

## Master 1291

### Chapter 1291 1291. Lost Runes

"Do you really think that Walker will spend all day in the mage tower?" Gil had met up with Alma after he had done some training and Alma had finished her work for the day. It had already been a few hours and no one had seen Walker leave the mage tower. They felt that he had pushed himself a little and was punishing himself by locking himself away.

"Honestly, he is very determined. Look at the ideals he has pulled together here in Genesis. It seemed like everyone had been hesitating to make all these things happen. Every kingdom held back and played along the edges. He was able to come in to a good group of people and push his ideals forward. It was the feather that caused an avalanche." The phrase was not very popular in general but perfectly describes how everything had come together.

The work that the party had done was not major in the grand scheme. It was a small piece of the larger picture. The party had managed to find the common ground that the races could grow on. They found the aspects that all of the races had that could aid each other to grow strong and powerful. Well, I guess I will let everyone know. If I tell Alice she might head in to the tower herself. Not that it would be bad, I think Onyx has already thought of heading here to let the hatchlings go to the light elemental floor and recover their stunted growth." Gil was not wrong. Just at that Moment Onyx had wandered up with Alice.

"Arora, that is Gil and Alma. They are family too." Alice whispered to the little heavenly serpent hatchling in her arms. It raised its head ever so slightly to glance at the two before closing its eyes as if committing their images to memory.

"Did you say that brother is in the tower? That's a good thing. He has been holding off on proper training for other things." Onyx curled up slightly while thinking. "I will head up and wait for him on the light elemental floor. We could use the food and the runes, it's the best place to rest. I will speak with the guards to request that others remain quiet when they get there." Onyx was not going to bother Walker but he would climb to the proper floor so that he could do the most while he waited for Walker.

"Are you all going up to the light elemental floor of the mage tower?" Gil raised his eyebrows while looking at Alice. He wasn't sure if the high priest and everyone else in the cathedral would be too thrilled about her being gone for so long.

"Yes, my father is resting well after I sang for him. He told me to do whatever I need to, to make my future in to what I desire." Alice spoke with the most firmness she had shown in some time. Gil didn't even have the ability to reply.

"Then go ahead inside and train to your heart's content. We will let everyone else know what is going on so they don't worry." Alma took the chance to pull Gil away. She figured that someone should go and tell Su, Remey, and the rest of their family that Walker, Onyx, and Alice would be busy training and making sure they were ready for the future.

While Onyx led the hatchlings in to the mage tower with Alice at his side, Walker was hard at work.

"Fleur, I am going to move up again. We have been to every single floor and meditated but we still haven't found the right spot yet." The problem that Walker had come against was that he felt that he was missing something every single time that he would move up a floor. The mana was too strong and pure making it easy to manipulate but tough to understand. If he focused on a single elemental mana then he would lose his balance and be unable to use natural mana. Not that he had a perfect balance at the moment since his understanding of fire and earth seemed to be the highest.

Walker could feel that Fleur was not comfortable either. She was getting the mana she needed but she was not able to easily mix it. The primary issue was Walker's ability to mix the elemental manas inside his own body with his own mana. Therefore, Walker was now heading upwards searching for a way to get to the higher floors where the elemental runes seemed to go.

"These runes are the same patterns on each of the elemental floors. They don't go back downward so they have to go somewhere." The hope he had was that he would find a place that all of them crossed and he could meditate on balanced mana to better help his overall understanding. Then he would be able to work on his fusion of elemental manas.

"See?! This makes no sense. This floor is so small but the runes are nowhere to be found. I can see where they go in to the ceiling from the lower training floor but then I get here and it's just a small library floor." The place that Walker found was a round maze of a room. The bookshelves were made to wrap around in a circular formation that one needed to wander through to get to the next staircase. But there were no visible runes but for the bookshelves that helped preserve the books in an ancient language. There was also the fact that no one had made any progress translating the language so the floor was abandoned until the archaeologists understood it. Less chance to damage the books. Where could the runes have moved if they continue on the next floor?"

Chapter 1292 1292. Increase In Mana

Walker was nearly crawling on the floor while tracing the spot that the runes should be. He could follow them from the stairs with his eyes but found that there were gaps where the bookshelves sat on the ground. The slight breeze through those gaps was enough to tell him that something did not add up on this floor.

"I know we are close to figuring it out. The bookshelves are all in this pattern and are hard to walk around. Why would they do this for a library floor? Also, why can't we take any of the books out of this room, let alone a few feet from the shelving that they are set up on?"

Walker raised these questions while he slowly stood and tried to pull a book away from its place on the shelf. He found that after he took three or four steps away that he would find himself pulled back by force. It was as if all the elemental mana in the air was forcing him to go back toward the same spot. Nothing made sense until he sighed and put the book back down. In the single movement, he felt the connection of mana flow through the room. But it was broken.

"No way it works like this..." He moved and jumped up to look from the ceiling. He could see that the broken shelves all had the same pattern. They were complicated to walk through but if Walker changed the perspective he could see that they could line up. "If I just try and push like this..." Walker landed and pushed against one of the smaller sections of bookshelves. It slowly started to grind against the stone and move. The gaps were so that the bookshelf could move and fit in to place.

