

Master 1271

Chapter 1271 1271. Causing More Trouble

Walker didn't see the rest of the group anywhere. He ran carefully still hidden in the shadows back where he had come from until he noticed that the wall was misshapen. His hand touched it and he could feel the earth elemental mana that was used to create this hollow space. "Open up, it's me." He used a soft whisper combined with a little earth elemental mana. He was instantly greeted by the soft shifting earth.

"You took a while. We needed to hide from that thing. Freaking ants. Giant ants." Gil was not happy with what they had seen.

"There were six that passed by. They could smell us or sense us, I'm not sure which. We had to retreat and hide away. I don't think they followed." Since Su had made this call she took responsibility for leaving the area.

"I don't want to fight these bugs in their home turf. We need more people to smash them." Since even Remey was admitting that the party was outmatched, Walker knew they were very serious.

"There are a lot more than that. The tunnel I went down leads to hundreds, maybe thousands of eggs. If they were sealed up here then they might have just come out of a dormant stage with the earthquake. They are giant earth ants. They would stay underground if they don't find a way out to search for more food. But now they have a way. We need to close up that room we found and get out of here. The faster we get out and get the dwarves notified the better." Knowing the best people to share this with fully was the secret to properly dealing with the situation.

"How long do you think these things have been here?" Remey wasn't sure how long these ants had been trapped away in the earth. She just knew that they were a problem that needed to be handled.

"I would guess since the race that lived here left. If they left so many things behind there was a good reason. They left here and made that city in the desert. But they learned and eventually moved on after that. Who knows where. We will find out one day. That doesn't matter though, we need to get out of here." Walker picked up the pace while explaining the appraisal of the giant earth ants along with who he had sent notifications to in a rush....

"I leave the city for a few days and I get this as a communication? What trouble they make." Scylla looked down at her soldiers that had completely dug up the area around the abandoned village. She had managed to capture living starlight crickets, some eggs, and then destroyed almost all the adults. The army she had brought with her were demi-humans with earth related skills so that they could best eliminate the failures of fools who thought it wise to play the role of a god in this world.

"Listen up! You will remain here for three weeks and guard these field lands. I want the caught specimens brought back to Genesis to be examined by the tamers. I want the remaining to be exterminated. The information left behind by the fools that lived here will be sent home to be evaluated and copied for Genesis. I will be leaving!" There was a solid thump as every soldier responded by hitting their chest. They had their orders from their general and would not back down from them. Scylla headed toward the ravine that she had already been briefed on. The guards would be in for a surprise...

"First a village with experimental monsters left behind by some idiots that thought they would change the world and now giant earth ants in ruins that need to be explored?! What are they trying to do to me? I have a competition to deal with too. They will be the death of me!" Clara screamed out in her stress. She was sure that she would die young due to extreme stress. "I know how that old man got so wrinkly. If there are adventurers like this..." Clara was tired with her head in her hands.

She wanted to call on Barry to prepare for a battle but knew he was away already. He had gone to help with the rogue dragons and show the dragonkin along with the royal dragons the power of humans. It would win them respect and also the support of more dragons. "Call for the king of the deep caves. Have him send notice to his fellow kings that we found an enemy of theirs!" Clara knew that an attendant was always listening for a call. The proof was the instant shout of confirmation while they rushed to send this notice.

The response was quick. Much quicker than she expected. It seemed that the news that an enemy of the dwarves appeared was more than enough to spur the king of the deep caves in to action. "Listen here, I was bringing up a load of valuable pure iron ores and you stopped me. What enemy of dwarves did you find!" The fury that the king of the deep caves was powerful. His voice bellowed through the entire guild. Never cause a dwarf to yell, they may cause severe deafness.

"Giant earth ants were found in a ravine in the field lands. There are ruins there from the race we believe created the mage tower later in their existence. But even more, the ants are not dormant and have not discovered a way out of their nest yet. I believe that the dwarves have a history with such monsters." The king of the deep caves was back out the door without saying a word. He had a hand on his pickaxe and was heading toward a group of golems. He was going to be sending a message himself. Clara just shook her head and decided to wait for news to return to her.

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Chapter 1272 1272. Rushing Back

"Midnight, let's go close that door. We are all staying together until we get out of this dangerous place." Midnight was at a complete loss. She had been waiting patiently and now found that the rest of the party had rushed up with stress and seriousness. She was automatically pushed in to a ready to fight stance.

"Don't worry too much. We are getting out of here. Those bugs won't even have a chance to touch us." Remey gave Midnight a push while the group ran towards the storage area they had come across. Midnight had been training a little and even took the time to scratch her wings. But now she would be running full speed with the rest of them.

"I have a bad feeling..." Onyx was worried about his family. They were still down in the caves and it had not been long since he and Alice surfaced. He had reveled in the joy that the hatchling abyssal serpents had as they saw the sun for the first time. The one that Alice had been carrying hatched halfway up the main tunnel they had climbed. It had been greeted by the other hatchlings and begun to devour the light elemental mana in the crystal.

