

Master 1331

Chapter 1331 1331. More Impossible Things

Walker found that the arcane scribe was right where he had been the last time he had visited the mage tower. "And here I was worried you might not be around," Walker smirked while he spoke. He was surprised about how many scrolls were around along with how many other people had appeared attempting to learn from him.

"I can't very well leave. I have a fair bunch here to learn about what I do. And I still have some of your order to complete." From what Walker could see the arcane scribe was only partially telling the truth. With so much help he had definitely more than completed the order for Genesis. But with so many there to learn from him, it appeared that the arcane scribe had met his match. He didn't want to travel away before he felt accomplished enough in his teaching.

"This is a guest of Genesis. His name is Mordant, he is a royal darkness dragon. I brought him to meet you since I want to give him some of the scrolls that contain the spirit speaking skill. He already has a partner that travels with him. I hope to help them speak to each other properly." There was a hint of surprise in the arcane scribe's eyes since it was not every day that a dragon visited him.

"I can make that happen. I need someone to judge the work of these youths around me. Some of them have perfected copying the scrolls. I do need to remind you that they are not guaranteed to work every time or teach a skill perfectly. Most you will never be able to learn the skill in life." There were many strong emphases on the words. It appeared that the arcane scribe had to say these a decent few times to people that would not believe him or chose to ignore his words and get angry anyways.

"This was explained clearly to me. I do not expect miracles but appreciate the task you have been working on. I look forward to using such items." Mordant had a tall and appreciative tone. But in no way did it let any of the strength and pride in his aura escape. He was still a dragon that demanded respect.

"That stack there are about thirty. Take them as you please. I will continue my work." Walker wanted to watch the work but knew that creating a scroll would be insanely hard without the proper rune knowledge. Walker would need to study and practice drawing runes over and over to even think about making the most basic of scrolls.

Walker took some while Mordant also did. They both nodded to the arcane scribe and headed toward the tower entrance. They both knew that the skill to speak to elements spirits was valuable and Mordant was making a mental note to repay Walker at a later date.

"The floors might be crowded because there was a breakthrough recently. There were a lot of floors just with books that couldn't be taken away from them. They were full of runes making them very hard to understand let alone read. Eventually, I was meditating trying to get elemental mana to flow in all the rooms to one floor. I pushed the shelves a certain way and they fell in to the floor. That was how we found the longest rune formation yet. It was more or less a trial and error random occurrence but worth the investment since it increased the output of the tower. The runes had not fully been active yet." The fact that this was the case was stunning. Everyone knew the time that went in to rune carving. For there to be so many in books that connected to create an enhancement was incredible.

"I am more interested in those that created such a place. Have you discovered anything that specifies the race?" Since Mordant knew of most races, he thought he might have some answers for Walker.

"Nothing at all. We haven't even found records of what they were. No relations to current races. From what we understand, they left the underground for some reason, most likely dangerous monsters, then they created the desert city which was later taken over by the desert elves before they in turn perished. The reason that they left the city is unknown but they left intentionally after understanding elemental runes to a certain degree."

"Interesting. I have not heard of such records before. I will approach the keeper on my journey home. It will shine some light on things if I ask correctly. He is wise but very careful in what he divulges. There is always the potential to cause strife with certain information." This was true. Walker could understand that saying certain things could cause trouble. Especially if it was related to where an entire race could disappear to.

Hopefully, the older ruins underground will shed more light on how they developed. But without bones or anything fully intact we haven't seen much. They haven't even shown themselves in their murals on walls. That's very different from the other races we have seen. They did depict many ancient monsters though. Some are obviously monsters we have now but in their highest forms. It could help many people understand monsters and hope they may become their own races. I feel that the harpies will become the next recognized race. They had been taking over the mail delivery and growing in importance."

This mentioning of becoming a proper race made Mordant recall the grey haired spiders and goblins. He had seen a few wandering about but not many. The idea that monsters were claiming their race and intelligence was unheard of. These things were not an easy thing to come by in any historical records of the world let alone all in one generation.

Chapter 1332 1332. Scroll After Scroll

While the thoughts of monsters gaining their chances to be their own respected races swam in Mordant's head. Walker guided him upwards through the tower. Not a single person researching the runes could even look up. They were completely trapped within their focused studies. It was a good thing to see so many experienced beings hard at work to find answers and push themselves to a higher understanding of something.

"What is this?" Mordant stopped. He could feel the mana in the next floor; it was dense and unlike what he had expected. He believed that the elemental floors would be records of runes or runes that simply brought elemental mana to the floor. Not an insanely dense floor full of a singular elemental mana that could be used and experimented with at will.

"This is the start of the elementary floors. They lead up to the floor that I used to mix elemental mana in a balance. Overall they are perfect for studying, manipulation, and in your case, absorbing elemental mana." To see a dragon stunned by information so many times was something that not many would expect. Now that Mordant was witnessing this he truly understood why Genesis was continuing to grow. So many discoveries and perfect things happened.

"It's as if fate is constantly showing you the path to greatness... There's a darkness elemental floor with dense mana like this!" Mordant was already pushing through the elemental floors to reach the darkness elemental floor. His question was more amazement than it was a question.