The burst of adrenaline allowed Walker to push the shelves over and over until he heard a clicking. The mana in the room seemed to gain a purpose and flowed toward the shelving. The books became more than just pages. The runes written within each one filtered the elemental mana and caused a change to the room itself.

Dense elemental mana flooded the room as the shelves fell away. The room was not some library floor but an all around elemental gathering floor with plenty of space. "This is amazing." Walker watched as runes formed in the air and faded away as elemental mana flowed through them. Runes had been carved in the very space of the room to cause this phenomenon and attract more elemental mana. It was a feat that no current rune carver or rune smith could boast. All in all, it was a miraculous discovery.

"Fleur! Those runes weren't in the books to show and learn from but they were there to create this room's effect!" The amazement in Walker's voice was matched by the feeling he received from Fleur. She felt that this was the ideal environment for her to absorb all the elemental mana she needed. On top of that Walker could also feel that he would be able to better meditate here to understand the intricacies of elemental manas fusing and breaking away from each other. He would no longer forcefully

balance mana and make them come together, he could learn to easily and harmoniously fuse them in to natural mana faster.

The eternal orb lost shape all of its own and floated in the middle of the room. The balance in the air and the balance within it seemed to make it absorb and find the center point of the room. The eternal orb had not been made to do this but it was an interesting show of what an elemental affinity item could do in an environment high in the elements that it had the affinity for. Walker could theorize that a fire affinity sword would be much stronger and produce better results with high fire elemental mana in the area. But this was a proven fact already, just not in the case of multiple elemental manas.

Unknown to Walker while he began to meditate and understand the elemental manas, he had caused more than just this one floor to change. The runes had responded to this change and many similar shelves began to click and move in to place on other library floors. All were books that were unable to be moved or understood. It was not a problem until now though.

The researchers left behind were stunned to see this happening without any idea of why. They felt the changes and saw the mana adapting to the surroundings. The elemental floors became much purer along with the training floors growing dense in all elemental manas. Those researching the training floors noticed that their spells that revolved around elemental mana cost nearly nothing to cast, making them ideal for learning and training in a specific elemental mana.

"Alice, It seems that brother must have happened on to something good again. We should take advantage." Onyx didn't have a single doubt in his heart that Walker was the cause of this. It was too common for these things to happen and be the cause of someone in the party rather than be random occurrences.

"He's helping us get stronger." Alice showed a look of pure determination. The light elemental floor was nearly blinding to everyone. However, it was the opposite to people like Alice who had very high light elemental affinities. This was comfortable.

Alice removed the bracelet that would hold back her ability to manipulate the light. The heavenly serpent felt that the light elemental mana around them was moving just with Alice's breath. The entire room was sensitive to the slow movements of Alice now. It made for an incredibly challenging training period for her. And she would be doing it until Walker descended the stairs.

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## Chapter 1293 1293. Elise Stops By

"Onyx?" Elise had found the message left for her from Onyx about the hatchling abyssal serpents. However, she was fairly surprised that she had received a second from Gil that Onyx was secluding himself in the mage tower and that she could find him there if she needed.

The trek up the stairs was not what Elise had expected since she would normally not have done this at all. However, it was for someone she knew and would gladly help them. There was also the fact that she had found herself running around and being forced to act very maturely lately. The position at the tamer's guild branch was proving to be not so temporary. Not that she was unhappy with it, she found an affinity for the leadership of this tamer's guild branch since she was able to work well with the younger tamer's coming. Her harsh but fair leadership style allowed the new tamers to grow and the veteran tamer's to branch out in to their full potentials as teachers.

"Elise! I was wondering if you would come or wait for me to visit you after brother leaves here. I found the best place for the hatchlings to grow. Alice is here too with the heavenly serpent. I just wish I had thought to bring the other abyssal serpent eggs and heavenly serpent eggs here." The eggs were still in the cathedral locked in with plenty of light elemental crystals to help their growth.

"You know that I would come and let myself free for a while. It gave Stella and my little crow the chance to fly around the top of the tower and explore too. She has wanted to sit on top of it since it showed up but we have been making sure that a few new avian tamers were down to earth. They get one tamed monster and they think that they are ready to go off and explore the skies. Do they not understand that there are bigger and badder monsters in the air?" This was a recurring problem with most tamers since they were an exploratory group as it was leading to the loose guild rules and regulations.

"I understand, you look like you deserve a break." Onyx was kind enough to make space so that Elise could sit. Alice had taken notice at this point and began softly humming a song. The simple soft hum made the light elemental mana calm down and a healing aura to generate around them. If one was not paying close attention, they would miss how carefully Alice was to keep herself quiet. The mana was reacting very drastically to her due to the high density of it.

"Thank you Alice, I needed that. So, you seem to have found what you have been looking for, and more." Elise had heard the rumors and was not unhappy to hear that Onyx had succeeded. She had wanted to come and satiate her curiosity for what the heavenly serpent looked like as soon as she had heard as well. The man that was selling the monster eggs had made time to let her know what he had available for the young tamers to raise. It helped the guild quite a bit.