Since Alice had the same nerves as Onyx, she did not push against him. Instead, she started to sing softly. It was an uplifting tune that brightened the area around them. The light elemental mana was condensed and Onyx found that the hatchling abyssal serpents were able to rest more comfortably and absorb the light. The look Alice gave him told him all he needed.

"I will go and check on them. I will be back soon."

p "He shows up with you and rushes off so fast. Is everything alright?" The lead guard came up to Alice and received a nod while she sang. He soon noticed the slithering abyssal serpents fading in and out of shadows. "And you have more of them now? How...? Do I even want to know?" The reaction actually made Alice giggle and interrupt her song. The hatchlings stopped and hid before realizing nothing was wrong and Alice had started to sing again.

While the other guards came to view the little abyssal serpents a harsh breeze caught them and made everyone look up. The sight of Scylla descending was enough to make them all back away. The hatchlings hid inside Alice's shadow when she stopped singing. "Three. There are three of them. We need to retreat and gather forces now."

Alice wasn't sure what she was being told and the confusion was plain on her face. "There are three ravines, not one. And two already have those ants crawling out of them. We are retreating and will come back with the dwarves. The entire field land area is off limits for any adventurers, merchants, and foolish tamers."

"What about the little heroes down there? One just went back down!" The guard leader was ready to stay and wait for them.

"They will be coming with us. Can't you hear them coming from this spot? They are sprinting. That means they already know the trouble down there." Of course, Scylla had received a communication but it was better to let the guards know that there should be haste in this situation. "Get those little serpents to hide away with you. I am taking you all back to Genesis where we will plan faster. I should be able to make it in an instant. That carriage can be handled by Walker." The urgency was not missed.

As the large head of Onyx returned to their sight, everyone noticed the party holding on to his back. They had met in the long tunnels and Onyx had allowed them to grab on for a speedy return. "Scylla, I assume you were nearby.? Good, we need to get out of here. I sealed the storage room where we found records and other stuff in. Hopefully, that lets us return to investigate later. I have plenty of other things to return with. But for now, we should get away. I can't even imagine how-"

"I know, there are three more ravines that I found. I'm sure you noticed them opening in some form. We are leaving. I assume you notified the others in Genesis and they are preparing." Scylla dropped this on them and no one could fight against it. Seeing Scylla use her mastery skill again was magnificent. However, Walker was able to see the similarities between her and the murals that they were able to find in the tunnels. However, Walker could also see that Scylla had slightly different changes in her forms. There were fewer hounds that grew from the water in the air and she didn't focus on battle. She was using this for speed to make sure that she would be able to protect them. It was much more controlled this time.

"Everyone brace yourself for the wind, especially you guys. You have never been transported by a general with a crazy mastery skill." Walker chuckled while he thought about the dangers of three ravines in all releasing these giant ants. He had barely managed to store away the carriage and the guard's supplies before he was scooped up by Scylla in to the air.

As they rose higher everyone is able to get a sight of the newly opened ravines in the distance. The crawling dots were the giant earth ants. Their numbers were not small and they all knew the dangers

that came with that. It was a matter of time before they would take over this area as their territory. Once the party was back in Genesis they would have a whole new task to deal with. One separate from the competitions going on that they thought they would enjoy while helping Onyx.

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Chapter 1273 1273. You Are More

The shouts of the guards were enough to make the entire party laugh. Alice was equally shaken but had managed to brace herself as Walker had said. Onyx found the panic of the hatchling abyssal serpents enough for him to fully focus on calming their worries. They were not comfortable with being in the air and preferred the safety of the shadows. However, they also felt safer around Alice who had been able to provide them with calming light elemental mana. In their eyes, she was some form of goddess that would be able to make the light come to them in any form. It was very adorable.

The time seemed to pass in the blink of an eye but that just came down to the fact that everyone had fallen deep in thought about what they had found. Of course, Onyx was distracted by the fact that he would be able to raise his fellow abyssal serpents while the heavenly serpents also made a comeback to the world. It would be a very large occurrence for everyone.

"Scylla, land here. That looks to be the dwarven golems that were working in the city." Walker did not miss the lines of golems all set up in order. There were many dwarves moving about changing and adjusting them for battle.

"About time you got here. We are going to WAR!!! This filthy mine destroying bugs will know the fury of every dwarf from here to the mountains!" The king of the deep cave was roaring with energy and rage. The dwarves that heard him responded with shouts and stomps to the earth. Many were changing the mining and building equipment attached to the golems for battle attachments.

The party and the guards didn't even have a moment to spare since they had arrived in this situation. "Go and report directly to Clara, alright?" Walker sent the guard adventurers off since they looked uncomfortable and out of place.

"Look at me this time. I didn't fall flat." Scylla attempted to stand firm but was soon leaning On Su's shoulders. Remey jumped in to hello and was already reaching for a mana potion on her hip. Walker nodded and would thank Scylla for the rush later. Right now there were more pressing matters to handle.

"Walker, Midnight, and I will go and see what we can do in the city. We can touch base with the other guilds to help out. I think we will trust the dwarves with this because they know best what is needed." Gil was off with Midnight in tow.

"Damn right we know best. We have had these rotten bugs invade our mines before. They think we are making them a personal nest as a gift. Ha! We will crush every single one like all the other times they had dared." The energetic response echoed slightly.

