

Master 1281

Chapter 1281 1281. No, I Will Do It

"That's Walker. It's Onyx's older brother. And he's your family too." The whispers of who people were to Arora were very soft. But everyone still seemed to hear them. Arora was still asleep in her arms but it seemed that it didn't matter. Alice would introduce her to everyone as many times as it took to show her the world. There was a look of pure unfiltered happiness on Alice's face before she had strolled out of the room toward the high priests' room to show off Arora. The sudden collapse had not affected her but she had seen it was sure that he would be resting the rest of the day. The reasons had not been known just yet however, she was sure to learn in the coming day.

"The High priest is resting. I can't believe he got a title. I feel like I should take more time to get to know him." Walker had to admit that it was something he had missed. He had been busy and let the other people in his life that weren't directly family slip away.

"He is a very good person. Everyone relies on him for advice and help here. When he retires fully I think the new high priest will have a little trouble filling his shoes." IOnyx had seen a lot of the high priest lately and was able to see this all clearly. The high priest was someone he had also confided in when he worried about the abyssal serpents. That was why the high priest had been able to be harder on Onyx when he took the lead on their journey to the ravine.

Since Walker understood he would need to play catch up and find the books written about the high priest that the nun mentioned, he decided to change the subject. "Do you think we should let the tamers know that there are abyssal serpent eggs around, along with heavenly serpent eggs? I don't think all of them will want to stay with each other. Some might want to explore the world a little."

"I don't want them to. But they might. Everyone is different..." Onyx didn't want to admit so easily that some of his fellow serpents would want to go off with tamers instead of helping to make their species a fully fledged race. "If that's what they decided then so shall it be. But not until they have hatched. They should not be dropped in to it before they are ready to decide and understand what that means. Myself and Aurora are special cases. We wouldn't have had a chance if others like us didn't exist so we needed someone to hold on to. There's still no guarantee that the other heavenly serpents will hatch." While it was always a possibility an egg would be unable to hatch, the chances were low if properly cared for.

"I understand. Then how about we ask Elise to look for someone to help raise them? You will be busy with other things at times and can't overlook the hatchlings at all times. The eggs took a lot of your attention anyways to purify the light elemental mana. Alice will also be busy. You need a few people to make up the difference." This occurred to both of them equally. Onyx might be busy with the hatchlings

so he would be unable to spend time helping the eggs hatch. That would leave him and Alice switching off between the two with no time to rest or do other things.

"Brother, I will go. You don't need to worry about it. I will use it as a chance to show the little ones the city. They are already trying to peek out from here. They are curious. So was I. I watched everything and learned as fast as possible. I'm not sure that they will learn as fast as me but they will be close." Just as Onyx spoke, Walker watched one of the hatchlings raise its head out of the shadows.

"Then I will let you take the lead. I thought you would want to anyways. Just let me set up the remaining crystals that you had me bring. By the way, what is in the other crates you had me store away?" Walker had still never received an answer to this.

"You will find out when the battle competitions happen. I already spoke with Scylla to register me. Tamers will have their own division where I will fight. Just don't look, I want to surprise everyone. Also, I won't go against those ants. I need to be here." This was expected since Onyx would need to catch the abyssal serpent hatchlings up on Genesis and what they would have a chance to do with their lives. He also had to become a full time teacher to them until they could roam around themselves and decide if they would make themselves a home or join the mansion as a home. "By the way brother, shouldn't you head to meet Clara? She should have heard everything by now."

"I should. I was kind of avoiding it since I know I will be very busy. I'll need to head out and help with giant earth ants, but I know that I will most likely end up watching the dwarves use their golems. But who knows what I will learn." There was a benefit and a downside to going away again. Walker would learn a lot about war strategy and how the dwarves operated against an enemy that could completely take over their mines if left alone. But he would miss out on experience, not only in leveling but mostly in the fact that he wouldn't be able to refine his skills more. He had so much to train that it wasn't even funny. But that just left him with a problem to solve for later.

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Chapter 1282 1282. Already Up To Date

"Walker? I thought you would still be at the cathedral?"

"And I thought you headed to the Genesis building after you came here?"

Walker and Su were both surprised that they were running in to each other at the entrance of the adventurer's guild.

"Well regardless. I came down to meet you. We are heading to the alchemy guild. I need to organize a few things with them.' The two were again a little thrown off since Clara had a stack of papers in her arms and was already on the move past them.

"Before you both start in, I know what is going on. Scylla is dealing with the past issue when it comes to monster research. It was a stain on some of the research done during crop failures. The giant earth ants will be annoying but the dwarves have dealt with them before. They have very clear methods that can teach a lot of adventurers. I will be sending many party leaders to watch. Especially veteran leaders since they will learn the most and be able to apply the knowledge. But the problem I have right now are the herbalists and alchemists that went with young partys. They are teaching them a lot which has completely opened a new subclass for adventurer groups that might want to specialize in herb and gathering quests. They will be working very closely with the alchemy guild so we need to work out rules."