Calmly following, Walker found that Mordant had found the center of the darkness elemental floor. The dense dark mana was hard to comprehend for most people but those that understood it or had the affinity. Walker was easily able to feel it around him and traverse the room with ease. The strange part was that Mordant was like a ghost in this room. He walked without making a sound.

Sensing the movement around him, Walker could make out the darkness elemental spirit. It was flitting about the room with plenty of energy. It had never been somewhere so dense with elemental mana perfect for it to absorb. Normally, Mordant would find himself plenty of darkness elemental crystals to surround himself with. Then he would meditate with the darkness elemental spirits' help to absorb and refine the mana. It was a very long process that took a lot of work for both of them.

"Go ahead, use the scrolls. You should hear how happy your partner is." Walker was listening to the cries of joy from the dark spirit. It was not hiding a single thing. It would usually remain silent or quiet spoken. This was a trait similar to the earth elemental spirits which were silent and seemingly stubborn. They both didn't have much to say until they were genuinely happy.

Without any hesitation, Morant opened scroll after scroll. He heard the words as soon as the first came into effect but he wasn't going to give up. Walker saw that he was dead set on gaining the skill from the scrolls he had. Noticing this, Walker moved down the tower again with a few words of where he was going. It was better to leave Mordant to his attempts and bonding. Walker would also send more scrolls up for Mordant in case they were needed. At the rate that Mordant was trying to get the skill it was very possible that he might properly earn the skill to at least speak to darkness elemental spirits. His affinity was high enough after all.

While descending the elemental floors, Walker felt Fleur stir for the first time in a little while. She was clearly absorbing some more elemental mana but had no intention of revealing herself just yet. She was still becoming stronger and reforming her body after the last endeavor in the tower. One thing was for certain, Walker could also feel his connection with natural elemental mana becoming closer.

"Walker!" Gil was rushing towards the mage tower. He seemed out of breath and was red faced. "I swear, you could have been anywhere this morning and I found you in the last place I looked.

"Alright...? What's going on?" The way that Gil was acting didn't seem that there was a problem. It was more that he was excited to find Walker to tell him something.

"The flame elves sent a letter! They sent a letter using a red talon hawk. They want to invite Alma to the lava fields to meet and discuss joining Genesis!" There was unspeakable joy in Gil's tone. He had helped research the other elves and where their cities had moved. Along with that, this was another elven form of dagger usage he could learn. Not to mention any forms of archery he might be missing. Not only could Genesis improve, so would he and Alma.

"That's amazing! Congratulations. Is there a plan yet? When are we going? Do you need me to go?" Heading to the volcanic area where the flame elves lived was not a simple journey. Where the party could take a flying tamed beast to the mountains, they could not to the lava fields that came from the volcanoes. Acrid smoke and hot temperatures would prevent them from nearing the destination. That meant a dangerous journey through a very carefully mapped pathway.

"Well, we are planning it now. They said in the letter that they would have a guide for representatives. I wanted to see if you and Midnight wanted to come. I know that it is near the volcanoes and Midnight might want to try and see fire dragons' territory."

"Gil?" Walker saw Gil grow confused. "You are brilliant sometimes. That's the best idea yet. Midnight will surely want to go to Ignus's village and see it. Let me try and speak to Mordant about it when he gets out of the tower."

Chapter 1333 1333. More Dragon Than I Thought

"You want to go to Ignus's village without any prior invitation? He will fight you to the death." Mordant spoke bluntly. He had been in the mage tower for the entire day and half the night. By the time he had returned to the mansion with a seemingly exhausted darkness elemental spirit, Walker was the last one awake. Gil was asleep on the couch next to him by the fire where Midnight is curled up resting. She had trained with Su all day and had fallen asleep quickly.

"He hasn't come here and was one of the more stubborn of our fellow royals. So, while I let Gil and Alma meet with the flame elves, I will meet with him." The look that Mordant had on his face seemed to ask Walker why he had such a death wish.

"That hot headed brute will light you on fire the moment you set foot within range of his flames. That is certain. Can you resist him or at least get his attention without starting a fight?" This seemed to be answered as well. Walker slowly moved behind Midnight and poked her head. She fluttered her eyes and moved to look at him.

"Don't give me that look. Just because you are curled up in your dragon from pretending to sleep doesn't mean I buy your act. You aren't that sneaky. You usually snore a little when you sleep." The response from Midnight was a disdainful huff. Walker was sure that she was refuting that she snored at all. However, Mordant had a dazed look on his face.

"My champion snores too..."

"Just come outside and watch. Just stay back a little." Walker moved out the back door with a wide awake Midnight. She already knew what Walker intended and stood in the backyard training field. "Luckily none of the plants back here will be affected and we are far enough from the pond to cause any damage to the plants there."

The pair gathered the mana in their bodies while Walker pulled at the water elemental mana specifically. Much faster than before, he and Midnight both gathered a great amount of it. When Walker moved to open his arms and slam them down with the eternal orb staff in his hands, Midnight released a harsh breath of frost.

The ice dragon's domain expanded, freezing everything within the training field. Mordant had still been too close and quickly jumped in to the air before his feet froze to the ground. "You have a domain skill! Of a dragon no less. It's not pure but how can this be possible? You aren't old enough for that. And you aren't even a proper dragon!" The stunned shouts woke Gil up, who rushed outside.