"Onyx, Alice. You do what you need to. Get the hatchlings settled and to the mansion or the cathedral. We can touch base later. Alice, make sure Onyx doesn't work himself too hard." The slight whisper from Walker was still heard by Onyx but he didn't even flinch. Alice just smiled and gave a nod. She hadn't done much during this adventure but she had mainly been there in support of Onyx. Now she would be able to live up to that a bit more.

While Walker began to explain the situation with Su to the king of the deep caves, Alice and Onyx were headed toward the cathedral. He wanted to get everyone to the room that the heavenly serpent was in. After that, he would make sure they had enough light elemental mana to eat and then rest. They had been through a lot in just the short time since they had hatched and seen the world.

"We will get them safe and fed. Then we can see about getting the other eggs. We should help the heavenly serpent eggs to hatch so that the one we have been helping hatch will have family too." This was a certain thing for Onyx. he would not allow it to have even a moment without knowing that it had a family the exact same as it. Onyx had felt a sense of loneliness because he wasn't sure if he was the last of his species, no one deserved to even imagine that for a second.

"Of course." Alice assures Onyx, "It will be my partner. Just like you and Walker. My brother or sister." The tremble in Alice's voice showed that she was fighting back her tears of joy. She had found a way to be like those she idolized but also a way for her to help. She wanted to be more than just someone who could sing. She felt useless until she had started to really go out of the city. She had been the one to help get people to the ocean faster to help the merfolk. She had been the one to help feed the heavenly serpent egg. And now she would be able to stand right by Onyx and help him raise his fellow abyssal serpents. She would not feel useless. She would not be just some healer with a sweet voice.

"You already are family to me, Alice. Thank you. You trained with me to stay on par with my family who I always feel I am behind. Now you stand with me finding others like me. We will help another like me. You train with all of us. You are much more than you think." Onyx fell to nearly a whisper. He sped up moving a little faster. He didn't want Alice to see the tears that had started to fall from his eyes. He had

never cried before, but it had all finally caught up to him. The people that supported him and the people that would always be by his side. They were just too much for him at the moment.

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Chapter 1274 1274. Golem Army Gathering

"So you already have an army of golems marching from the dwarven city? How did you do that so fast?" Walker was a little amazed to hear this from the king of the deep caves.

"How? You think that we are just tinkerers? We have communication crystals inside our golems. Once I sent one to send this message they got close enough to send a massive notice to my fellow kings. We wouldn't let a nest of these bugs get away. There are valuable ores and knowledge down there for us to use!" While Walker wanted it to be a little about the safety of the people that would travel through the field lands, he also knew that a dwarf would follow who they were. To tell them not to focus on the mining, forging, and any other potentials of crafting that might be hidden in the ruins and caves would be foolish.

"Are...well...will you even need us?" Walker wasn't sure what there would be for him to do. He felt that the sheer strength of the dwarven golems would be more than enough to eradicate these giant earth ants.

"Of course you will come. I want you to drag those adventurers sitting around doing nothing. They all say they gave knowledge and guidance to the younger ones and are using it to be lazy. They are barely even taking jobs to join the patrols of the caves and tunnel beneath Genesis right now!" To say that the king of the deep caves was unhappy with the veteran adventurers was an understatement. He had yelled at a decent few since they had been lackadaisical instead of focused. They were ignoring their current quests for the competition and change to get credit for guiding the younger generation.

"I didn't foresee this as an issue. I will deal with it. You can trust me in that. Anything else?" Walker felt that he and Su might end up with additional jobs asking this question.

"Just get that done. We are leaving in five days. Prepare to go back if you want to come. I could use wildcards like you to scare out the queen. When things get messy it will try to escape with the elite guardians that it raised. I want to come right to the surface and face my brethren before I mine out the

gemstones it has eaten." There was viciousness in the king of the deep caves' voice. Walker and Su took that as a reason to leave. They didn't see Remey around and realized that she must have gone to start preparing potions. It was certain that the alchemy guild would be making plenty of them for a battle of any size.

"I will go and talk to the guild with Gil and Midnight. You should go and check on Alice and Onyx. This is a big deal. We will be along when we can." Su knew that the worried look in Walker's eyes was because he feared that Onyx needed help.

"You know, you can always see right through me. I never want it to change." The two bumped arms before parting. Out of everyone, Su and Walker had become close like brother and sister. They traveled their own paths but were always close to the same page on how to go about their jobs in the party. They both cared for others and would put their best foot forward.

Just as Walker was about to head right for the cathedral he remembered the old man making the al scrolls. He had said that he would be able to copy them and make many but Walker had not fully understood how since he knew that the scrolls usually had to be made using the skill users' mana. But this was something he needed to get for Alice and the heavenly serpent. He would need to stop by the mage tower area first and make sure everything had gone well.

The city was understandably busy. Many people had heard the news and the dwarves had all ceased their projects. Since the monsters were a little far most people didn't seem too stressed. However, there were many groups that were preparing for the worst. It was just a wise decision. Seeing the tamer's guild moving through Genesis was interesting. Walker heard whispers and side conversations about giant earth ant meat as being a very good food for carnivorous monsters. That was something Walker had never known but made sense. There would be many ants and if the tamer's guild joined the battle they would have a solid food source for every branch of their guild.