"You seem to be on a roll with the current happenings. It's very impressive." The compliment seemed to go over well. Su was very impressed and couldn't avoid speaking her mind.

"So many people have come to tell me what is going on. You both missed Gil since he came here. I saw Midnight, and even Remey apparently stopped by but I was already in a meeting with Leon about the invasive species of water herbs that the water elves want to prevent getting in to the lakes."

"That's a pretty long list. Sorry we were late. I know we gave a few places to stop. But that's good. We don't have much else to tell you..." To be honest, Walker felt a little useless but was very happy that Genesis was functioning properly.

"There is more. But that is all on another subject for another time. I assume you will be leaving to help with the giant earth ants? If so then I want you to leave Remey behind. She will have a lot of work. The first groups are starting to come back with herbs and she will be very busy." Walker could understand this. He also thought that Remey would make this decision.

"I think she will agree with that. Not to change the topic so much, but how is Barry doing? I know you sent him to help with the rogue dragons. I thought it would be a bigger deal." The dragonkin and other dragons had not come to Genesis while Walker and the rest of the group were gone which was very good since it had been one less thing for them to worry about.

"The last report I received said that they were tracking one down. Apparently, he is a member of a fifty warrior team. There are ten other teams of similar size all dealing with different territories in the mountains. That's also a good estimate of how many are needed to deal with the number of rogue dragons around. It should make crossing the mountains safer in the long run. They also said that the materials will be kept and used for training their blacksmiths. It's not encouraging to hear that they have done this to their own species but it will be something they fix themselves mostly which is good."

"Agreed. Umm...how are we getting in the guild." The three were stopped by the large group outside the alchemy guild. The people going to deal with the ants, those with some fear that they may need healing potions, and those preparing to go out in to the wilds for herbs were causing the alchemy guild to be burdened with many orders.

"Register for a meeting time and pick up time here! Put in an application for an order and pick up at a later date!" The few young alchemists taking these orders outside were cutting down the line tremendously. It was a very wise choice since so many people were opting for this than waiting in the line for hours to potentially be told that what they wanted to buy would be out of stock.

"Can you let us in the back door? We have business with Remey." Walker went right up to one of them who was unoccupied and caused them to freeze in place.

"Well sir, that's not real- Yes I can. Right this way!" The young alchemist realized who the three were and started to guide them to the employee entrance immediately. They were suddenly inside a crazy stairwell full of running and chaos. The young alchemists had started to pull their weight and learn on the job. The guild wouldn't just need people to make potions. They needed members that could do much more than that throughout the entire guild. Having a member that made amazing potions was great. But having one that could fill multiple roles was even better.

"Hey! Out of the way!"

"Get moving! We need those water lilies now!"

"Seriously! More reports to write!?"

The chaos rang in their ears as they slowly reached the higher floors and burst in to Remey's room.

"I swear if you can't bottle tho- oh. What's going on?" Remey realized who it was halfway through her attempt to yell at someone again.

"We have a little business about your herbs and the adventurers that will be accompanying the alchemy guild long term. These two also have to let you know of the plans for the next journey they are taking." Clara started it off and didn't even let them get off topic for a second.

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Chapter 1283 1283. Out On Tour

"Listen closely. We are in Genesis. This is a place built where everyone is equal." Onyx had started a class. The hatchlings had absorbed a great deal of light elemental mana and had unexpectedly become energetic. It seemed that the time they had been dormant in the eggs had led to them being weak at first but able to devour the light elemental mana to catch up.

"That means that every races is welcome and even monsters are welcome. There are goblins and grey haired spiders that earned their recognition from the world as a race. That means they have intelligence just like us. But we are too few. We need to work hard to grow and earn our race as well." The unveiling of this desire was very important to Onyx. he wanted to make sure he instilled this goal for the abyssal serpent species early within them before they saw the world and developed their own opinions and dreams.

There was some understanding in the eyes of the hatchlings that had lined up with Onyx's guidance. They were slow to fully understand everything however, the fact that he was able to speak within their minds really drove their learning curve. They were able to feel the emotions a little more that connected with Onyx's words. On top of that, they were also exposed to the cathedral to hear the language and connect the meanings to what was happening. It was exactly the same that onyx had gone but at a slightly slower rate than Onyx had due to the fact that Onyx was out with Walker constantly.

"I want you to remember, even though the heavenly serpents like Arora are not abyssal serpents, they are your family as well. They will grow alongside you and will strive for the same goal. We will all be a family." This was the last set in stone lesson that Onyx wanted them to know. It would be very important to making sure that they would support each other and become their own races together.

"With that done, we go outside!" Onyx was taking them out of the room and toward the back entrance. He thought it best to leave through the least busy area so that the hatchlings would be able to slowly

adapt to what was happening. "Remember, when we get to the front of the cathedral you will be in the road. There are dangerous things there. If you do not duck in to a shadow fast enough you could get run over!" Every single hatchling recoiled in to the shadows. They were afraid that they could end up squished without even understanding why.