"So...why did you freeze the training area?" His face showed that he was more confused than worried now.

"Just showing how we will get to the dragon village, shock Ignus in to silence, and then have a proper conversation about bringing him to Genesis. Add in the fact that Mordant beat him here he will want to come out of jealousy and spite. Plus, if I play to his pride and come to him first he will feel more obligated." The pride that Walker held while standing in the intense ice cold was enough to make Mordant wonder if this boy was truly human. Not even dragons would throw around prideful plans like this.

"I retract my statement earlier. You are more of a dragon than I knew. Almost like the keeper, you gather information and use it against others along with your power." Mordant hesitated and then spoke. He seemed to have much more respect for Walker now. "That is why we never win when we fight the keeper. He is wiser and tricky. He may be weaker in his old age but is able to play everyone as if they are puppets."

The strategy seemed wise. Walker was trying to be better at planning and observing. Therefore, he felt that adopting the strategy more would work. "Then it's settled. I will head there with Gil and Alma in a few weeks."

"More like a week. That's when Alma wanted to have everything planned to leave. She wants it done with before the alchemy guild starts the potion making competitions. Once those start, many elves will be participating and need the future queen to witness their achievements. It's not a requirement but a major encouragement for them to keep improving." Gil also knew that Trish expected Alma in attendance. It was a guild formed by one of the highest esteemed elves in the forest elf city. If Alma was not there it could come off as insulting.

"In any means, that should allow me time in closed meditation on the elemental floors. I believe that will be acceptable once you've met my dragonkin, champion, and his guardian. A fair trade for leaving your guest alone." Mordant decided to play his own sneaky game. He wanted to continue to use the mage tower without any repercussions. On top of that, he could have everything figured out to work while he continued to grow stronger. By the time Ignus actually got to Genesis, Mordant was sure he would have a major advantage.

"I have nothing against you doing so. I would have offered that already, but you have cornered me. You'll have to remain in Genesis longer to understand and learn about the darkness elemental runes as well. I would hate for you to lose progress without the mage tower's strength." This was a slick way to make Mordant want to help Genesis pursue the understanding of ancient runes.

"If you desire my village to assist you then you need only to ask. We will send those that know here as well to stay. I can arrange for their absence since my village had the least rogue dragons to deal with." The deal was struck and Walker seemed to have a better understanding of Mordant.

Chapter 1334 1334. Retirement Home

The three spoke for only a short while after that. It was odd to see Mordant tired since he was a royal dragon that had lived for many years. Dragons on average would sleep much less. Although this fact would be missed in relation to Midnight which seemed to be slothful in general.

"Walker, come on! I called you three times." Gil was the one waking Walker up for once. It seemed that he had come to grab Walker to speak with Alma earlier than Gil had mentioned the night before. Or it was the fact that Walker had only slept a short while. "We have to go and meet with Alma. she is getting things all set up with Elise and I wanted to bring you along since she is heading toward the cathedral to speak with Onyx too."

"Oh, that would be perfect. I wanted to see how Onyx was fairing since I heard he went out to hunt rice rats in the fields." The small journey was not that big a deal for Onyx, however, it was for the hatchlings. It was their fiesta time out battling other monsters so it was a very big deal in their development.

"I know you are looking for Midnight, but she is already out. She already found the dragon golem to train. It has fire breath attacks so she was probably looking to train against flames." Since Gil had been the first up, he had caught Su, Midnight, and even Remey as they left. No one had seen Remey come home but she had clearly slept and been able to take some time to relax. She had even left some potions for Walker to share with Mordant. Luckily, Mordant had sniffed them out faster than Walker had woken up, saving Walker the job of handing them over.

"We will most likely find Alice there too. She should be around if they are both examining the heavenly serpents and remaining abyssal serpent eggs." Walker knew that it might be crowded but that would be fine.

"Don't forget former guild master Ibis. he came in yesterday. The streets were buzzing with the gossip of the previous adventurer's guild master buying up a retirement home." Gil had forgotten to say this to Walker the other day since he was too excited about the flame elves and the potentials they had for him.

"Really? That's great. I wonder what kinds of summons he might have that could help the eggs. It could be interesting if he is able to connect them to the light elemental plane. The heavenly serpents apparently moved to a place with higher light elemental mana leaving behind the eggs. So it would make sense that it goes that way again." The idea made Walker wonder if Arora would do this. Or if the heavenly serpents would bother doing so. It would be very unfortunate to see them leave, but if it was for their well being then that was it.

Before Walker could fall in to any deep thought, Gil pushed him out the door. It was as if he had a fire lit under him and there was not enough time. "Why are you rushing so much? We have all day."

"No, you have all day. I have to test the students in the archery academy when I get back. I am starting a mentorship with them. They will each take on a group of younger archers with zero experience and teach them the basics. After a month I will see where the teams are. It should be perfect to start them off while we are gone." The idea was very worthwhile and Walker felt that Gil had grown up a lot while no one was looking.

"The cathedral seems pretty busy." Walker found that there were many people bustling out of the cathedral. "A concert must have just ended. But we can sneak in the side door." Walker and Gil slipped around the crowd and in to the cathedral. They saw the musical healers cleaning and putting away instruments. It seemed that they had all done well and were praising one another for their work. It was not hard to find Su with a certain strings player. She waved for them to say hi and the pair responded. But Gil and Walker had somewhere to go, they knew Su would catch up later.