Luckily, the mage tower seemed to be the same busy it was before. Many people were copying and trying to understand runes. That made it easier for Walker to move through and toward the back training ground where the old man was working. No one was free enough to stop him to chat. "I can't say I have been gone long, but you seem to have settled in for someone that travels around."

Walker looked at the tent and large table set up to make the al skill scrolls. "How else do you expect me to make these? I have the original scrolls for you and the copies. Already worth it, hmm?" The look of pride was enough for Walker to understand the depth of skill and work that goes in to each scroll. "Now, you have a few things you will need to know about these copies. They aren't the same as the originals." Walker had expected this but he had not asked the questions then. He had relied on the skills to show

themselves so that he could take the scrolls as needed. Now he would learn about them and what limitations they would have for when he began to give them away.

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Chapter 1275 1275. What's Wrong!?

The old arcane scribe looked at Walker. His calm and serious appearance seemed to be the key to how he was able to create these scrolls so well. "Those in your hands are the originals you helped me make. The blood contract, all around appraisal, and all around spirit speaking skills. They will work the exact same as your skills do with the same mana cost to whoever activates the scroll. But the copies I made from them are different." Walker was very serious. He was listening to every word because he knew they would be extremely valuable.

"I am lucky that you made multiple scrolls of the all around appraisal and spirit speaking skills. That will help me continue to replicate them to a higher quality. But that is it. The copies need more mana to use and have less of a chance of working. Of course, there is always a chance that someone will learn the skill in the scroll based on their system, but that is now much less. You see how this is an issue for some?"

"I use very little mana for the all around appraisal skill. Almost none at this point since I have understood it and it's not even a real active skill. The spirit speak is a passive skill now so that's no issue either. But I can see the problem with the blood contract. It uses all of my mana and a drop of blood." He wondered how the skill would pay for the additional mana.

"That is correct. That skill will need someone to help the user drink a mana potion before and after using it to prevent damage. Their body will be over taxed by forcefully withdrawing mana. That is why people should not rely on these scrolls with their lives. They could end them the same as what they are using the skill on." Now Walker knew why they had been foolish in the past. The party had once used a high tier healing scroll on Su's mother. If Su had not been in optimal condition then she may have lost herself in exchange for her mother. That was a danger the entire party had been blind to.

"Don't look so serious. That isn't a problem. Just have them wear those fancy mana gems I see all the mages wearing around here. I swear, more mana gems than I have seen anywhere. Even the northern city doesn't have that many. Although I see some strange ones come off those ships." Expecting this old arcane scribe to have been to the northern city was nowhere near what Walker had imagined. He had said that he traveled but across the desert?

"What's the northern city like? I still have never crossed the desert there and only heard a few things about the cathedral." The information could be valuable.

"Ha hha ha, I can tell you that another time. The way you have that scroll clutched I might need to make a new one. Head to whoever needs it and collect those copies there. I made a deal with you and will make many more. Just be clear with the fact that the copies may fail and come at a higher cost." The arcane scribe went back to his work leaving Walker a little disappointed but focused on heading toward the cathedral. That had been his main goal in the first place.

As soon as Walker began to leave he watched many of the nearby mages and other al system users rush toward the arcane scribe. It seemed that the old arcane scribe had seen him coming and shooed away those that were trying to learn so that Walker and he could speak privately. It was a respectable act and Walker felt that he should find a better way to thank the man that Alice had spotted in the market. He had proven very valuable to Genesis since so many people would have the knowledge to create al scrolls now. Even if they weren't perfect.

Many copies were left behind, they were better off taken by the rest of Genesis, specifically the guilds. They would need these things to keep developing. Many people would bring rare items that needed appraisal or would want to meet and speak with spirits. The elemental spirits were already playing a major part in the development of the city.

Lucky for Walker, the cathedral was more or less quiet today. They had canceled their concerts to prepare healers if needed for a battle. It was also a very light week for injuries due to the new cautions taken when building. It also helped that many of the buildings were built leaving just the large guilds or farmhouses left to improve.

"Sir Walker! I was told to watch out for you. Please come this way as fast as you can!" One of the nuns under the high priest was waiting outside looking around fiercely. Her robes were obviously in disarray since she had been rushing around the entrance to ensure that she would be able to spot Walker as soon as he showed his face. She grabbed Walker by the arm and nearly dragged him inside the cathedral toward the room where the heavenly serpent had been absorbing light elemental mana.

The pressure from the nun's voice made Walker fear that something had happened to Onyx and Alice as they had come back to the cathedral. There were so many possibilities. Were the hatchling abyssal serpents sick? Were Onyx and Alice somehow harmed by them? Was there a problem with the light elemental mana they had been channeling? All these and more worst case scenarios ran through Walker's mind as he started to push aside the nun and sprint past her. His hand nearly crushing the

blood contract skill scroll in his hands. He could barely care for it at all since those he loves might be in harm's way. Nothing would stop him.