The moment that they left the cathedral which was the most they had known due to the fact that they had remained hidden within the shadows until they had gotten to the hatching room, the serpents froze. They were taking in the swaying bushes starting to grow green leaves. The clouds in the sky led to a beautiful partly cloudy day. And even more, there was the sun beginning to warm the city. It was a lot to see all at once but enough for them to realize that this was part of their world.

The sounds of Genesis slowly got through to them while Onyx watched their reactions. At first, it was mainly fear. This would be the same for any newborn seeing the world for the first time. Genesis was a city and tons of people were coming in to it to start a new life. That also meant that it was loud and sound traveled. Just because the inside of the cathedral was controlled and peaceful did not mean the outside would be. "Well come on, I will take you to the mansion where the family lives. There is a large garden there that I want you all to be able to explore. Just hide away in my shadow if you aren't comfortable." This was not their immediate reaction which really inspired hope for Onyx. he knew that the hatchlings would be tough enough to find their own way in the world with their courage.

"That is a shop that sells food. Not many beings eat elemental mana like us. But you will be able to eat other food too. I often share some with my family during meal times even though I don't have to eat it. The flavor is the reason why. You will understand soon." Onyx Was not going to stop and buy anything. He wanted to have Hilda share some of her food at dinner since it was the very best he had ever had.

This was a curious subject for the abyssal serpents since they could smell the scents of the food stalls on the streets. They weren't sure what would be good or bad but they were curious. However, the sudden barking of a dog made them all dove right on to Onyx's shadow. "That is just a pet kept by humans. They are mostly used on farms or as companions. They are very different from predators. You can make friends with them and they are often very nice." A single thought from Onyx made the dog head in the opposite direction. Onyx had long conquered this fear and learned to handle overexcited dogs.

"You can see the other large buildings from here. They are important and know that they serve their own purposes. We will go there in a few days to learn about them." The guilds would be a complicated subject for the hatchlings. It was still their first day in the city and Onyx was not going to overwhelm them. He was lucky that everything was going so smoothly so far. Now he just needed to get to the mansion.

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Chapter 1284 1284. A Little Run

The rest of the day passed in a blink of an eye. Everyone had rushed around here and there getting on the same page. The rest of the family had been extremely enamored with the hatchlings. Hilda had even rushed right to the kitchen to make them special dishes.

"So, if Onyx is going to the tamer's guild branch to find Elise today, what are you planning on doing." Gil had found Walker in the morning eating breakfast in the dining room. Su had already left for the day with her parents. She had decided to have a family bonding day and relax. Remey had stayed in the alchemy guild since there had been so much to do. Midnight was off with Onyx since she had become protective of the hatchlings too.

"I was thinking of trying to do a little training. I want to get more accustomed to some of my skills. Maybe I will run around Genesis to get used to my dance of seasons skill. It seems a little odd but the streets are pretty busy." The main reason that Walker wanted to improve this skill out of all of his skills was a simple fact that he felt lacking. When he used it he was also moving by instinct and feeling. He should also be able to predict the movements he saw from others and act accordingly. He needed to get his mental processing on the same page as his instincts when it came to his movement skills.

"Then you should come with me. The forest elves have started to work with the water elves to make a better environment. To say the least, it will be perfect for you to train." Gil had seen the expanded area that the forest elves and water elves had begun to make. It was very impressive and a lot of the elemental spirits had begun to gather. There.

"I can do that. If that's part of the plan it will be easier. Let's just walk through the center of the city on the way. I want to make sure that I check in on the Genesis building for any dragons or dragonkin that stop by." Walker had a feeling that the dragonkin would be sent at any time. The rogue dragon problem was only one of the many things the dragons had going on, so with the added patrols, he knew that they would speed up sending their blacksmiths to learn true spirit forging.

"Then let's move!" Gil didn't even let Walker finish his food. He was pushed out the door. "Oh, and I will beat you there!" Gil dashed off. He was trying to get warmed up since he wanted to practice his dagger techniques. So the run would get his body warmed up to stretch and bend in the odd ways he was learning. His research had brought him to an interesting few pages from the mage tower. The desert elves had broken records of the dagger skills since they had ended up focusing on so much.

Chasing Gil through the streets revealed a lot to Walker. Since Gil had begun to practice the elven dagger arts he had changed the way he moved completely. The speed that Gil had was still there but it was more elegant. Walker could easily relate it to the way that water moved and how trees swayed. But the strange part was that he was also able to relate it to the wind. Part of him wondered if it was the overall dagger techniques slowly coming together out of muscle memory.

"You didn't even catch up at all. What were you that slow or just still asleep." The comment was enough to get Walker in to the mood for a little sparring.

"Ha! Was watching how you moved so I could take you down easier later. Just because you learned a little about daggers doesn't mean you can handle a battle of close combat." The eternal orb changed in to a sword form before returning to an orb. The mocking expression on Walker's face made Gil catch on that Walker was trying to start a small fight.

The two boys would have kept on like that in front of the Genesis building if they didn't notice the people looking at them wondering what they were doing. "Ehm, well. I think we are here a little early. Still no dragon or dragonkin." The comments and attitude changed but the fire between the two didn't. Gil was still ready to jump in to his rivalry with Walker.