"Think Su will ever bring him to dinner? I can't even remember his name." Gil was a little annoyed that everyone knew that he and Alma were more than just friends. But Su was so secretive and held back.

"Well his name is...oh...you're right. I forgot it too. I feel bad now." Walker knew that Su was embarrassed since she had never gotten close to another person in the way she was with the strings player. However, Walker also knew that it was a very slow growth of a relationship. She was not quick to open up and needed her time. But that was just the way it was and she would manage in time. "Just wait it out, Su will let everyone in on it when she is comfortable."

"All of you seem so much older now. I only just stepped down from guild master and everyone seems so different." Ibis had been coming from a talk with the high priest when he found the pair in the hallways moving toward the room with the eggs inside.

"Guild master, or, former guild mast-"

"Just Ibis, I would prefer that. No need to add a bunch of things. It's easier to speak on equal footing. Or maybe I can't do that since you are a fancy royal dragon now? Didn't think I would be up to date on that hm?" Ibis smirked while he moved to walk with them. It was nice to see the former guild master again.

Chapter 1335 1335. Doing Well

"How have you been? Have you recovered after using your skills to protect the city?" Walker wasn't sure how Ibis would be holding up. He knew that the older someone became the harder it was to properly replenish their mana. Ibis had retired for a reason after all.

"I'm fit as a fiddle. I could have held out for another month if those demon brats tried anything. What about you? I've heard some good things about you and your family." Inis gave a knowing look to Walker and Gil.

"You know us, always getting in to trouble. It's mostly Walker's fault for being a magnet for trouble in general. He'll say something small that seems fun and the next thing we know we have ancient ruins filled with giant earth ants. Completely crazy." Walker' managed to barely punch Gil in the arm. He had been too fast for Gil to dodge.

"Says the guy who started an archery academy and is trying to help unite the elven people again. You should see how often he is in the elven areas of the city. I was wondering if he secretly got another house there in the trees." This time it was Walker that got a punch to the arm. However, he hadn't dodged and just let Gil get his fair revenge.

"Good, good. Cause some trouble for Clara now that she is too busy to come and see my new home. I swear, you raise a child and you get nothing but the cold shoulder in return." Ibis spoke with extra dramatic flair but really he showed just how proud he was in Ibis's eyes. He had always hoped that Clara would be ready for her position as guild master. Now that she had taken over and even excelled within it, he couldn't even put how he felt in to words.

"Brother? What are you doing here? Shouldn't you be busy?" Onyx heard the three conversing while he was inside the room with the eggs. Elise had arrived recently as well so they had been making small talk to catch up before getting to business.

"Mordant was working hard to learn how to speak with his darkness elemental spirit partner. Then I'm sure they were focusing on the dense darkness elemental mana to grow and understand something together. As long as they can communicate then I am sure they will have a breakthrough. A lot of things probably escaped them while training. So, Gil and I headed over here to see how you were doing." Walker also knew that Ama and Elise were speaking there as well, but it was nice to check up on the now very busy Onyx.

"Everything is going very well! My students have all learned the basics of survival in Genesis. Now we will work toward speech." Onyx wanted the hatchlings to gain the same skill as he had. He could understand them with it but not the other way around. They could not communicate with any other species and were stuck hissing between each other. The use of body language drastically limited how the hatchlings communicated and planned between each other. It would make things harder in the long run for them.

"That's a good goal to have. I will see what I can do with that. If I remember correctly, all of your party have the educationist title? It comes with a skill that allows you to teach someone a skill temporarily and if they succeed enough they might get it permanently. Teach me your communication skill." Ibis took the opportunity he saw in front of him.

"That's pretty smart. If he is going to help you and the heavenly serpents, then he will need to be able to clearly communicate and speak to them." Gil was impressed with how fast Ibis had made the move to get a skill that he might not even be guaranteed for.

Onyx looked at Walker. He was worried that Walker would see this as giving in for the wrong reasons. The skills that the party had were very rare in some regard and they had not been sharing their skills with many. The main reason was that they could end up as a resource that the city relied on for learning skills instead of the citizens pushing themselves to greater heights.

"It is a good idea. It could be a short term fix. And, if Ibis puts in the work he could keep the skill. It's like an investment or a payment for him helping the eggs hatch and the serpents. It is up to him if he can learn it fully in the end. Not to mention, he won't be abusing it to run around Genesis and cause trouble. If he does, Clara would send every adventurer to cause him trouble." Walker laughed at his joke. However, Ibis felt that this was a potential he had completely overlooked. Clara had much more power now than she had, she might rebel against him!

"Ehm, we will speak about it more. Take time to think. Before that, let me introduce you to a summon that has an interesting personality. Just remember, compliment its feathers. It is perfect for what we need." Ibis placed a hand in the air as if he was touching something. This was very similar to how he had summoned the griffin before. Yet this time, the small rune like patterns in the air were condensed from light. The strange shimmering effect made everyone feel the massive density of light elemental mana coming from it before their eyes adjusted and the patter of runes were gone.