Chapter 1276 1276. Proud High Priest

Cracks covered the clear crystal egg that everyone was around. The high priest had backed himself away while Alice was right next to it. Onyx was constantly lowering his head and seemingly speaking to the hatchlings who could tell what was going on. The worry immediately melted away from Walker's mind. He wanted to kick himself for letting the stress get to him. He hadn't realized how worried he had been since he turned around to get everyone away from the giant earth ant colony that could have walked all over them.

"Alice! Use this. It will take all of your mana but it looks like we are just in time." Walker wasn't sure what had been happening lately to the egg but could see the broken light elemental crystals on the floor. He knew that Onyx and Alice had prepared a great many of them for while they were away but that still seemed to be too few.

'Heavenly serpent egg- (hatching)

The heavenly... the egg has reached an unprecedented absorption period due to the high purity of light elemental mana. The mix of personal elemental mana from a system user with high light elemental affinity has also mixed in spurring faster absorption. It is extremely possible for that specific system user to form an unbreakable bond with this heavenly serpent before they hatch.'

Scanning through the things he had already read before, Walker found the newer information and was not surprised at all. Alice had been singing to the heavenly serpent egg constantly before they had left for their journey to the ravine. That had more than distributed pure light elemental mana with her own mana mixed in. Having this miraculous effect on the egg was not what they were trying to do but was very welcome.

Since the high priest was there, Alice looked at him. She wanted to make sure that everything would be safe and sound while she used all of her mana and fell unconscious. She trusted Walker and Onyx but knew that they would care for the serpents and eggs for her. She needed her father right now and would lean on him fully. "Well go ahead. You will need to recover for the right moment when it hatches. It could be any time now. I've been here all morning." His warm smile said it all.

"Just open the scroll and channel your mana in to it. You should be perfectly safe. That's the original al scroll made from my skill. I'll have a mana potion read for you too." With Walker and Onyx encouraging her too, Alice did exactly that. She slowly unrolled the al scroll and took a deep breath. The reddish glow

that came out next enveloped her body then condensed in to her hand. She moved as if guided by an unseen force and held it above the crack covered egg. A single drop of blood fell from her hand filled with her condensed mana. The drop melted in to the egg which pulsed with a single burst of light before more cracks formed.

The heavenly serpent egg seemed to feel that it had found the one that continuously provided it with light elemental mana. As Alice fell back and Walker caught her, the egg began to greedily pull more light elemental mana toward it. Walker only needed a glance to tell that it was preparing to break through the shell for its birth in to the world.

"Let's move it. Give me that mana potion. I fed this trouble maker as a baby and I can help her now." The high priest moved with a speed that Walker had yet to see from him. He was understandably beside himself seeing Alice pass out even though he knew it would happen. However, he knew just how much it would mean to Alice to see this little life in the world for the first time. He could tell that it was a moment he would treasure with her for the remainder of his life. If he could not make it happen then what kind of father would he be? Useless, he may be an adoptive father but that meant nothing. He and Alice were father and daughter and if the world itself fought them on it, he would have some words to say about it.

"I'll use some healing too. That should get her body working a little better." The theory that using a healing skill on a person without mana would speed their mana replenishment speed was controversial. But if it helped then Walker would do it. He could also see the look in the high priests' eyes and knew if he sat there doing nothing then he would lose immense amounts of respect.

"Come on there, I know you're tired but you are pretty damn tough for a healer. Wake yourself up and see your hard work come to fruition. I know you can manage this." The whispers of encouragement made Walker and Onyx realize that they weren't looking at the high priest of the cathedral. A man known for healing many in his lifetime. For traveling to remote villages to help others. They were looking at someone with a full heart. Someone willing to put everything aside to give it all to another. The man that found a baby on the cathedral doorstep and the man before them were the same person just with a few more wrinkles.

'The world has recognized a user as deserving of the title; Altruistic Father. The user has shown the world a lifetime of kindness and willingness to put aside their own happiness for another regardless of the direct blood relation. The user in reference had built orphanages, saved thousands of children's lives, and raised a lost child as their very own. The world has only ever bestowed this title upon beings seventy three times due to strict worldly guidelines for qualifications beyond the chosen's blood. The user has been rewarded for a feat not seen in one hundred and fourteen years. The true hero stands as witness.'

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Chapter 1277 1277. Unknown High Priest

"Oh stop that drama. Titles are nothing. Let me get my little girl ready to see her new family member already...Oh, that can help." The high priest had many more accomplishments when it came to those he had helped as a healer, priest, and even high priest. An altruistic person was incredibly rare in general. Being able to fully represent that was a challenge many failed at. Even Walker couldn't say that as a true hero title holder he was the very definition of altruistic. Some things he did were not in line with the strict definition.

Seeing that the high priest wasn't even moved by the title spoke volumes. He could only focus on Alice at the moment. "Let's see how this works." The high priest held a hand to Alice's head and a soft glow of healing grew around it. He looked pale but when he stopped Alice started to flutter her eyes. She seemed able to move and was wide awake. She looked around and then felt the connection with the heavenly serpent. She reached out and stood slowly without even a shake.