,m "We did. These are the hatchlings that have come out of their eggs and needed the time to absorb more light to catch up. That is Arora the heavenly serpent. They are all family. I do not have the ability to raise the eggs, educate the little ones, and be part of my party. My family will need me at different times and I will need help. Can you provide a few tamers? I don't want them to tame these hatchlings, that needs to be a mutual agreement. But there should be people with an affinity for monsters with light elemental affinities." The seriousness transmitted to Elise was powerful enough for her to sit straight up.

"I can easily help with that. I already checked out a few people and found someone that happens to be in retirement after passing down their position for the second time. I already reached out to them and think that they will be able to help you very much. He has a unique system that deals with summoning light elemental creatures from another plain." The smirk that Elise had shown that Onyx and Alice could easily guess exactly who she was speaking about.

"You managed to get the previous adventurer's guild master to come here? How?" Onyx was taking his turn to be surprised. He knew that Alice was holding herself back due to the sensitivity to the light elemental mana in the air and added a little extra emphasis on his mental communication.

"Well, he has family here in Genesis now. He has heard everything that has been going on and was able to properly train someone to take over these past months. Now he is coming for a real retirement to enjoy the hustle and bustle here. On top of that, he can give a certain guild master some tips if she needs them." Onyx wasn't sure what Clara would say to this but he felt it was a good way for life to progress.

"Then I look forward to his help! Remember that all of you will be in a friend's care. I will introduce you all to his family, Clara, our party manager, later." Onyx saw the little hatchlings raise their heads in agreement. While they had been in the tower he had been teaching them the basics and they had learned to understand most speech from Onyx. the additional light elemental mana seemed to be fueling their growth. Arora had a similar understanding but she remained sleepy. Alice could tell that it was just the state that Arora needed to be in to develop her foundations as a hatchling and just gave in to holding her wherever she went.

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## Chapter 1294 1294. The Bonds Seen

Elemental mana flowed around Walker. He was using the eternal orb to condense and store as much as the orb could hold. From there he was slowly mixing the manas together to create the natural mana that he would need to use better skills and manipulate elemental mana with more fluidity. However, the mental strain was where he was feeling the pressure.

Since Walker had dedicated himself to mostly al skills he had been constantly taxing his mind and body. He had decent strength and endurance due to their travels and the fact that whenever he trained he would use movement skills in some form. Yet, he had skipped out on the long periods of meditation that most mages would do to expand their mind and strengthen it. Being able to find their own calm in the midst of elemental chaos was why a mage would be able to do great and wondrous things with their elemental .

It wasn't that Walker had not meditated before. But it was too short of a time. He should have taken a longer and slower method to understand each elemental mana. Now he was left with a rougher use of elemental mana that had been trained through pressure and experience. This was not all bad since it led to him having the high earth sculpting skill and a better understanding of earth elemental mana in general.

Walker had been able to grasp the fire elemental mana better because of his bond with Midnight along with the training he did originally. One of the first elemental skills he had was fire bolt which he rarely used now due to his recent focus on other elemental manas and physical combat. If he was able to put some time in to truly understanding fire and potentially understanding the golden flames that Midnight breathed, he might make a major breakthrough and could create draconic flames.

There was also the potential to understand dark elemental mana better. He had the shadow wrapping skill along with the black flames which were rarely used. But other than that he had only manipulated them here and there in reference to training and light elemental mana. This was also the case with light elemental mana since he rarely used the skills he had that revolved around it. They were hard to use for him because of his lower understanding.

The positive was that Walker had already delved in to these elemental manas. He had used them to learn skills and had the grand elemental manipulation. On top of that, he could manipulate natural mana. This went even further when Fleur joined him to manipulate the manas.

"Alright Fleur, I am going to try and meditate the right way. I read it in a book that a master mage wrote. It was only a copy but it was enlightening. All the meditation I have done has been nothing real compared to how this is supposed to go." Walker prepared himself and took a deep breath. He had the perfect environment, the perfect instructions, and the time before the golem army would head out to go after the dwarves' enemies; giant earth ants.

"I have no body....I am only mana....flow with the mana around me and take the journey through its life..." Walker repeated words that he remembered from the writings. This was mostly to control his breathing and calm his mind. Everything was buzzing around him since he had become very sensitive to elemental mana through his bond with Fleur. However, he felt it was calming. He was almost more at home when surrounded by this dense elemental mana than he normally was.

There was a warmth spreading from his beach where Fleur was pulling the eternal manas toward the spirit mark. The eternal orb hovered over Walker's head as it directed even more elemental manas toward him. He could tell that the mana was mixing slowly but that was not his focus. What he was focusing on now was how his body interacted with the mana.

Walker knew that he had the problem where his mana would bleed out of him due to the over absorption and strain he had placed on his mind and body. His body couldn't store the mana within it because there was weakness. Yet, for some reason, Walker felt that he was actually becoming stronger. Every single breath brought in different elemental manas and allowed his body to separate from his mind.

It was almost as if Walker was looking down on himself. He could see how the different elemental manas of the world melded in to his human body. He even could see faint twinges of red strings around him. As his mind calmed he was able to feel that these were the bonds he had. One with Fleur that speckled with every elemental mana. It nourished and shared his spirit with her and vice versa.