In its place was a very odd bird that none could have ever said they had seen or read about. But Ibis was clear that they had to do something before he would just openly explain what it was and how it would help them.

Chapter 1336 1336. Prideful Summon

"The feathers are spectacular. If I couldn't control myself I would look all day." Walker started off seeing that he had hit the right note.

"What was that? I was too enamored with the wondrous feathers before my eyes." While Gil sounded foolish, he had pleased the summon as well.

"Brother, these feathers are better than any I have seen in my life..." Onyx wasn't really sure what to do but followed suit.

"Let me introduce you to a luminescent peacock. They are wonderfully blessed with magnificent feathers. They take in pure light elemental mana from any environment and push it to their feathers to create these rainbow beauties. You are lucky if you can even glance at a shed feather in your life. Yet now, you can be one of the few to see a living specimen." The attitude of the luminescent peacock seemed to be completely based on its feathers along with the pride it took in them.

The body was not large however, it was very small compared to the long plumage of feathers. The many rainbow colors that radiated from it were enough for Onyx to understand just how this would help. The light elemental mana coming from the peacock was so powerful that it could feed him for a long while. Having it watch over the hatchlings and eggs would improve their growth. On top of all this, it would endure the saving of light elemental crystals for when they were needed more.

,m "I will warn my students of the wonder they will witness." Onyx was smart, he left immediately to let the others know what was about to walk in to the room.

"I summoned you here to bless the young abyssal and heavenly serpent eggs and hatchlings. They thought the light in this plane was great, so I had to bring you to teach them true greatness." The words spurred the peacock on even more.

'Luminescent peacock

It is born and raised in the light elemental plane. The fact that it ignores all potential battle growth for the grooming of its feathers makes it incredibly weak. It is often found living in groups of ten or twelve so that it can use the uglier ones as shields to survive predators. Their pride knows no bounds, an insult to their feathers can dramatically influence how it will treat you. Never insult them or else they will follow you to obtain revenge until they perish.'

Walker felt that this was drastic but explained a lot. This reason was why Ibis had made sure they all complimented it right away. The three could hear Elise speaking while Alice listened to how she had managed to convince Ibis to come over easily. Arora was wide awake listening intently as well even though she had not grasped human language yet.

"See that? Even the young and still learning hatchlings are able to bask in your glorious feathers. I knew you were perfect for the job here." The peacock was content with fanning its feathers and showing off. The hatchlings just took the chance to absorb the very potent pure light elemental mana. Even Arora left Alice's arm to move closer. It was one of the first times since she hatched that she had left Alice. But Alice didn't feel bad at all. Instead, if Arora had not slithered over to get the nutrition that she needed, then Alice would have felt like a burden to Arora.

"Glad to see you Elise. I know you already have an idea of what I am here to negotiate. But where is, ah I see." Alma was half asleep in a nearby chair. It appeared that the three girls had taken a few moments to sit and speak before they had to deal with real work. "She has been working herself to the bone. Thank you for letting her sleep a little. She wouldn't listen to me at all." The genuine gratitude in Gil's voice made the air feel a little warmer.

"She fell asleep a little bit ago, we figured it was best to leave it be. This room is very comfortable. I can tell it was a lot easier for Onyx and Alice to spend hours in here." Elise was impressed by the ingenuity to create the room for the serpents. On top of that, it all worked out well since it had been made for long term stays.

"I agree, it will be ideal for me to watch over them while Onyx is busy with his duties. Alice as well." Alice knew that she might not be able to spend every waking moment with Arora, but she still wanted to be there as often as possible. Arora felt the very same.

"On a more professional topic, we were hoping you could provide us with magma diving bats to bring us to the lava fields near the volcanoes." Gil didn't beat around the bush. He knew that asking for the tough to tame monsters to be brought here for transport was going to be a hit or miss question.

"Yes, I can do that. But the tamer's guild needs something in return. Instead of gold or mana crystals, we want you to find the burning fin lionfish eggs. They are spawning right now and we need their eggs for a small group of young tamers. They all had strange circumstances and ended up as tamers of fire elemental monsters. They all selected this monster as their first." While everyone was interested in the situation, Gil and Walker weren't sure how possible this was.

"It's not a rare monster from what I have read. But I would like to know why and how we would do that." Walker let Elise take the spotlight for this. He wanted to hear everything first. He wasn't sure if he would be able to find dormant eggs of this nature that could be stored within his storage to be brought back.

Chapter 1337 1337. Deal Done

"I will send you with a special back pack made with materials and fire elemental runes. It can hold the eggs and keep them safe without burning you. They are easy to find as long as you avoid the parents guarding the nests. If you are going to be there then you will see them regardless if you look or not." Elise had this all planned out in her head. She wanted to keep up her duty to the tamer's guild. She had started to take great pride in being promoted to lead a branch. It was something she had not dreamed of yet thrived in. The unexpected occurrences in life were sometimes the best.

"So the group of tamer's you are taking under you, they wouldn't happen to be demons that crossed the border recently?" Alma surprised them all by speaking out. They had not noticed her waking up from sleeping in her chair.