"So, can you tell me what the levs have been working on?" Walker wanted to catch up with Alma while he was in their area of Genesis. He hadn't actually gotten to speak with her in depth for some time.

"Well, the water elves have begun to get closer with the forest elves. It's really easy since their elemental affinities and skills work together better. They are also helping investigate the desert elves' past. But the biggest project right now is their expansion. At this rate a small forest will be within the city, a small lake, and who else knows what." The environmental areas were heavily occupied by the elemental spirits.

"Well, I understand them being comfortable, it also will help certain races and jobs work. I'm sure the tamers will even bring their monsters to elemental areas. Since the elves are helping in the tower they might be able to develop similar areas like the elemental rooms." This was exactly what the elves had in mind. Not only a safe haven like their natural homes but a place that they could bond on their own territory with other races. It would be more comfortable and less stressful for the older elves set in their ways.

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Chapter 1285 1285. Expansion

"Gil! Oh, Walker too. What are you both doing here?" Alma was walking with a group of the forest and water elves. They all had papers and were pointing to general areas.

"Well, Gil wanted to show me a little of what you have been working on. We both also wanted to train a little and he said this would be a great place with some of the expansion." It was a little too adorable to see how excited Alma was that Gil was back. From what it appeared, she and Gil had begun to get a lot closer lately. It made Walker think about his own relationship with Alice and how he had been falling behind lately with everything he heaped on his plate.

"Well, he was right. He has been training here enough that he is pretty much a resident." Alma looked a little more serious for the next sentence, "I was thinking very hard about how the elves would act and function in Genesis. I have supported the equality of every race and I decided to act on it. The territory that the elves will have here is being altered. It will be easier for other races to come in and enjoy our culture along with them to understand us. I saw the dwarves were doing something similar too. They added some natural mosses from the forests to make it easier for the elves to go underground. They also gave us every lead they had on where the stone elves may be. It was a surprise and it woke me up."

This was not at all a surprise. Even though the king of the deep caves liked to say he was not the person to deal with certain matters like diplomacy or relationships with other races, Walker had begun to realize it was just not what he preferred. The king of the deep caves was actually very good and righteous. The title of king was split between the three dwarven kings because of what they would handle with their large population and duties, yet they were able to cover for each other which was a hidden secret that could keep their kingdom standing even if the worst happened.

"I can see that. You have very clean and defined pathways going through along with storefronts on the ground. I can see that the trees have been grown well and you already have some substantial treehouses for your people. I can't imagine what you have been doing with the water elves' input to divert a small portion of water to create a lake area." Alma gave Gil a small look of unhappiness. She had wanted to unveil it all without Walker or anyone else knowing what had been going on.

Seeing that he was starting to get himself in to hot water, Gil made an attempt to move on. "We can head to my training spot. Don't let us get in the way. You look really busy."

Right before Gil was going to push Walker away, Alma caught his arm. "And we just finished. My next meeting is in an hour. The perfect chance to walk to the water elf territory connecting to the lake being

made by earth mages." Her eyes said that she would make Gil regret walking away while her smile toward Walker was sweeter than honey.

"Have you been working on anything else? I know you have your blue ivy and razor whip weed now. I thought you might be trying to use other plants now?" Walker had not forgotten that Alma had the ability to grow plants and use them to battle. She was not so much a front line fighter as a supporter. She had a definite role especially when it came to the fact that one day she might be able to control an entire forest.

"I have been working on a special project. I can't go in to much detail but it is a very important tree to my people. It actually holds value to all elves in a way. I will show you when it finishes germination and has the chance to put down roots. My blue ivy has recovered and I have plenty of seeds. The razor whip weed is tricky, I need to learn to use it in a way that works with my skills better. I have a skill I want to develop and learn that we recorded generations ago. The problem is that the user didn't write how they learned and trained it." There was obvious tiredness concerning this topic. It meant that Alma had been working on this a lot lately.

"Is this the vine armor skill again? If you are going to spend all night on it you need to rest during the day." Gil recovered his mentality and reprimanded Alma. It was clear that he had already had this talk with her since she was so busy and added her own training on top of her duties.

"I'll have to side with Gil. you are piling a lot on your shoulders just like I do. If you keep it up you might fall behind. I know I have started to..." the recommendation was met with a slight nod from Alma.

"On another note. This is the beginning. There used to be trees here but we changed them to be the same species that grow near the water with long roots and stable bases. The water will come up here and people will be able to take boats out on the surface. However, it will be deep enough to have homes built underwater. The merfolk should feel welcome as well." Alma was very proud that the merfolk would be able to come and be comfortable under the water with the water elves. Even if the merfolk idolized the water elves a little too much.

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Chapter 1286 1286. Not Earth, Wind

p "Not much water here." Walker was looking out at the ground that had been removed. However, he understood why Gil wanted to come here as a training area. There were multiple earth mages using to move and shape the ground.