The storing that had small black and white speckles around it was clearly Walker's bond with Onyx. it seemed to disappear then become bright again and again. Walker felt that he was inheriting some of Onyx's unique characteristics. He could feel that over time the connection would be more than just a bond but one that shared skills and traits.

The most powerful was the bond with Midnight. The string was thick and golden flecks danced around it. Walker could tell that it came from the unending trust he and Midnight shared. There was an untold connection that shared their souls with one another, therefore, sharing Midnight's true dragon champion bloodline with Walker to a very small degree. This was also how Midnight gained the natural mana affinity from Walker.

All of them were connected and Walker felt that he was understanding his own being much more while he allowed his body to bond and become shaped by these forces. The natural mana was building up as it melded with his body.



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## Chapter 1295 1295. Proper Meditation

'The user has properly meditated. The skill arcane meditation has been taken from the grand mage system. The user has learned the skill Arcane meditation'

'Arcane Meditation- passive

During a deep meditation, the user is able to disconnect their body and mind to look within themselves. They are able to search for the connections and affinities that they have to shape their minds and bodies better to accumulate and use said connections and affinities. If the user is damaged due to a backlash or severe damage caused by their use of mana this skill can assist them in rebuilding their body using the natural mana and stored energy within their body. Time varies depending on affinities, user mentality, and mana in the surrounding area. The user can use mana to enhance their body to a degree based on multiple factors such as; affinity, bloodlines, training, current possessions, current condition,...

Walker found that the arcane meditation skill came with a myriad of information. This alone gave him many things to think about and work toward. However, what he focused on was the fact that this skill could allow him to slowly strengthen his body with surrounding elemental mana. That meant that he could fix his weakness from abusing mana while also enhancing the bonds with those he cared about.

His body was normal for a human when it came to the adventuring he had done. Walker was not overly muscular but was not the same as his well built father who had gone through rigorous training with the guards since he unlocked his system at a young age. His mother was even fairly muscular due to the kitchen work she had done. Lifting pounds of ingredients every day was nothing to laugh at.

What really struck Walker was that his body had already obviously started to change. He could make out the parts of his body that had begun to express affinity for elemental manas along with the natural mana that he was able to manipulate now. Unfortunately, he could see small parts around his hands and feet where mana had rushed out while using skills causing his body to lose mana circulation.

This new view of himself brought some stress but enlightenment. Being able to rebuild his body and properly heal a wound that he could not see or even understand before was spectacular. There had been healers that mentioned the flow of mana in a person's body but Walker had never realized that he had been missing their true meaning. They had spoken of how mana moved and came to be within a person. He had not realized at the time that they were not speaking of their mana being able to flow and heal someone. Therefore, Walker came to the conclusion that some healers must have the skills to see how wounds permeated a body and an alternate skill that might show damage involving mana flow.

Yet this skill must be very rare since it wasn't spoken about often. Most likely this skill rarely had a chance to manifest in basic churches and cathedrals since people only had physical injuries.

Thoughts of Su and Midnight having resistances to elemental manas entered Walker's mind. He could clearly see the strong bond with Midnight and knew what it meant. But he could also see that there was more to it. The bond went further than just him and small threads of mana left him to leave the area completely. His theory was that they connected to Midnight and eventually to Su. If Walker allowed the bond to mingle with his body over long periods of time he might gain better resistances and strengths like Su and Midnight. But what if he focused on it and used the natural mana to nurture it? What if he used this new arcane meditation skill to assist his healing? Would he be fully human? No, he had already accepted this and only cared that he would be able to still help others and remain with his family.

The room reacted to Walker's will stabilizing. As soon as he had committed to using the mana to heal himself in this way and enhance the strength of his bonds, the elemental mana calmed before rotating around him. The reaction was the exact same as inside the eternal orb which formed natural mana doing the same action. Thus, when he saw that the eternal orb was at the center, Walker felt it was only right.

Fleur stirred for the first time after Walker had fallen in to this meditation. She could sense the desire Walker had and how he would do it. As a high nature spirit, she was on the path to becoming a world spirit. She wanted to push high, and learn to speak the way Zephyr did as a grand spirit. Fleur wanted to reach higher and understand what it meant to be what she was. The feelings of the elemental spirits that had fused to create her were now solidified within her, the awe that they had when Walker asked them to remain with him was even more powerful. Her reaction was simple, guide the mana to form together faster and use it to help Walker while strengthening herself.

Unknown to Walker and Fleur, their actions were affecting the mage tower even more. The area that it was able to affect with its runes was growing slightly due to the library floor being put back in to place. The entire city would gain benefits. However, Midnight also felt everything. She felt the very core of her being tremble as Walker began to feed their bond more mana. She could feel the desire to grow and become someone those would look up to. It perfectly lined up with the pride and strength Midnight saw herself having as a dragon. Her flight training seemed unimportant, instead, she started to rush toward the mage tower, driven by determination.