"You are right. The group of children escaped and were sent over by their parents. They managed to get away when the demons under Wrath were moved to another location. We aren't sure where but the tamers that found them wandering the border saved them. After a short while, one of the children became interested in the spark foot horse that the tamer had with them. Once they touched it all of the children awakened fire monster taming related systems. They had heard of the burning fin lionfish and

wanted to tame it. Apparently, their parents read them a book about far away monsters and told them that the fish were so powerful that they could swim in lava like it was a fish's proper habitat."

Elise could not lie and say she had not been moved by this. Since this was the case, she personally volunteered to take the group of children in to Genesis and assist their growth. They had every right to a new start in the best way possible.

"They can come here for healing too." Alice knew that Elise was taking on an additional duty that went above and beyond her current duties. Pledging the assistance of the cathedral was a slight weight off of her. The cathedral would help anyone and everyone, but knowing that they were there and that Alice would see to it, in particular, was a lot to say. Alice held a lot of weight in the cathedral since she had been working so hard to be a healer and more.

"We will do our best then. Set it up as an official request from your guild so that we can ensure you get notified when we are on the return trip. That way you can be prepared for the eggs." Walker took this very seriously, he could tell that Elise wasn't playing around and was taking this as an important task that she could do to better the lives of others.

"That settles it then. We will take the lava diving bats in return for gathering these lionfish eggs. By the time we return from settling the flame elf meeting and Walker sees the fire dragon village, Elise will have the young demons ready to form contracts with the eggs. Alice will have them healed. We will have more allies." Gil summed everything up while Ibis watched carefully from the side. He wanted to speak but knew that it was not his place. These youngsters had risen much higher while he had been in Diamond. The changes were spectacular, they made him feel that the world was indeed changing for the better every single day.

"I will go with you this time. I wish to toughen myself on the journey before we look in to other journeys." Onyx knew that the party would eventually be heading toward the demon lands. If he was not the strongest he could be then what was the point? He would be useless to his family. The hatchlings wouldn't have a proper chance to grow and become their own race as they deserved. Everything would be lost that he dreamed of.

"If you have your matters settled then I suggest leaving myself and the little ones to rest. I think they have reached their limits." Ibis pointed out the hatchlings that had absorbed a little too much pure light elemental mana. Even the eggs seemed to have stopped temporarily. This meant that they had enough to sustain them for the time being and needed to rest to absorb it all properly. The eggs were a shock since they would normally be absorbing it constantly. It brought Alice and Onyx to the realization that they had still been far from the best they could be creating condensed light elemental mana.

Arora slowly slither to Alice before wrapping around her arm and falling directly asleep. She was in her spot and knew it was safe to rest easily. "We can go for food," Alice suggested this so that they could take time from their heavy duties. Alma, Gil, and Elise didn't fight her on it. Onyx even followed along after stealing his spot on Walker's shoulders for the first time in a while.

While the group was heading out, they chatted about their training plans for the day and the week before they would leave. Alma was the only one that appeared to be completely bogged down by work. She had to settle many plans for the expansion if the flame elves readily came to Genesis. They would need a proper space to adjust.

Meanwhile, Midnight had finally pushed herself up from her sleeping spot. Her nose had discovered the smell of charred meat. This wasn't a smell she was used to noticing in the mansion, it was a smell that Hilda would never allow in her kitchen. Therefore, Midnight rushed to see what the problem was and how she could fix it.

Chapter 1338 1338. On A Whim

The most unexpected thing for Midnight to find was right before her eyes, "I've tested this a few times and there are still failures. What could be wrong." Mordant was sitting perplexed in front of the stove. Midnight looked at him like she was seeing a crazy person.

"Hm? I see you are awake. I was attempting to create the meal from the other day but unfortunately, the tools here seem to be in poor condition." This single phrase was enough for Midnight to growl severely. She was sure that Hilda would not care who or what was saying her kitchen was not good. She would go at them and kick them out in an instant.

"Why do you say that I am the problem? Are you challenging me?" Mordant wasn't sure what was going on. He had copied what he thought had happened and come out with nothing but charred meat. Now he was assuming that Midnight was going against him instead of listening to what she really meant.

The growls turned in to small roars that made Mordant wonder what was wrong. Slowly but surely it seemed that Midnight was going through. Mordant began to look at the oven and back at her quickly before he stopped. "That was made using specific skills. I see, that's why I have been unable to replicate it. I thought Ignus was able to roast meat just because he had flame breath. To think he may have some cooking skills. strange." In the end, Midnight didn't see the point to continue to argue. She just shook her head and went toward the pantry where she knew some leftovers were stored.

"Aha! A secret hiding space that even I couldn't smell. A wise choice for when you want something else to eat." The challenges of human housing were not something that Mordant had expected to face. He would often have people bringing things to him instead of him having to go and get them. Combined, the two hurdles appeared to be too much for him.

After the pair demolished a decent sized slab of leftover roasted giant ant steaks, Mordant looked at Midnight. "I could not seem to find Walker within your home. I assume he has ventured out in to the streets. Should we leave to find him?" Since Midnight was Walker's champion, Mordant knew that she had a sense of where he would be even without being told by him. It was part of the bond that all champions would have with their royals.

Since Mordant was able to remain within his dragonkin form seemingly indefinitely, she decided to move about in the same form. It would be a good test for her since she would need to be able to do the same in the future. Especially when she was larger than most people. It would break her heart to be unable to come inside and eat with everyone, it was her favorite time of the day.