The earth mages in charge were breaking stones and some were even lucky enough to find some earth elemental crystals that are brought back to the side of the area to be used for other things. But what was more amazing was how the mages were solidifying the ground so that the lake could be better made and the water elves could decide how to make themselves home on the bottom of the water.

"It's great right? This is organized chaos that involves a lot of . It's great for us to train around. I am trying to put together the mysteries of the desert elf dagger skills. That means being around the earth elemental mana is good. But I really need some wind elemental mana to help me figure it out. The earth was more of a secondary effect of the skills they used." Gil seemed to have uncovered some secrets about their skills that he actually needed assistance with. This was the main reason he had wanted Walker to come with.

"Basically he wants you to add wind. The desert elves were thought to be earth elemental mana users but it appears that they actually had a better affinity with the wind. That means that they most likely had some relation between the stone and the wind elves. I would say that they were descendants of both that decided they didn't want to live with either." Alma cleared things up before Gil could continue on. "Even I came here to train a little though. I had some of my enforcers chase me. I wanted to see if I could avoid those with experience since I am a leader now and should be able to keep myself free of trouble." There was a proud air around Alma as she said this. She had been working on the skills she had as well and wanted to brag.

"Well, I can add awesome air elemental mana around. I can use the wind ripple skill, my dance of seasons, and maybe even have those earth mages add some challenge in." The ideas being born for Walker were a mess of added chaos. If Alma asked the earth mages to make things troublesome for them then they would be under a lot of pressure.

"How about this. We add in movement and you try to challenge me with your double swords. I want to be able to use my dagger to block and dodge together." This was also a way for Gil to start to put the moves of the skills that he had learned and read together. The real question was, would he be able to use his instincts to fill the gaps in what was missing?"

"Let's go! Hey, make things fun for us!" Alma shouted out and a few of the nearby mages gave a shout back. They seemed to be a little excited to hear that their monotonous day would be done with and they would be able to have a little fun while using their skills.

Walker changed the eternal orb form in to a dual bladed sword. He channeled the wind elemental mana around and Zephyr left the comfort of the bow on Gil's back. Fleur met her and the two seemed to be chatting at incredible speed. Walker could only catch a few words revolving around tag and faster. He knew that they would be taking control of the wind that he created and that was not at all a problem. It was more unknown to add to the equation. "Just remember not to make the wind cause too many problems. They are building here."

"It's going to be fun!"

"Fun!" Fleur chopped Zephyr and the two were off in to the sky. However, in the next moment, the initial burst of wind that Walker had started became fierce. It was as if they had just walked out to the field lands before a storm was breaking. The entire portion of carved out earth became dusty and hard to see.

"Gil, get ready!" Walker looked at Gil who was not in a slight bind. He had to understand the way the dust would flow and how he would keep a good sightline. But his decision was made for him. He would need to feel it out. There was no other way. A line of blue ivy was already headed for him with a few giggles from Alma. Adding on the fact that Walker had taken a stance and dashed toward him, Gil had no choice.

The dagger that Gil had on his chest was in his hand in the blink of an eye. He had taken a lot of time to make himself more comfortable drawing it. He used the water elven dagger skills to duck under the blue ivy and then slide the dagger along Walker's swords to deflect them. His next move was to allow the wind that began to push him to become the momentum for distance.

Zephyr was very pleased to see that Gil was not trying to fight the wind. For her, it was a moment that showed how much she and Gil had bonded. The pair had worked together for hours upon hours to ensure that she and he could make the wind push the arrows in to faster speeds. They had also been working to control the directions of the arrows. Now that he let his body flow with the wind she could get even closer to him and become more powerful. They were partners after all and Zephyr wanted to see the two of them grow together.

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Chapter 1287 1287. Wings!?

Seeing that the attacks were blocked and deflected, Alma rushed away with a mischievous look. She was not having any problems with the wind or the dust being blown around. She actually liked that this would make it harder for the other two to get to her. She had the advantage that she could let the roots

from the blue ivy catch most of the dust in the air. She was also adept at bringing the moisture in the air toward her to assist the growth of the blue ivy. It was not just her mana that made the blue icy vines grow. She had the unique skills to make them grow faster in most environments.

"Not going to let you get away!" Gil started to rush toward the direction of Alma when he felt a tingling sensation on his back. He knew that it was his instincts warning him of danger. Therefore, he jumped and rolled backwards without a single thought. It broke the dagger skills he had learned from the water elves and merfolk but went with the flow of the forest elf dagger skills. It went with their flow of roots that could twist and fall back on themselves to keep growing.

Walker came down with a single of the two eternal orb swords missing Gil by a foot at least. The other sword arced out and pushed on the wind to make it pick up and change flow. There was a slight giggle from Zephyr and Fleur as they caused the wind to pick up yet again. They increased it using the natural and the air elemental mana around them. This pushed the breeze in to something that could easily blow them away if they were not conscious of what they were doing.

"Here they come. Let's make this day a little more interesting!" The earth mages that were working in the area saw this as a good chance. They didn't need to worry about the wind since they could hold themselves to the ground easily using their skills. But this didn't mean that they were going to shirk their duties. They had a lot of earth to condense and move. Thus, they needed to break some rockets with their skills.