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Chapter 1296 1296. Can't Sit Still

"Sister? Are you here for brother?" Onyx had felt the very same thing as Midnight. What Walker had not understood initially was that his bonds with Onyx, Fleur, and Midnight were all intertwined with his soul

to deeper depths than anyone could comprehend. Therefore, when Walker began focusing on the bond he had with Midnight, he had started to enhance the bond with Onyx as well. Not to mention, with Fleur.

Thai made Onyx feel the same determination and drive to run to Walker's side. To fuel himself to grow and stand taller. The only reason Onyx had remained where he was, was the fact that he had made the call to remain with the hatchlings. Onyx also did not dare to interrupt Walker's training. Walker had committed to training alone for a reason and if he ruined that, Onyx would be unable to cope with his feelings. He would have let Walker down.

When Midnight huffed in acknowledgment, Onyx saw the slight golden sparks around her teeth. Her fire seemed to be growing in intensity as she absorbed more elemental mana herself. Onyx would have said something if he was not having a similar reaction. The combination of Walker's skills and the mage tower's ability to increase elemental mana was greatly helping the pair to grow. Onyx could feel himself getting closer to his center. What made him him and where his strength came from.

Midnight, on the other hand, was feeling clearer. She could tell that the blood she had and the body she possessed had been mixed. The dragon champion bloodline had been thin until the system upgraded her after their quest. It had happened but it was not enough to make her completely a dragon champion. She had been growing faster because she had pushed herself to grow and become what she desired. Yet that was not enough, she needed to purify herself which was something that all royal dragons did. They would focus on purifying the elemental mana they took in to become the best at that single elemental mana. Midnight had to do the same to become the true dragon champion that she was already boasting to be.

"I am unsure of what Brother is doing, but I believe that Su will be here any moment as well. We only have a few days left until they leave again. I know you will go too. Help me show these hatchlings how to defend themselves before you go off without me?" Onyx knew that Midnight was losing her patience for sitting still. Alice was carefully sitting and testing her skills with the heavenly serpent resting on her lap. Onyx wasn't needed on the light elemental floor and he could sit there with the hatchlings once the rest of the party went off. He also could feel the energy thrumming inside of him and wanted to push his body to its limits.

The training floors in the mage tower were many. They had special runes to defend against elemental mana and physical attacks. Some of the rune smiths had even theorized that if they were damaged that the rune formations were made in the air to repair the damaged section. It was an incredibly advanced rune formation that astonished them and could not even be attempted for replication because of the extremely high level of detail within them. In theory, it would take generations even to be able to understand a portion of them.

The serpents understood that Onyx had referred to fighting as a way to protect them from predators. They had their instinctual skills and battle techniques. That was simple for them. However, that did not mean they had any ability to fight. They were all prey to a world of predators, but Onyx would change that. He wanted every hatchling to not only be wise enough to choose their path, but also to be able to defend that path.

"You all know that you can hide in shadows, but eventually you will be able to hide your true size and strength within your shadow. I have seen the proper adult size of our species and I am still small, but I am not weak anymore." Onyx started to reveal his true size to the hatchlings that had yet to see it. They knew he could grow but they had not seen how large Onyx really was. They just thought that Onyx possessed a skillet that lengthened his shadow.

Since Onyx had last taken his full form, he had grown. His scales became sharper looking from his elemental training to create armor using elemental mana. But that wasn't the real change. There were small spiked scales that became more pronounced around his face showing off a vicious exterior perfect for battling against others.

The reaction that Midnight had was to stand taller and raise her head. Her wings flapped out ready to jump in to the air. The hatchlings could feel her growl shake the air while the mana was pulled toward her mouth. It was instinct for them to try and hide away in the shadows with the energy around the two about to battle it out in training.

Onyx's tail whipped around at a speed that caused the air in the room to become a torrent of currents. Midnight responded by jumping up and flapping her wings to bring her right next to him. She tried to lash out with her claws but found that Onyx had become tougher. His scales easily defended the sharpened dragon claws.

"Sister, do not think that I have been holding myself back. I want to stand beside you, not behind." Onyx spoke in her mind with more force. Midnight had always seen Onyx as a little brother, someone weaker than her. It wasn't out of negativity but habit. She was the older sibling and naturally, she would be stronger. Finding that Onyx was able to stay firm and hold off her attacks surprised her, but it also encouraged her. She would not treat Onyx as little or weaker anymore. She was going to train all out and the two would get stronger together. Her roar and Onyx's hiss of challenge were felt throughout the tower along with the feedback from their bond with Walker.

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## Chapter 1297 1297. Feeling Fuzzy

"Su, are you alright?" Gil had made it back to the mansion some time ago. He had let Remey know what was going on but she had been unable to stop her work to go back with him to eat. She was swamped with paperwork and herbs that were flowing in to the guild. On top of all that, she had taken some responsibility to direct the adventurers not to head toward the ravines in the field lands where they may accidentally encounter the giant earth ants. That left Su and Gil alone for dinner, but Su was clearly distracted.

"Things just feel...off. I'm warmer than usual and my head is fuzzy. But I have energy. It's strange. I...I'm not really sure." Because Su was bonded with Midnight as her guardian, Su could feel the strengthening of bonds through Midnight. But she did not realize that she was also that close to Walker through Midnight. They shared a unique bond that held them closer than most people would notice. She did understand to some degree though.

