would have claimed them for herself because Midnight knew that she and Su both had a target for sweet desserts.

The fruits could be added to what would be made and Midnight did not hesitate to grab the tops of the vines with her mouth and hoist them up. They were much heavier than they appeared and when she split one fruit open it burst in to a soft mush of juice filled polyps. It was similar to an orange fruit she had seen from the demi-human farms. With the additional ingredients in storage, Midnight pushed the vines back in to place and turned her head to the grasses around the bushes.

It was clear that everything that grew around here was not simple. She had been finding the tough plants and unusual monsters in the area perfectly evolved to live at the tops of the mountains. With what she had learned from her party members she knew many ways to use them and how to handle them. The grasses stood out, not because of the difference to the normal grasses around, but because of the bluish tips they had. She remembered Hilda mentioning that some grasses with colored tips were

actually the tops of large root vegetables or very strong herbs. Therefore, Midnight dug around the clumps to find a solid white and brown striped root very close to a turnip.

In a matter of an hour, Midnight had harvested fifty of them. Her claws easily pulled them from the semi-frozen ground. Even more, Midnight had managed to snag a few more flying horned rabbits that were pushed by the breeze. It was impressive how well they blended in to the clouds in the sky but could not control their own flight well. They had strong abilities but were at the mercy of the wind. But when she found that some had previously attacked something before coming in to her possession, Midnight made a move toward the direction from which they had blown.

Her silent scouting revealed an unexpected sight. On the ground, a large white scaled monster was laying paralyzed. It seemed that it would easily blend in to the clouds as well and even had wings hanging from its back. Yet, what stunned Midnight was the fact that it seemed more similar to pictures of monsters that lived within the swamplands that Walker had shown her. The long tail and four legs lead up to a pinched snout with sharp teeth. It was the same as a giant swamp alligator but it was smaller and had wings with a white coloration! It was a flying alligator!

Even more, Midnight could make out a few more seemingly swimming in the sky and flying. They were being attacked by the flying horned rabbits by being head butted repeatedly. The one that had fallen prey to them had become paralyzed and was being eaten away. The others were fending off the flying horned rabbits. What Midnight saw was the perfect chance for her to jump in and take them all while they were distracted. They would never see her coming. She would be foolish to give up this chance regardless of how outlandish the situation. She could just have Walker use his all around appraisal skill when she returned. She had the herbs and fruits and gifts for her family which was a bonus even though it had been a distraction. What mattered now was she had the numbers to feed the entire royal dragon court.

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Chapter 1208 – 1208. Champion's Haul

"Ignus, I see that your champion has brought back a fairly large steel hide rhinoceros. Tell me, did they hunt that today or while you traveled here? I doubt it's warm enough for it to be in this area just yet." Ventus was surprisingly competitive with the way that the champions performed. She had begun to judge every single catch as they returned.

"Says the one that had their champion bring back a cloud serpent. Ha! You and I both know that those live within giant thunderstorms and are bred by your villages for exactly these times." It was the wrong move to push Ignus, he would refute whatever he could with whatever method. The fires he produced matched his attitude.

"Please, I at least had my champion go beneath this mountain to the ravine with Terron's champion to work together. We may not join hands often but the twin hundred year old mudfish they brought back were caught in pristine condition." Current had not shown at all that he had allied with Terron. But when both their champions came back to show off the dark muddy fish monsters the size of a small home, they had smiled widely.

The hundred year old mudfish were monsters that could swim through the muddy earth the same as in water. They were very hard to catch and even harder to beat due to the slipper mucus they produced. They were basically escape artists. However, with the water and the earth champions working in tandem, they had managed to join them and take the pair of fish down easily. They were even the first to have returned.

"I recommend you lay your eyes on something actually freshly hunted. My champion has returned with a large plant like monster. Walker had needed his all around appraisal to figure out that it was a dormant monstrous pitcher plant. It would use sweet poison to attract prey to fall inside of it then close up so that it could dissolve them and pull nutrients out of them. It was a very hard monster to fight in the hotter seasons but during the colder seasons, it went dormant and condensed nutrients. It became the ideal food.

"And my champion has brought back a slew of shadow jellyfish. I'm very proud of them. They have been working on their shadow thread creation and finally managed to build a net to catch them. You know the shadow jellyfish are very hard to pull from shadows and ideal to melt down in to soups and stocks. It's too bad that they are so rare. Luckily, they travel in groups of a hundred." The jellyfish that Mordant pointed out were small and hard to differentiate from shadows. Yet, Walker could indeed see them when he focused his senses.

"Midnight should be along any second now. I think she will have a nice variety. I just hope that she did not overdo it." Walker spoke out loud while thinking and was no sooner finished saying it than Midnight had walked in to the room prancing along happily. She looked at Walker and he could tell that she wanted him to come down and take a look. Of course he obliged.

His eyes widened as he looked at everything. He knew that she had gone out to hunt but did not expect the vegetables and other items. He quickly began pulling things from the spatial treasure while storing

away the extras. He could feel Midnight's intentions when he would pull them out. The number of flying horned rabbits increased to over sixty of them. Most were not even defeated by her and had been partially crushed by other things.