The sound of crystal cracking was completely drowned out by the small snout of a pearly white serpent breaking through the shell to meet Alice's hand. It was as if they were looking at an exact replica of Onyx when he had hatched. However, the scales were too brilliant and the eyes were slightly golden. Before the small serpent could fall a delicate pair of wings on its back opened. The short fall that could have happened if it was unable to glide became adrift in to Alice's arms. Before it could even move again the heavenly serpent met Alice's eyes and stared in to them.

"Arora, we'll always be together." The name that Alice had chosen came from a book she had read in the library. She had heard of an old system user that could control the rainbow. They would make the light in the starry sky dance for their village and brought many to her village. The purity in her light elemental had been enough to cause many songs and stories to be written therefore Alice wanted to pass that on to her new family member.

With Onyx nearby, Alice moved to show him the heavenly serpent. Walker heard them start to introduce the abyssal serpent hatchlings as the heavenly serpent; Arora's siblings. But Walker had moved his focus to the high priest. "If you keep looking at me like that I might need to hide away."

"That's some title you have there. Should I assume that you used a skill from it just now?" Walker was a little hesitant but also knew that the high priest did not look very well.

"Was it so obvious? It was called the gift of a father. I could pass down half of my mana capacity to her permanently. She might need to grow in to it but it was worth the price. I don't really need it anymore." The nun that had been stopped at the doorway the entire time rushed in at this point and started to try to hand over a potion and start a healing spell for the high priest.

"You know that you are ill. How could you? That can't-"

"And I will be fine. An old man is an old man. A title is nice but it is useless unless I use it right. So what if I shortened my life more? I finally had a gift to give and a moment to spend. I don't need a world to recognize my life. Just those around me." The huffy response was enough to silence the nun but kept Walker's attention. He used his all around appraisal on the high priest again, he had not done so for a long time.

'High priest- (Name cast aside)

This high priest has long since thrown his given name away. Even in their elderly age and deterioration of levels, they have managed to overcome challenges. Responsible for guiding and rescuing countless children from a plague, building orphanages in multiple cities of varying races, and burning their own soul to heal others, this man stands above the others as altruistic. Their love was constant throughout their current lifespan and every being that came in to sight was seen as their child. The true embodiment of the one that deserves the title; altruistic father. Due to the use of a one time use skill; a father's gift, they have sped up the degradation of their level. Using any skills related to healing may prove to be impossible from now on.'

"That was a heavy cost. You might need a few books written about you from what I just read..." Knowing the high priest was something that all of them thought but didn't actually see. The high priest had done much more in his long life than they knew. Guiding children after a plague and rescuing them? How and when? These unspoken events were only seen by the system and those the high priest had helped. To say that Walker was at a loss for words that could explain his emotions was too obvious.

"What? Have you not seen the library in the cathedral? People wrote plenty about him. Just because some fools in the grand cathedral didn't want him to become the next leader doesn't mean his accomplishments were forgotten. Now help me get him back to his room. I swear, you are still the high priest!" The nun was reprimanding the high priest making Walker realize that she had been his assistant here for quite a while. He couldn't even stop to see what Alice and Onyx were planning to do before he was pulled away to help the high priest to rest.

"I'm so proud of her." The high priest whispered beneath his breath but Walker still managed to hear it. Alice would go and see him later. He was sure of that. The high priest had to meet his new family member too after all.

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Chapter 1278 1278. To Be A Healer (1)

"He's just some kid who wandered in to the village. Just send him to clean with the other orphans thrown at us and we will see if it's worth the time to teach him when he finds his system." The priest in charge of the small chapel gave the order without even looking at the ragged boy who walked in. The nun shook her head and did as she was told, she had much more to worry about than yet another mouth to feed.

The small monster outbreak had caused a lot of trouble in the area. It was normal for mossy wolves to act up in the spring season but the number of them had increased to dangerous levels. Three villages had already been lost to them. Now there were too many people to feed and even more to heal. The small chapel couldn't keep up no matter how they tried.

"Just stay here and find a place to sleep. We hand out food halfway through the day. Just eat when you can and stay out of trouble. If you can find your system do that. We can't feed you forever." The nun was gone leaving the child silent. Losing their family and home was enough to break any child, but losing hope was not something that could be taken lightly. The light that had shined in the boy's eyes was gone and it was unknown if it would ever return.

The other orphans that had wandered in from the wilderness under the pure luck of the light were not at all interested in another arriving. Some were cut up and scratched making the boy realize that he was lucky. He had escaped with only a few burns from his village that had caught on fire when the mossy wolves tore through their front door and caused the candles they used for light to fall upon the bed.

"Healer! Healer! We need a healer here! This man was attacked right outside the village. They wear priest's robes!" The screaming was coming from a fence guard who had spotted the shambling men coming from one of the cities. It was clear that the man had been coming to support the small village after receiving notice of the monster outbreak occurring. A large pack of any monster would draw the attention of the nearest cathedral and governing city. Since it reached the cathedral first, they sent out healers to assist. Unfortunately, it was all too clear that the assistance had been attacked.

"What was that!? No!" The priest that was in charge burst through the door and toward the front of the chapel. The boy was attracted to this noise and followed with curiosity. He wasn't really sure what to do

but had been in a daze for days already. The numbness of his trauma was still strong so he walked right up to the cot that the priest and nuns were panicking over.