"Of course she feels it! She is covered in mana right now." Zephyr was idly floating about the room with a bored demeanor. The earth spirit had melded in to Su's spirit mark earlier in the day and Su had not fully understood why.

"She is? Is that why I feel like the wind is weaker?" Gil had noticed the change but was unsure what was going on. He had just assumed the winds had shifted like they normally would as time went on in the day.

"What?" wait...The mana is what?" Gil was very surprised to see that Su had heard what Zephyr had said. normally they didn't all understand Zephyr since they didn't have the ability to speak with her properly. Su had an earth spirit mark so she didn't understand every single elemental spirit.

"Did you use those scrolls that Walker had made already? I know he had a bunch sent here but getting the skill is really hard." Gil was temporarily distracted before he remembered what the real issue was. "If it's because of mana, well, you know what's going on in the tower. Maybe it has to do with Midnight too. She apparently rushed there to train." Since it had all been going on for more than a day at this point many of the mages were in an uproar about the tower's reactions. The mana alone was extremely beneficial to the entire city.

They both started to understand what the situation might be as Zephyr waited for the inevitable reaction. Su jumped up with her mind still a little fuzzy while Gil nearly hopped the table to keep her standing. "If this has to do with them then you need to rest. You are Midnight's guardian, right? You went through a ritual to make that proper. You are much closer to each other than I think you know. It's

the same as your partnership with the earth spirit. You two are one and the same at this point." Gil had already become very close with Zephyr and could tell that Su was experiencing something unique.

"I just need to see... What's going on?" When Su looked up Gil was caught speechless. Her eyes were not the normal eyes he was used to. She had some skills that revolve around draconic eyes but now she had the appearance that matched it. Su's pupils were thin slits exactly the same as a dragon's. There appeared to be a slight fire within them.

"No, you are going to rest and take this slow. I will stay here until you feel things clearing up. Just focus on your mana and body. I will be here." The change was enough for Gil to completely understand that the dragon blood was reacting again the same way it had when Su first finished the ritual with Midnight. She was adapting and changing before his eyes and he was not going to walk away when she needed him.

Su had been clear on her initial reasons for becoming an adventurer. Her mother had been ill and needed constant care from her and her father. That had inspired Su to be closer to the cathedral and many other things that revolved around healing. If Gil could not stay with her then how could he ever stand beside her again? He had a lot to live up to already when compared to Su's caring nature.

While putting Su to bed, Gil wondered just what was going on. He knew things would end up strangely but this was much more in depth. "Stop worrying. I can tell this is good. I want to rush there too. It's a feeling that the mana is being guided there. I wouldn't be surprised if more spirits are there too. Fleur might be getting stronger. I wonder if she will be like me soon." Zephyr could feel a pull on her that she had not felt since the day that she became a grand wind elemental spirit. She had felt this pull when she had come to be and was given a name by the world. It reminded her of the past she had lived and the many years she had slept. It reminded her of what she was and how she would keep living now.

"I know you are right, but that doesn't make it easier. I want to protect my family too. But they seemed to be running in to hurdles everywhere. If I can't figure everything out on my end, then how I will stand with them?" Gil had felt the exact same way as everyone else. They didn't all admit it but they all felt it. They were a family after all. They weren't together just out of pure luck. They had met as if guided by fate.

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Chapter 1298 1298. Change And Mystery

Gil stayed beside Su until her small fever faded and Su was resting calmly. It had taken more than a day to come back down and when he finally left her room he collapsed to sleep in his own. Onyx and

Midnight had trained straight for a full day before returning to the light elemental floor. Onyx rested there while also teaching the abyssal serpents more basic knowledge. Midnight had traveled to each elemental floor to specifically train her elemental breath attacks, her current goal was to be able to use them in a faster and more efficient manner while battling.

Remey had returned to the mansion to hear what was going on. This left her to return to the alchemy guild and keep working there. Luckily she had managed to get things settled so that she would be able to leave with the dwarven golem army. It had taken a lot of work and talking but the way she partnered with the adventurer's guild really helped. Clara had some staff from diamond's adventurer's guild branch to come over and assist. It was mostly due to the fact that most adventures left the other branches to join the competition. It was too valuable of an opportunity.

This allowed Walker to finish his training in peace. He had been trying to keep track of time with the assistance of Fleur. When the days had passed he didn't even notice the hunger or any fatigue. Instead, he felt that he had rested for longer and deeper than ever before. There was a feeling of clarity and energy that he had not had in a very long time.

The injuries to the flow of mana that Walker had had were nearly erased and replaced with healthy working mana flows. The bonds that he had were much stronger with the constant nurturing. There were some skills that he felt he could utilize better, one such skill was the dragon's intimidation skill which took the form of a roar.

What truly stood out was the slight change to his physique. Walker was not a small person but was definitely on the lean side. Now he had easily grown an inch and was slightly more muscular. The aura he had around him was strength and confidence. It exceeded how he looked prior by leaps and bounds. On top of all of that, he could feel every single movement of mana around him.