Right where Walker had come down, a large web of cracking earth appeared. Then it fell downward in to a soft pile of soil being moved by the other nearby earth mages to be brought out of the growing crater. This caused Walker to need to jump out or be swept along with the loose soil. He used the wind ripple skill to break out and up in to the air. Yet this was another mistake.

Zephyr and Fleur had been waiting for this. They both knew that Walker had such skills. They wanted to make him avoid using it for travel since he would have a major advantage. When the winds turned on him, Walker found himself being blown away toward another direction. He was a little annoyed that he had fallen so easily in to the trap. He had no way to fight through the tough winds without trying to directly manipulate the wind. "I'm just human, I don't have wings-" He smirked realizing that he wasn't just a human. He was taking on skills and other things that dragons had. He was bonded with Midnight and was told that he would one day possess skills and features that might make him look more draconic.

"Oh no, what idea did he just get?" Gil hesitated seeing the look he knew so well on Walker's face. However, he had no time to worry since he opened himself up to Alma to attack him again. She had been waiting nearby with the idea to strike as soon as Gil and Walker attacked each other. She could

care less what Walker was going to try since he had opened up the perfect chance to attack Gil. They were training and paying attention was just part of the experience.

Walker on the other hand was caught up in his head. He had the high earth sculpting skill. He was currently surrounded by dusty wind. A mix of earth and wind elemental mana. How could he not understand what would work here? How could he not try and copy the format of Midnight's wings using his skills? He would be a fool not to attempt this now or in the future.

The wind ripple skill might not work but what if he made his own wings out of elemental mana and the materials available? The dust in the air seemed to be caught by an invisible net. It slowly condensed in to the shapes of Midnight's bone covered wings when she used the skeletal armor skill. He used the flowing air to change the shape and flow between the pieces. Adding in the small amount of water elemental mana in the air and freezing the water made the pieces perfectly meld. He was manipulating three elemental manas at once but for whatever reason Walker felt his mind was clear. It was as if he was finding a piece of himself he had been forgetting about.

There was a slight vibration through his body as he completed the shape. He felt the connection with Midnight become slightly stronger as if their bond had been waiting for them to get closer in this way. The wings he crafted looked to be a muddy mess of ice and dirt but had wind that whirled around them. They were a bit too large for his body but when the next gust of wind hit him he felt the natural reaction to push it away. Even the winds of nature seemed as if they would lose their strength compared to him. He continued to condense these elemental manas in to a better shape closer to what he had seen before. He was going to catch the two running from him using his new idea and the dance of seasons; fifth act, symphony of seasons.

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Chapter 1288 1288. Major Strain

"The skill, elemental wings has been taken from the flying wizard system. The user had used three of their elemental manipulation skills to create the skill elemental wings.

Elemental wings- elemental mana based on the elements used to create the wings, 25 mana cost

The elemental wings are created from whatever elemental mana that the user has access to. The user spends a significant amount of mana at once to create a pair of wings out of elemental mana that they can control. The wings will at most last for an hour depending on the mentality of the user. The user can shape and change the form of the wings based on their desires. The wings have the ability to open paths for other skills if the user is able to comprehend the elements that create them.'

Walker didn't even have to speak, Fleur and Zephyr saw that the wind they were playing with wasn't going to throw Walker off anymore. He was easily pushing himself from side to side dodging the gusts and even flying right through them. Walker was laughing out loud completely ignoring the dust that managed to get in to his mouth. He was feeling the same thing that Midnight had desired before she had properly flown. The pure free and open feeling of flying. Of truly flying under his own power.

"That's not fair! You are cheating!" Alma yelled up to Walker as he landed and started to swing his swords toward Gil. But the real combination that made this tricky for Gil was the fact that Walker was using the dance of seasons fifth act; symphony of seasons. This made Walker much better at using the elemental manas around him and more sensitive to them. He was also nimbly dodging the strikes that Gil attempted to hit him with.

"Ugh, you had to go and become some monster of an opponent aging. Well, I have something for that!" Gil pulled out a second dagger. "The desert elves didn't use bows as often as they used two daggers!" Gil used the sudden change of weapons to surprise Walker and deflect both of the swords in Walker's hands. The eternal orb was not going to break but the double strike deflecting the swords sent vibrations through Walker's arms.

"Perfect! Now we can really get going!" Walker spun and used the wings to push off and make distance before rushing back in with another stroke. He could feel the wind helping him even though he knew that Zephyr and Fleur were trying to make things harder. But the way Walker could manipulate the wings made it so that he was comfortable. On top of that, he had chosen dragon wings he had seen used many times. He was familiar!

"Can't forget me, can you?" Alma whipped out a length of blue ivy that caught Walker's elemental wings. There was just enough of a change that made Walker lose his rhythm and unable to turn in time. It made Gil dash inwards and slash one of them off. The wing quickly melted back in to separate elements before Walker began to form them again.