Those on the street didn't react poorly to seeing the dragonkin form of Mordant and Midnight wandering about. They were actually happy. Many had gossiped about the dragons joining hands with Genesis. Mordant walking about was proof that they had done so and would help them grow. The power of a dragon would not be underestimated.

"Are those the potions that come from the alchemy guild?" Mordant saw a stall selling a variety of potions." Midnight nodded and walked over to examine them. "I see, they have multiple affinity potions. All low tier but this sign says more can be purchased directly from the guild of high quality." The merchant selling the potion had posited the sign showing his affiliation with the alchemy guild. It had special rune carvings to ensure that it was real and the potions could be vouched for. The alchemy guild had taken to putting the unique rune formation on every vial that left so that they could back the safety and quality of every potion.

This idea had come mostly for the sake of the demi-humans. They had suffered enough under the harm of cursed items. There would not be a need for them to worry now, meaning that they would have another healing method for injuries when worse came to worse or someone was harmed in the coliseums.

"If I manage to get some high quality potions then I may be able to use them for my other needs." The thoughts of convincing the other royal dragons to trade for affinity potions were too tempting. Mordant had never really stood on top of the other dragons and wanted to have the chance.

Feeling that there wouldn't be any good of this, Midnight tried to steer Mordant away from the alchemy guild, unfortunately, he managed to win out and was walking through the front door before there was anything she could do. There were too many bustling people inside trying to get in line for potions or to drop off materials. It was chaos.

"I told Walker I would act as an equal, however, we are still well above the masses. This is a beneficial trade for the entire city. I can provide many materials for many guilds in trade." Mordant walked right to the front. Very few had the courage to say anything, and those that did felt a glare from Midnight who knew that if Mordant was angered there would be nothing good to come with it.

"Sir, you must wait in line with everyone else. It is only fair- I see, welcome esteemed guest. We will have the guild master prepare their office for you. Please, right this way." Midnight showed off the plaque with her identification on it. Seeing that she was a member of Remey's party was enough for the staff member to put the puzzle pieces together and change her tone. It was some quick thinking.

Chapter 1339 1339. Silenced

"No, for the last time. I will not ask the merfolk and the water elves to send more people to help with the underwater fields. We have already hounded them enough. Me asking them will change nothing." The resulting responses from Trish came from both Remey and the old master alchemist asking her the same thing in a row. They had been too caught in their own thoughts to properly pay attention to what was actually going on.

"Well, we need more herbalists and I have not received any new applications. The classes aren't even full. We have alchemists to spare, but herbalists? I think not." Remey was rather annoyed. She had done her best to send more people out after herbalists. Unfortunately, they seemed to be rarer and also preferred to be alone. These two traits caused the alchemy guild to need them more.

"What about those who can grow herbs and perform basic alchemy? We originally were going to limit them by what they should study. Not every alchemist would make the best herbalists." This fact was all too true in most aspects of life. The old master alchemist would not forget the times he had lost precious high quality herbs because he had refused to find the right person to take care of them instead.

"We will have those people take over the herb growth in the easy to grow herb fields. Then the herbalists will remain in the specialized or high quality fields." This would take a little restructuring of potential class schedules along with how the alchemists and herbalists would interact. However, it

would have the added bonus of making alchemists more understanding of the hard work that went in to growing most herbs. They would be able to work more smoothly with all the staff of the guild.

"Then we do that. It will be easier that way." Remey signed a few papers with the other two to approve the idea. They would work out the details among a few other master alchemists later.

"Guild masters! The royal dragon is here with Miss Midnight!" The yell outside Remey's door was enough to make all three stand. They had not expected Mordant to come so soon. If they had known it was a selfish whim after Mordant had been reminded of the potions while walking the streets they would have felt a little off put.

"Well send him in!" Remey shouted back and was met with the door being pushed open. Midnight was in her dragonkin form which really surprised her. "Midnight, you did really well with your outfit today. Su would be proud." The compliment was genuine. Midnight had a very hard time with human clothing so the fact that she had dressed herself well was a major compliment.

"I agree, normal clothing is strange. Even my dragonkin can not explain it properly. That is why I chose the robes. They have a better fit for my scales and look to match my affinity." Mordant had chosen the robes for a few other reasons that related to how easily and quickly he could put them on for meetings. But that wasn't the major thing he wanted to share. "I came to make some trade agreements. I have things you need and I will require the high tier elemental affinity potions. Of every elemental affinity." The smirk he had was enough to tell them all that he was not just looking for the one potion for his personal reasons. He had goals to use them for other trades.

"I see no issue with that. It really comes down to what you will offer to trade and at what frequency. There are only so many things we have access to here. Not to mention the fact that we can't even make the high elemental affinity potions without proper research and materials." The old master alchemist shared some truth mixed with some untold truths. He knew that they didn't have the formula for the high tier potion all set up yet. All the affinities were missing the proper ingredients.

While Trish appreciated that Mordant went right to business, she felt that she was missing some proper respect. "If the deal does not meet our requirements, all of your requirements, then I doubt it could work. We can not go to your village and see what you have to offer. Quality is important for every potion material." Her words held the weight of an experienced alchemist. However, Mordant saw it more as a challenge.