"A high priest is sent here and he's nearly killed! I don't have the skills to heal this fast enough. What now? Go get bandages, more bandages! Does anyone have healing potions left!?" The boy was completely missed. No one even noticed his presence. That was not the case for the injured high priest that lay on the bed. He was just entering his old age and had peppered white and black hair. The warm brown eyes that met the boy's said that everything in the world would be alright.

"Now what's your name kiddo? You look a little hurt there. I can fix that." The labored speech was nothing to the high priest. He reached out a bloodied hand and with a tap of his finger healing light favored the boy. The small burns seemed to evaporate. "Now isn't that better? Hm? You look brand new. Just a bath and you'll be running around too."

For whatever reason, the boy was frozen. He felt something he had not felt in days. The cold he had felt seemed to be washing away. He was warm. Not just his body but he felt that his soul had come alive with a flame. The tears that started to fall from his cheeks made the high priest speak again. "Crying? Over what? There is no reason to cry, the world is a crazy place but you are still breathing. You still have a future. You will do wonderful thing-" The high priest started coughing and panic entered the boy's eyes.

Nothing had been said since the boy wandered in, the guards had just brought him in seeing many like him. "Heal!" The light that burst from the boy was more than any other was capable of in that room other than the injured high priest in front of the boy. Silence overtook the entire room. "HEEEAAALLLLLL!" The boy's scream caused another powerful burst of light. "HEE-EEAAALLL" His screams were riddled with sobs but continued over and over until he completely collapsed with a reddened face and a fever.

Silence continued until the groan of the high priest brought them all back to their senses. The wounds that were upon his chest were barely there any longer. No blood flowed and only minor pain remained. The labored breathing was now slow and calm while he looked at the roof in wonder before turning to the collapsed boy. "Bring him to me when he wakes up...I want to teach him." Those words would not be forgotten by any that witnessed what had just happened.

The birth of a new healer was always a joyous thing. But the birth of a new healer able to pull someone from the brink of death was a rarity only written about. The emotions in his screams for healing were too powerful. The impact had changed the views of everyone and changed the fate of many. A child

healing the high priest sent to save them. A high priest that could now live on and heal those in desperate need.

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Chapter 1279 1279. To Be A Healer (2)

"Hey, you need to pay attention. We are nearly to the next village." The high priest was gray haired and growing a beard now. The boy that had once healed him was decently taller and in his own robes. He was a traveling priest under the high priest who had taken him under his wing the day he was saved.

"I apologize high priest, I was just distracted. I don't want this to be the last journey I take with you. Do you need to retire to a cathedral? Can't I just get you a carriage to come with me?" The worry in the boy's eyes was all too clear.

"Oh come now. You have grown enough to lead a group of healers like this alone. You followed my lead to the point. You gave up your name, pledged your life to healing, and have been to over twenty villages with me. It's time for you to walk the path alone. I can't always be there. Just don't let anyone push you around because you weren't born in the church like I was. You earned your place as a priest and I will live long enough to see you become a high priest. I promise you that." The high priest pushed the priest ahead. "And I can promise you, I won't miss traveling. I like my bed you know. So, tell me, what did the letter say is going on in this village?"

"Ah, yes. The village has a plague of illness. It attacks the adults and is resistant to medicine and healing. That's why we were sent. A high priest should be able to help the adults. The children aren't affected though so it's very odd. It's a mystery." The priest looked up at his teacher, the high priest.

"And?"

"Adventurers already checked for poisoned water in the stream nearby and found nothing. They said that they didn't even find the usual monster around which is also odd. It might be an illness that came from a monster. But that's just a theory."

"Good, you have the information now let's go on inside those wooden walls and see what we can do." The high priest and priest guided the five healers with them inside. The priest was by far the youngest but he had long exceeded many healers in the church with his healing abilities. It was a prime example of a cut above the rest. This made him the youngest priest ever under a high priest. An

accomplishment that garnered the attention of the grand cathedral which fostered talent from their nobles in the northern city and were not happy to see a gem found elsewhere since it may undermine their superiority in healing.

"Well aren't you very tough to stand guard and open the gates. Are your parents in need of healing?" The teen that was watching guard could only nod. The spear he held was too large for him but he pushed the gate closed and showed the healers to the large dwelling.

"Only fifteen left. And thirty five children...Alright, listen up. We will begin with the most in need. We will work our way through the room. Children, please step away and be ready. We will call if we need you." The high priest spoke loudly but with calm strength. It seemed to be a skill he had that the priest had envied for years now. "Go and speak to the children. You are closest in age to them and might be able to figure out what is going on. Not many of them have families left. I think you are the best to put them at ease." The task meant a lot more to the priest than others so the high priest had made the obvious decision to send him.

"I will do my best." The children had been sent outside but did not go far. They had no idea what to do without the guidance of their elders and adults. The teens had taken over to begin to protect their village but that had been all they could do.

"My high priest has asked me to see if any of you are injured and need attention!" The priest announced this while looking at all of the children and few teens that had gathered.