The skills he had refined to the same level of high earth sculpting were those of the other elemental manas. They had all combined together to create the high elemental sculpting skill which worked along with the grand elemental manipulation skill. One allowed him to manipulate all elemental manas faster and the other to a finer degree of control. Overall, Walker had a better control of his skills which would in turn allow him to better use his skills without causing damage to himself or others.

There were other changes but Walker couldn't fully grasp them yet. He knew that his body had changed and that he was definitely not fully human. He could feel it. However, his system still said human and he was not going to fight the world on that. He decided to keep meditating when he could to properly grow in the direction of a mage while also working on physical combat when he could. Other things like

blacksmithing, alchemy, and crafting would be on hold. However, he knew he would have a long life and would return to them after he had straightened out the current problems he faced.

Currently, he was looking at the eternal orb. Fleur had sat upon it and absorbed an insane amount of natural mana that Walker had been assisting her to gather. The influx seemed to be the key that Fleur needed.

'The world has recognized that the high nature spirit Fleur had fully grown in to her proper form as a grand nature spirit. The world smiles upon the child born. The name given by the world and the grand nature spirit will not be revoked. The grand nature spirit Fleur will rest to connect to the will of the world.'

The small notification caused Walker to think. he knew that technically Fleur was a grand spirit already. However, she only had the strength of a high elemental spirit and he had begun to go along with that. But seeing that the world was more or less testing her to see if she could make it made a lot of sense. The will of the world was a mysterious thing that no one understood. Manby prayed to the world or the lore of creation, or gods. How things came to be was a mystery and many had their own ideas.

Yet, what separated everything from the will of the world was the fact that the will of the world showed itself in the system. That meant that whatever it was had control of a lot of things and would always be guiding beings whether they knew it or not. Some did not follow the guidance but that was free will at play.

Fleur seemed to melt in to mana and form back on Walker's back. She had somehow gone in to the spirit mark on his back which had become more detailed of a pattern while the pair meditated and created the natural mana that was now stored within the eternal orb, spirit mark, and Fleur. Walker wasn't sure what else to think but he had long made a rule about the will of the world. Don't overthink it because it is a mystery he is not ready to solve just yet. That being the case, he stood up to stretch and smiled feeling the clarity and calmness spreading through his mind and body. He couldn't wait to go and see his family.

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Chapter 1299 1299. Seeing Changes

No sooner had Walker's foot touched the last step to the light elemental floor of the mage tower had Midnight pounced on him. She could feel him coming through their bond like a sixth sense. Her, Onyx, Alice, and all the hatchlings had been hard at work training, absorbing mana, and overall improving themselves since they had made the decision to wait for Walker. They had their own improvements but



they all felt that they missed immensely. Training in seclusion had been stressful since none of them had done much else.

"I know I went and locked myself away but you don't have to tackle me to the ground every time. What happens when you get bigger or are in your dragonkin form?" Walker laughed and did his best to hug Midnight before trying to push her off of him. However, Midnight was frozen at the moment. She was smelling Walker and noticed that the scent he gave off had a slight change. The closer she looked the more she noticed. The changes in his muscles and the slight spark in his eyes were too clear. They screamed for attention.

"I know I'm a little different. I made a mirror using ice and I think I finally look like the adventurer true hero title holder that has been going through multiple trials to help build a city." The additional proud attitude also came with the support of Midnight who could only agree with the statements. She wanted Walker to get stronger and be able to be with her longer. She had a very small fear that she would get older and stronger ahead of her family making her unable to explore with them. It was a fate that she believed she might face because she was a dragon that should live a very long time.

The hatchlings were much more active seeing Walker this time. They had been learning and trying to get a hold of what was going on in the world. This time training and absorbing large amounts of light elemental mana had improved their unhealthy state from being dormant by leaps and bounds. Now they were much more healthy and ready to see the world. On top of that, Onyx had been sure to share all the stories and lessons his family had been teaching him while he grew. But the mix of little shadowy noodles still made Walker stifle additional Laughter. If Onyx played his cards right he might have a sea of abyssal serpents in the shadows.

"Brother, welcome back. We have been waiting for you." The pride in Onyx's voice was matched by the tall stature he held. While training with Midnight for the past few days he had unconsciously caught the habit that Midnight had to raise her head higher when he spoke of things she was proud of.

"I can see that. It seemed like you and Midnight both have a bit more of a glow around you. I can't wait to see what you figured out. But you didn't stay here the entire time, right?" Walker looked at Alice, who was still silently standing but clearly tired. Even the heavenly serpent showed a small amount of fatigue due to its young age.

"We can shortly after you begin to train. We could feel it and needed to be near." Onyx didn't even lie. They had all been there.

"I see. Well, then that's good but it's time to eat." Walker let Onyx and Midnight take the lead while he went to Alice and the heavenly serpent. "I see you are doing well Arora, it's nice to see your eyes have become more lively but it seems that they have tired you out." Arora accepted the small head pat from Walker and closed her eyes. Alice on the other hand started giving Walker a serious look, "Should I take it you have made a pretty great breakthrough too?"