"Then if the deal does not meet your requirements little girl, I will spend the fortune I have amassed over the years on every single herb, field, building, and merchant that sells anything you need. Now, does that sound good?" Trish felt as if she had been soundly beat. The one thing she forgot was that dragons lived even longer than elves. She was no longer the oldest and richest in the room.

"Huh, so that's what it looks like when Trish is silenced. We can make some deals. I am particularly interested in the shadow textured glass. I read in a book that it can only be made by those with very high elemental affinities. It just so happens that we have potions that need to remain in total darkness and such a glass would block out all light elemental mana from ruining the potions. Among other things, we also want herbs." Finding that Remey had done her research impressed Mordant.

"I can arrange that easily. We use it to create my personal meditation cave. It keeps the darkness elemental mana trapped within while I comprehend it." Mordant readily agreed to this. Before long, Midnight was witnessing contracts being drawn up for trade deals between them. She had not expected it to go so smoothly. All potential conflicts seemed to have melted away.

Chapter 1340 1340. Alchemy Arguments

"We will see you later, plenty to do!" Gil was walking Alma back to the water elf expansion area. She had to stop in and see how it was progressing. Gil went with her since he had planned to make himself available for the remainder of the day. He needed to ensure that his students at the academy could use any resources possible while building their mentorship parties. If they failed because he did not give the proper guidance then the only one at fault was him.

"I will see you later as well brother, I know you are busy and I will return to the cathedral with Alice." Onyx had a few plans for what he would be working on today with the hatchlings after they awoke from their rest.

The excited nodding from Alice showed that she wanted to speak with Ibis as well. "You both are doing the best you can. I know that the hatchlings and Arora appreciate it. Now that Ibis is here you will have less stress on your shoulders." Walker's words were simple, but enough to help both of them.

"I will see you later..." Alice jumped and hugged Walker. She ran away quickly after but it had been the most forward thing she had done recently. Walker, of course, was stunned. He thought that he may have made her mad by not spending more time alone with her. Yet, he had been wrong. Completely wrong.

Alice had always been surrounded by people in the cathedral. She had to heal and would need others around watching her or helping. Her father was the high priest, she always had a pair of eyes watching

for her well being or improvement. To have Walker stand back and let her pursue her dreams while offering help if she needed it was different. It was very welcomed by her. It was just another reason she felt her feelings for him growing.

"Now, let's go find Mordant and Midnight. I took longer than I should have. I'm sure that they are out and about." Walker could tell the general area that Midnight had traveled. But when he turned toward the alchemy guild he already knew what must have happened. Mordant had plainly said that he would be trying to get more of the affinity potions. He wanted the higher quality ones and that was what he would get.

"Sir Walker!" As soon as he walked in the very same attendant that had greeted Mordant and Midnight ran to him. She had been on the look out for another party member since she was certain they would arrive. "The guild masters are on the top floor with Miss Midnight and the esteemed guest."

"Thank you very much. I will go and see them." Before Walker could even get near the door he heard the voices.

"What do you mean you only want me to use shadow grass as the base ingredient? Are you a fool? All those years lived and this is what you have to offer?"

"Ha! You might be old for a human, but you are clearly still a child. Adding the bleeding roots will cause the entire potion to separate water from oils. You should know this!"

Walker slowly pushed open the door for fear that he would be coming in to a battle scene. However, what he found was a calm Mordant watching Trish and the old master alchemist yell at each other.

p "These two are quite interesting. They argue to force more ideas out. They innovate. Then they accidentally let slip slight praise before returning to the argument. The process is very interesting." Mordant rarely witnessed others fight like this. The way the alchemists were deriving new formulas was unique. He could honestly say that he was impressed by how much the pair had pushed themselves to understand in a short time.

"Midnight, I see you helped Mordant out of the mansion. Good job." Walker glanced at Remey who was already writing down a formula. She was totally in her own world. "And yes, they have a strange way of doing things. But you should see the things they can do after they straighten out the theory. The affinity

potions were something that the old master alchemist was stuck on for years. He just needed the right spark to put it all in the works. Now that there is an entire guild to push him, I am certain that the research will advance rapidly."

"I agree. With The advanced knowledge of herbs, they should have solutions soon. I offered a variety of high tier darkness elemental herbs. This was the result. They knew more about every single one than I ever could hope to know." To make Mordant this impressive was impressive in its own right. Alchemy was a small part of dragon culture. They did not dwell on it since they rarely needed potions. Now, they had a reason for potions and had discovered a more advanced subject than they could have imagined. "I do wonder, will there be alchemist dragons born in your city?" Mordant through out loud for a moment. The potential was there if the hatchlings brought proved to become wiser and stronger as Walker had assured them.

" I could see it happening. Having an alchemical dragon would be a step to change the way dragons and other races bonded. If Ignus sends over some hatchlings then there may be a chance to obtain that. The flames are very unique. Remey has an alchemy fire spirit partner." As if it had been called, the alchemy fire spirit left the spirit mark on Remey's hand and drifted over. "Thi is the very spirit. See the difference in the flames? They are perfect for alchemy and can better influence herbs." Mordant observed the spirit while it spun around completely. The darkness spirit came out to greet it while Mordant thought deeply.