When Walker found the flying cloud alligators, he was stunned. These were the other things that had crushed the flying horned rabbits. They were a mystery to him since they had not been something he had seen before. When he used his all around appraisal he was shocked to see what it said.

'Flying cloud alligator

This is a very elusive and often peaceful monster. They will eat once a month and blend in with the clouds. They are often attacked by large groups of flying horned rabbits in an attempt to defeat the weaker of the species for food. They have a very unique desire to fly which over thousands of years caused them to change their affinity by force to wind and water instead of water and earth like their distant relatives, the giant swamp alligators. They are extremely tough until cooked, then their meat releases very high light elemental mana that becomes trapped in their scaly skin. Their wings are ideal for crafting tough but light armor.'

"You managed to get seven of these? Very good!" Walker was impressed. He could tell that some had been paralyzed and then sneak attacked by Midnight with her flame wrapped claws. On top of that, he also pulled the fruits, the strange turnips, and some of the grasses that Midnight had gathered. He knew that she had gotten everything for a roast which was one of her favorite things.

"Just get a fire going for me, a big one. I am going to cook up something amazing. Also, go get Su, I will need her help." Walker rolled up his sleeves to the shock of the royal dragons.

"You are planning to cook? Why?" Rise was the most shocked out of all of them.

"Can you not cook your own meals? Wait, can any of you cook? Ignus at least has to be able to with his control of flames. It would only make sense." Walker wasn't trying to insult them but he was genuinely confused and shocked as well. They were royal dragons but should have some basic skills.

"It's just as you said, with the control of flames I shall cook. Let me show all of you my skills. I can control the fires for you. Just take note of a longer lived ancient dragon who will guide you, our youngest

member." Not wanting to be seen as weak, Ignus jumped in with a hottie attitude. Walker was slightly worried but knew seeing Ignus control flames would actually be very enlightening.

"Then we will cook. If anyone else can help join in. Eating is great for bonding but making something together is going to add to the taste. My mother taught me that when I could barely walk across a kitchen." The atmosphere of the entire royal dragon court was flipped on its head in that instant.

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Chapter 1209 – 1209. A New Era

What the champions and their guardians saw in the next few minutes was enough to throw their entire world view out the window. Su for one, had expected such things from Walker. But the others? They were lost. Not only were their lords shouting at them to help cut and butcher monsters, but they were also watching and helping with the cooking process. It was just too much. A few of the champions were wobbly kneed and glued to the spot.

"Su, can you help prepare the vegetables and that plant monster over there? Current has the perfect skills to make it clean and poison free. Ask the earth and darkness champions to start making cuts in the tougher monsters. We need to get rid of toxins in their bodies so that we can eat them." Walker was exactly like Hilda. He had lived and grown up under her rule in the kitchen. Now, he was in charge and did not hesitate to take the lead role.

The lost dragons and their underlings were shocked over and over as this progressed. It was foreign territory to them. The dragon that would normally just cook all of this over fires outside were also lost for words. They found that they were instead following Walker's orders to create fires that Ignus and His champion were manipulating with precision to cook different things at different speeds. Not only this but spices were being thrown out of Walker's storage as if he had an entire kitchen stored away.

"I thought you said you cleared out your storage before we left?" It was Su who had the courage to give Walker a judging whisper.

"Well, I kept the basics, camping stuff, important cooking materials, the blacksmith items and supplies for repairs, and a few other things we need." Walker didn't want to show off everything he had but in realization, it was not actually a lot compared to all the extra things he had before this journey.

"Did any of you doubt my control of flames? Stand and speak now!" Ignus found that he was even better than he expected at this. Each fire moved exactly to his desire and he was incredibly amused to see what Walker was doing at each. Especially when he saw the others being ordered to work in tandem.

When Current looked up to rebuttal he also saw the odd way that they were working together. His water was flowing here and there to be boiled in a small soup, or to be used to steam parts of the plant monster. He just chuckled a little and wondered if this was how life would be now. He had not remembered a single time that they had met in these halls that violent arguments were not thrown around and the feast fallen apart. If he had to say it, the entire court was closer than it had been, even with some bickering here and there. Even Rise was a part of the purification of paralyzing poisons from the flying horned rabbits.

"This is what it was like when the last nature dragon existed within the court. They are the reason there is trade instead of battle between the villages and elders. You should feel blessed to be part of this and future meetings. As the current keeper, I name this the era of Genesis in honor of the newest member of the royal dragon court." The booming voice shook the hall while a dragonkin snuck away with portions of food. The distraction had obviously been done to sneak away food for the keeper. It was also very suspicious that the dragonkin was not dressed the same as any of the other dragonkin.

After a few hours had passed, Walker had managed to show off every single cooking skill to the royals before him. The dragonkin and the champions were still very lost but it was in awe now. They had seen how their elemental affinities worked hand in hand with the others. The rivalries still existed between them but could cause something unexpectedly good.

"Your flames could have burnt the meat I purified. Next time be more in control!" Rise covered the portion of slow roasted meat from the flying cloud alligators. It was by far her favorite.