"Big targets...got it," Walker mumbled to himself while realizing he had made himself a better target and forgotten to pay attention in his bliss. This was training and not fun. He could fool around later.

The fact that the skill said that he could use any elements to make the wings was not missed. Walker began to pull on the earth again to create a new wing along with changed the form of the eternal orb in to a shield. He wanted to buy time and free up a hand. He wanted to mix fire in to this wing so that he could use the moving air to fuel it.

The ground beneath them rumbled again and the soil became loose. Alma lost footing and was pulled away before she could whip out with her blue ivy again. Gil narrowly dodged the shifting ground before he saw that Walker had sparked up flames. "Oh come on. That's not fair either!"

The fires burst in to life with the dust and the wind fueling them. The wings formed and the water elemental mana evaporated. There was a loss of foundations as both wings were shaped again before the wind, earth, and fire elemental wings took shape. Walker stood proudly with wings that appeared to be molten rock and wind. He flapped them to cause a myriad of sparks and flames in the wind. It deterred Gil but also showed off how slow of a combination this was. Walker could barely use them for flight and instead decided to use them as a larger jump in the air.

The tactic proved very good as Walker plummeted next to Gil and bashed the eternal orb shield form downwards. Gil was knocked on his butt and Walker stood next to him. Unfortunately, Walker had forgotten the stress that came with using so much mana at once. He had formed the wings twice changing elements. Now he had to deal with the mental strain.

"So...let's call it there...hmm?" Gil took this as a chance to call the training done for now. He wanted to reevaluate how well he had shifted between the forms and how he might be able to change things up. He also understood that Walker would need to look in to this new skill that he had hurriedly created on a whim.

"You might be right." Walker held his head while the wings fell away behind him. Fleur rushed to his shoulder with some concern on her face. Just because Walker could do so much didn't mean he should. Walker constantly taxed his mind and needed to seriously train himself to handle the heavy strain of combining multiple elemental manas at once.

"Hmph all done already?" Alm looked disappointed yet understanding all at the same time when she ran back as the dust settled.

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Chapter 1289 1289. Training Direction

"I might have overdone it there. I use a lot of mana to do things like that and it's a really awesome skill that could help me with more fusion skills. But if I use it I will be out of a fight much faster." Walker had felt the resistance when the blue ivy wrapped around one of the wings and it had been severed. He felt

a lot of his mana leave him. Then he rushed to create new ones and felt even more pressure on top of mana leaving him. It was a risky decision and a lesson he had coming to him for a long time.

"That means you should be doing what all the other mages do. Meditate and do the whole inner peace thing. I prefer one with the forest since I can just relax around trees and plants. But to each and their own." Alma adored her time with the forest and just her and the forest. She felt closer to the elves that had once lived and their roots. The simple peace of the forest was enough for her to reach a calm and happy state no matter what was happening.

"That's a good idea. I think I have put off doing those kinds of things since I don't really see myself as just a mage. I can use so many weapons or skills but I am neglecting the ones that I took on first. I focused on because that's what the party needed. Now I have hit a wall with it and need to figure out how to strengthen my mind and body to use further. That might be why I am a little stuck on using natural mana too." The realization made Walker feel as if he had been a major fool all along. He should have focused on strengthening his body overall. Just like Remey was right now.

"You should head to the mage tower. You said there are elemental floors there right? Then you can train in those and meditate on them. Understand all the elemental manas and figure out how they strain your body. Maybe you will even gain resistance. That's how Su said she would train when she had some free time. She wants to improve her resistance to elemental manas with Midnight." Su had mentioned this in a soft voice while mostly thinking to herself. Gil had been lucky to catch it and remember it off the top of his head.

"I can't imagine how powerful Su will be when she can resist all the elemental manas. She will be invincible." The fact that Alma knew that Su was already resistant to poisons made her a little afraid of Su. Alma relied on her unique blue ivy poison to protect her and just the idea that someone could easily resist it made her wary. Not that she was genuinely afraid of Su, Su was too kind and protective to be feared.

"You say that but Midnight is born naturally resistant. Imagine what will happen if she trains that aspect. Midnight the tank dragon walking through fire and ice to steal your bacon." Gil could see it now. A giant dragon trying to steal the food from his plate.

"Gillllll. Let's go and relax in the trees!" Zephyr wanted to go and replenish the wind elemental mana she had used. She wanted to spend time at the tops of the trees while she watched Gil practice his dagger moves. It was a habit they had gotten in to and Zephyr missed it since she had not been able to do so while she rested in the bow during their last journey. Zephyr normally stayed in the bow just in case Gil needed her at a seconds' notice.

"Ah, you heard my partner. That's that. I will catch up with you both later. Alma, get some real rest. I know you have a meeting but you need to breathe in between." Gil didn't even let Alma talk back. However, Walker managed to see the happy look on her face as she gave them both a wave to walk toward the group of elves that had formed to wait for her.