"How can you help us? You are barely our age. Hell, I think I'm older than you!" The teen that had been the other guard walked over and got right in the priest's face.

"Like this," The priest waved a hand and the three closest children were healed from scratches they had gotten while running about without supervision. "Now, let's also talk about anything weird that may have happened when all this started. I want to know if we can figure out what caused this so we can heal everyone and avoid this ever happening again." The slight trick of healing had caught many of the children's eyes. They didn't appear too worried anymore.

"It was the snow!"

"Yeah, the snow!"

"No, it wasn't the snow. That was a fluke of the weather."

The teen that had spoken before cut off the child speaking.

"Snow? It's too warm for snow right now. When?" This seemed a little familiar but the priest couldn't figure it out just yet.

"Ugh, one night about a month ago we were going him and some white snow fell for a little while. It was blown away by the wind but every kid freaked out saying it was snowing. A few days later the adults were not feeling well but it couldn't be snow. It blows down from the mountains sometimes and melts fast enough." The teen explained this but had unknowingly been misled. The priest had already turned around and begun to sprint back to the high priest. He remembered what he had learned. His past lessons screamed at him to alert the healers.

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Chapter 1280 1280. To Be A Healer (3)

"High priest! Teacher! Teacher!" The priest ran and nearly fell over the cots in the small home to reach the high priest. "I know what happened. I know!"

"Whoa whoa whoa, calm down. People are healing here and resting. Breath first!" There was worry but also proudness in the high priests' eyes as he saw the priest he had been guiding come up with an answer so quickly.

,m "I'm calm. But we need to use a purification spell. It's frost moth scales! That's what caused this. The frost moths must have migrated in the mountains making it seem like it was snowing here. The kids said the snow blew away." The face of the high priest went from proud to deathly serious.

He put his hands on the priest's shoulders. That was some very good work. But It was not frost moth scales. Their poison would paralyze these people. It's an illness that sticks to their scales. Its goes after people that are weaker and older. Children have a lot of energy and replenish their mana faster enough. That means that they can escape it better. You know how to heal and purify them. Go outside and take

them outside to do that. Alright? I will do that here." The high priest pushed the priest away with a smile. "And take my bag with you. There's something you will need in it. Actually, wait one moment."

The high priest ran to his bag and started to scribble down notes. "There, I added some notes for you to use the skill better if you have trouble. But get all the children outside first." The priest didn't miss the fact that the healers started to act differently and stop their healing. They all took out al scrolls and began to gather the ill. But the priest trusted the high priest and rushed away.

"Come on! We are going to do a purification skill. I have to get everyone together outside the gates!" The children and the teenagers came as fast as they heard. There was a tone in the priests' voice that told them they were about to see the solution to their problems.

"This is everyone!" The teen that had been mostly leading the children was panting after they had gathered them all.

"Then stick close and relax. It will take a lot of my mana to do this." The priest pulled out the scribbles of guidance and prepared himself. But he dropped it as soon as he read it and turned toward the center of the village. However, he was too late. He had followed the order too well and gotten everyone to the gates.

Flames burst up from the main building in the village. The children screamed out but the priest just fell to his knees. The letter had read a few simple sentences..."This is an illness that will spread from one adult to another. It will kill anyone that it infects and we are already falling prey t it. The children and you should be safe because of your age. Find a place to bathe on the journey to the diamond kingdom's cathedral. Tell them what has happened and remember, the day I met you was the day I saw the true light of healing bless this world. Live well. I will wait for my soul to meet yours and hear how high you flew."

The letter had torn the priest's heart in two....But he was not so weak. He had his beloved teacher's final words. The two had healed each other, bonded, and learned together. Their journeys shaped the dreams the priest had even as a young boy. That orphan that had wandered in to a village chapel after losing everything had become a healer, and priest. Now he would become more. And aim as high as he possibly could.

The arrival of over thirty children with a single priest shook the church's world. It had so many that gossiped and raved about how a priest had managed to guide them to safety. Yet the church had also

learned that it could not resist the fame earned by the priest. Therefore, the youngest high priest ever was initiated and given the cathedral that the former high priest had once represented.

The newly appointed high priest had dedicated the next ten years to rescuing those in small villages and healing them. Wherever they went and whoever they met were given healing regardless of race. It was a fervent desire to protect and give homes to those in need. The orphanages built sometimes faced resistance but the high priest found a way. Even if it meant they would leave before it was finished.

Those that had been given new life remembered him and those that had been given a roof over their head heard stories of him. Even in his older age when no one recognized him as the young priest written and sung about, he would find ways to make everyone and everything around him better.

Eventually, his body began to feel the age he had grown and the unruly healing methods he had used caught up with him. But the day that he heard a small baby crying was the day he had found another light to protect. He had heard it late in the night when he could not sleep. The sound brought him to the front steps of the orphanage to find a small baby girl wiggling in blankets unable to sleep.

The first glance was astonishment then immediate love. There was just something in the little baby's eyes that said it had found its home. The high priest couldn't believe how fast she had stopped crying and cuddled in to his arms to sleep the rest of the night away. At that moment a single name he had long since forgotten resurfaced. The name of his mother, Alice.

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