"My flame? Do you think my flames would burn anything? It must have been the steam causing problems from that one's water!" Current glared at Ignus but held silent. He was sure that it would lead to another argument.

"I am just impressed in the way I was able to use the shadows to turn flames. To use the shadows of the flames themselves. I seem to have found a new way to train myself. I very much like this meal." Mordant

was still the most accepting of everything that had happened. However, he was also the one that had gained the most insight through it all. His more silent nature mixed with his ability to observe was showing a bounty.

"Who cares for your flames or your water. My wind is why you can eat this without harm and that the entire mountain smells like the best feast yet!" Where Ventus continued to express her joy for the meal, Terron was silent. He was slowly appreciating the spices that Walker had added. He was stubborn but it appeared that he had found a new way to appreciate food. Apparently, he was not one for spices. He would spend most time surrounded by earth and attempt to strengthen his defenses. He ate only when necessary as did most other royal dragons. Now it would be different.

"I'm impressed. With everyone's higher understanding and skill in manipulating their elemental mana, we were able to make food that even a high class chef would have a hard time rivaling. I hope all of you can come try even better in genesis some day soon." He managed to leave everyone speechless again. They had no idea the food could get better.

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Chapter 1210 – 1210. Sense Of Time

None of the other royal dragons had been old enough to be around when the last natural dragon had been around. Therefore, the words of the keeper had resonated with them in a way that they did not expect. They found joy. They thought that they might actually be the generation of royals that would make a name for themselves within history. That they would have statues that stood taller than any other when they were past their prime. That every keeper would tell stories to their fellow dragons about them. It was a moment of pride that they felt above others.

Walker found that his opinion of the dragons had changed greatly. They were not some high and mighty existence that would stomp on any other race for going against their traditions. He wasn't ashamed to have thought that. In many books, dragons were thought of this way and even more so. It wasn't a lie to say that the dragons had once acted this way either. But nowadays, dragons focus on themselves and their villages without thought for the rest of the world. It was a flawed way of thought.

Su found herself with a different opinion. She found that the royals were trapped. From what she saw, they had been trapped by their ideals to the point that they didn't branch out enough. The words that the champions and guardians had were too narrow minded and missed the opportunity that came from the other races gathering. The dragons should have had the best way to bring nations together with their strength and variants in elemental mana.

The fact that she had not ended up in a battle was also surprising. Su had believed that she would be pitted against the other guardians to show off strength in some way but had not. Instead, they had actually found their own chance to relax. From what it seemed the guardians and champions were massively focused and over worked. They were always stressed and needed more rest than anything. Not that Su ever stopped herself but she was easily able to make it happen if need be. However, that was one reason she was sure that the champions and guardians would visit Genesis before their lords.

When it came to Midnight, she was a little torn. She had expected to show off her power, which she had. She was sent to hint for the royals and managed to impress them with variety and how she jumped right in to action controlling her flames. But it was not to the degree that she had expected. She had believed that she would fight champion against champion in battles to show who had the most power and the best scales. It was actually a little disappointing to her.

Yet, the more she thought, the happier she was that it was not a battle. She watched Walker use his words and her actions to sneak his ideals in to their conversations. She also knew that she would be able to see more dragons in the future. If the royals dragged their feet to come to Genesis then who cared? They were sending the hatchlings that would be rejected in Genesis, Midnight would have fellow dragons there that would grow up the way that she did with families and dedicated friends. It would be much better.

Overall, the three found themselves with mixed emotions. They had also not realized the days that had actually passed them by while they were inside the royal dragon court. Their senses of time had somewhat shifted to that of the dragons. Their lifespans may have changed due to their bonds, yes, but it was not the way that the dragons were yet. Where years could pass and they would not realize it. But while in the court, the change of the sun and moon with the actions that had happened were much slower than they realized. It had easily been a week and a half while they had spoken, eaten, and Walker had started to learn a little more of dragon history.

The keeper had brought out many books made with his illusion . They contained changing history for Walker to learn along with knowledge about raising dragons. Walker could not be more overjoyed to receive this gift. He also found that the ancient dragon, the oldest of the dragons there, had added in a

few sneaky jokes about the changes that would come to the dragons with another natural dragon member. It appeared that the natural elemental mana addition was more powerful than Walker could grasp. He was still too inexperienced.

"We are really leaving?" Su felt that it had been but three days since she had gotten there with everyone.

"Yes, it's been longer than we realized and all the other royals left this morning. I can't believe they actually all agreed to come to Genesis one day. It's hard to believe it actually happened." Walker was still beside himself in disbelief.

Midnight huffed at him and Su. She, for one, was happy to head home. She wanted the food and comfort for the fireplace. She missed everyone and wanted to tell them about her journey. She was also still trying to grasp how to speak and could not fall behind. How else would she ask Hilda for her favorite food more often? It was just ridiculous to let time get away from them. Not to mention the gifts she had found for the others. She wanted to share them as soon as possible.

"And yes, we can stop where you went hunting so you can show us." Walker knew that Midnight wanted to show them this and was not going to forget. He didn't even have to pretend he was or wasn't interested. It was an overwhelming yes that he was very interested in the place the flying horned rabbits called home.