,m "That just leaves us to practice. Why don't we take the rest of the day to head toward the mage tower and train? Maybe we will lock ourselves up there until the dwarven army is ready to leave. Hardcore training!" Fleur seemed to enjoy this energy. She would be able to absorb more elemental mana and make it in to natural mana. That would help her get stronger and Walker would be able to handle the power he could wield better.

Gil turned his head slightly as he walked away. He had heard what Walker said and made a mental note. He had been worried lately about Walker. The many things that piled up on his shoulder had started to show and Gil wondered if Walker would manage to take the time to train and truly understand the powers he had. The natural mana and the young sage title were much larger than any of them had said out loud. Walker needed to train them.

"Stop spacing out. He will be fine. You need to work on your skills too. Or else you won't be able to keep up with him once he gets a hold of his own skills." Zephyr looked at Gil and tried to pinch his face.

"I know, I know. I can't let my brother get ahead of me. I already let him take the lead too much." Gil had long thought of Walker as family and his brother. But he felt much better saying it. He wanted to support the entire party. He wanted to be rivals with them. He wanted to make sure that he would always be by their side. And to do that Gil would get stronger and unravel the mysteries of elven dagger techniques.

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Chapter 1290 1290. Careful Preservation

The mage tower was busy, very busy. Walker found that the dwarves had more or less left the tower alone except for the core members of their investigation team. The rest were elves and some aspiring rune smiths. The arcane scribe was hard at work drawing careful runes and using multiple elemental crystals on the copies of the scrolls he worked on.

Walker watched from the side while many tried to replicate and make their own scrolls. Some of those with the skills were writing using skills that made Walker wonder. How could they write in the air with

their mana? How could they use metal sheets as scrolls? How could they use only a single elemental mana to create a complicated rune scroll that needed multiple elemental manas? So many different skills were happening to make the same result. However, one thing was certain, they were all focused with their best foot forward. They had found a master at their craft and were doing their best to learn even a small bit of what they could do.

The elemental mana was heavy as a result. The runes on the outside of the tower also seemed to have been repaired to a degree. They were brighter and seemed to be fuller than before. Part of that was the fact that the tower's runes were being cleaned as people researched them. But it was also because the runesmiths that were exploring the lower floors had begun to understand the basic forms of the ancient runes.

The elemental runes in basic form nowadays were very easy to memorize for most people. It was something that Walker had done when he wanted to find ways to use them. His sister Lisa was even able to sew them in to clothing that he now wore. But the ancient runes were more complicated. The basic patterns for the single elemental gathering runes were full of patterns that seemed to fall back on themselves. It was easier to say that they may be multiple runes than one. Yet the pattern would not work without the full rune being drawn. It was a mystery to most that needed to be solved.

"Sir hero, coming inside to do some research?" The guard positioned outside was surprised to see Walker. He had not expected one of the heroes to be there now when the dwarven army was gathering outside of Genesis.

"Yes, research and training. I will be leaving again soon and I need to get myself ready. I will be locking myself away in the tower for a few days." This was something that the newer guard envied. The desire to put everything in to training just to be able to make a difference was inspiring, he wanted to be the same kind of inspiring to others as this younger boy was.

"Then I wish you luck. The floors are calm with some cleaning and such. Many of the translation materials have been removed and preserved. The rest are what is not understood or what is not permitted to be brought out of the tower due to the runes attached to them." The guard nodded and gave the warning. Walker found himself amazed by the tower again. To think that there were rune formations that could be made to keep something from being removed from a specific area was amazing.

"Fleur, just stay close for now. We need to get up the floors to the elemental floors. We will start with water and work our way through all of them. Then we will get to the highest floor possible and see what we can see. I wonder if there are any floors that have been properly unlocked?" There had been a few

floors Walker had not personally been to. Especially the top floor which is for the grand mage when they take over the tower. But they still needed the approval of the tower. However, Walker was sure that there were some hidden floors and passageways. The tower was too tall to contain any such floors.

Those working on the first few floors didn't even flinch as Walker walked in. they were caught up in copying the runes along the tower walls. They were making hand made copies for records and other things. Some were testing the mana output and recording what kinds of mana flowed through them. Others were even carefully cleaning bits of dust and stone from the cracks in the mana. The process was thorough and careful.

"Let's just let them work." Fleur tried to fly off but Walker held her back. He wanted to let the peace and researching atmosphere remain. These runesmiths and archivists were working very hard and he was not the one that would interrupt them. He was proud of this sort of atmosphere and felt great pride seeing those that were recording the history that was almost lost.

His foot hit the steps and he could feel the mana around him becoming denser. The tower was focusing a lot more mana around it now that it was functioning. This realization made Fleur very happy. She became calm and swayed her head back and forth in joy. The air itself was perfect for her to absorb and gain mana. But the higher they went the better it would get. The more she would be able to store and the more she would be able to grow. Before Walker could speak to her again she had melted back into the spirit mark to greedily absorb elemental mana in to it. She was going to be creating natural mana to empower herself and push herself toward becoming the world spirit she wanted to be in the future. Even Walker felt that having a world spirit partner would be an awe inspiring feat, he just hoped that Fleur would still be the fun loving Fleur when she grew up.

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