The way Alice looked at Walker spoke more than anything she could say, however, when she opened her mouth and started to sing softly. The light elemental mana began to gather in to many images of Onyx and Midnight training against each other. The hatchlings were always watching in the periphery while images of Alice training and singing while the others battled it out appeared. Walker was amazed by the new level of control and detail that came from the soft singing that Alice had begun. It had been a short time but it was all too clear that Alice had fully focused purely on control of her voice and how she manipulated the elemental mana. It was similar to what Walker had done but in a constant direction of a single elemental mana.

"That's...wow." His words failed him. He could only look around in awe until Alice stopped and gave a triumphant smile. "You know you are amazing right?" The realization that he was openly complimenting the woman he cared for was completely over Walker's head. He had said it in a way that spoke of how stunned he was for the beauty that Alice could create with just a few words of a song.

Alice's reaction was better than Walker expected and found that she had kissed him before he had even opened his mouth to say another word. He couldn't help but become stunned all over again while she started to nudge him toward the stairs toward the lower floors. On them, she hummed softly. Even though they were entering the other elemental floors there was still light that gathered and showed Walker the training that she and the others had done. The images enlightened him and showed just how hard they had worked at the same time as he had been training to his maximum as well. The entire family was going to be more powerful in the future and that was a fact.

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#### Chapter 1300 1300. Busy Markets

The mages that had been held back by Onyx and Midnight when they had run through the tower to investigate the changes were full of energy as they witnessed Walker strolling down the floors and out the front entrance to the mage tower. They had been waiting to see if the high floors had the same changes and wanted to witness everything possible. They had more or less understood the changes that had occurred but needed to solidify what was going on in more detail. They had not known that runes could be used in such ways to such degrees. It was a major breakthrough just to know that this was possible.

As Onyx noticed that Alice and Walker were both a little focused on each other and red faced he understood what was going on. He knew that Alice had been waiting to get to a higher level of understanding to show off to Walker along with proof that she could stand beside him. It was a major part of her desires for the future and the entire walk down the tower she had been doing so.

What Walker didn't realize was that she had been doing it all without wearing the bracelet that controlled her mana from leaking out with every sound she made. She had increased her control to a level that was beyond what had been expected in such a short time. The intense determination and sole focus were the cause.

As they left the area around the tower, Alice slipped the bracelet back on her wrist with a smirk. She grabbed on to Walker's hand ready to make the most before he left. She had waited and trained. Aurora moved herself to wrap around Alice's other arm. She had found it a comfortable spot since Alice had a habit of moving her hands while singing. This allowed Aurora to see better and absorb the light elemental mana that drew near them.

"It looks like the city is pretty busy right now." Walker noticed the increase in dwarves immediately. Many were selling and buying as much as they could. The influx had been partially due to the start of competitions. There were adventurers that encountered monsters while out hunting for herbs , therefore, causing the materials sold in the market to be plentiful. Yet the major reason so many dwarves were there was because they had used the movement of the golem army as personal guards all the way to Genesis. Their travel speed had been much faster with the golems pulling carriages nonstop.

Many were trying to approach the nearby elemental spirits and make friendships. Some elves were even helping to negotiate for lucky dwarves that had managed to make friends since coming to the city. That didn't mean they were all lucky. The elemental spirits were a little picky when it came to wanting a partner that could true spirit forge something for them. It was the same for anybody in the world. The match had to be just right.

"I think we lost Onyx and Midnight, I think they ran ahead and now I can't see them anywhere." Walker wasn't at all annoyed but had to pretend. He was actually very happy to have the time to walk back to the mansion with Alice alone. The market was busy but he had the chance to just be with her.

"Did you hear the king's orders? He is sending us all out tomorrow in three squads. Apparently, a scout found that the ants have three queens and the splitting of the nest was what caused the collapses, earthquakes, and waking up of the ants. That kind of thing only happens every few years." The gossiping group of merchants were loud enough to draw attention toward their stalls. They had the full intention of getting people to purchase things to learn more. It was a sneaky trick.

"If the giant earth ants are going to cause that much trouble then I see why the dwarves acted so fast. I always feel like I'm learning." While Walker thought about the ants splitting up and becoming three colonies he knew that each would need to find its own territory to live in or go to war. That meant there was a high chance of the ants traveling far and wide to any village, city, and environment to settle down. It would be a disaster.

p "Will you need me?" The soft spoken question made Walker hesitate. He wanted to say yes to Alice right away. She could easily make a difference against the ants. They were large targets and could be hit from a distance. However, this was something that was not up to him. He should not put the choice to whether he wanted her there.

"It's not up to me. You have responsibilities to Aurora and the other eggs if you want to help them. But you also need to decide if you will risk going there. The ants don't seem to be the most powerful monsters there are. But there are many of them and we can get overwhelmed. The experts are the dwarves and I want to learn from them while using my skills to help." while the response was not the exact answer that Alice had wanted, she decided it was better.

"We will come. Aurora will learn with me." The decision was not swift but took Alice a moment. She could help heal along with fighting. It wasn't just that but she knew that she would have people trustworthy to help with the eggs and Onyx. She wanted the opportunity to leave the city again. Not to mention that she worried about when the dragons would arrive. Walker would be surrounded by powerful beings, she felt that she needed to be stronger too so that she would still stand out. The look she wore on her face said that she refused to change her mind on this.

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