

## Master 1351

### Chapter 1351 1351. Walker's Mana Flow

With everyone occupied, Walker found himself sitting behind the mansion trying his best to discover a way to do more with his elemental sculpting skills. He wanted to be able to do more dragon related skills when in battle. The elemental wings were already modeled after dragon wings, so he knew he could do more.

Copying traits from the dragons Walker had seen didn't sound hard. He had a clear vision as to what he could create. The real problem was the fact that he needed to manipulate the mana in a way that would end with the result he wanted. If he were to mess up, then he could be left with a few problems. One of which being backlash.

Fleur seemed to be stirring in the spirit mark since Walker was pulling more mana toward him. She had been nonstop absorbing mana for the last weeks to increase her strength. What Walker knew was that as she grew stronger, so did his bond with her. It was the same meditation that he had been doing, yet Fleur did it inside the spirit mark.

"I can pull the natural mana toward me and I can make it. But what happens if I separate it?" The idea came to him suddenly. It was a concept that he had never considered. Forcefully unbalancing mana was never a good idea, but what if he tried to create a faux dragon head using earth? He might be able to replicate a dragon's breath while still being a human.

The earth began to take shapes, however, Walker found that the more he focused on a singular aspect of a dragon, the more he realized that he couldn't have it free standing. If he made a dragon neck and head coming from the ground then he would be leaving it unable to move properly. The idea wouldn't work when elemental mana was applied in the way he desired.

Like the elemental wings, Walker decided to combine it with himself. That meant slowly pulling away the earth to make the sculpted creation lighter. The way it seems to fit best was running along his back in to a dragon head above his own head. The entire position looked silly until Walker started to let his mind really flow.

The elemental wings began to form next. From there, Walker kept it going. He wanted a tail to fall down the rest of the length to balance the weight of the head he created. Overall, it was a terrifying appearance that Walker could manipulate perfectly with his mana. However, it was already costing him a substantial amount of it.

Feeling even more confident since he had succeeded thus far, Walker made the earth wrap around his arms to create large dragon claws. The eternal orb formed in to a solid chest plate which he pulled more natural mana from. This proved to be even more valuable since he needed the mana to balance out the mana he was burning.

Once the form was finished, Walker looked as if he had grown draconic features around him. The last thing to do was to fully add elemental mana to it as the elemental wings had. With extreme focus, Walker began to pull more mana through the sculpted earth. The eyes of the dragon head lit up slowly with flames while ice spikes formed on the tail. Long claws of ice formed while wind wrapped around his entire figure.

The natural mana was right at the center of all of the sculptures using the eternal orb chest plate as the base for balance. Furthermore, Walker started to circulate all of the mana. He could tell that he was on to something. His heart was beating faster and faster but he could tell this was the right way to go.

The sudden connection that appeared was not just because of the way the mana was circulating. Fleur had grasped control over the way the mana flowed. She could feel the way that Walker was manipulating it and moved from the spirit mark to the eternal orb. The control she had while residing within the eternal orb was not at all weak.

Mana flowed easily causing the true depth of Walker's sculpted creation to become clear.

'The skill elemental dragon aspect has been taken from the lost dragon system. The user has learned the skill elemental dragon aspect through multiple elemental, spiritual, and draconic influences.'

'Elemental dragon aspect- 80 mana cost, 30 natural mana cost, dragon and spirit bonds required

The user is able to manipulate and build armor to surround them using nearby elements. The mana pulled in will facilitate a unique weapon as the core of this armor. The armor itself will require consistent use of the user's mana, natural mana, and extreme control. The head of the dragon is able to replicate the breath of a dragon or bite using elemental mana. The claws can add elemental mana to them to cause increased damage. The wings function the same as the elemental wings skill. The tail is able to be used as a spiked club with elemental affinities added. The user can only use this skill as long as their mana and mental strength holds out.'

Walker felt the power coursing through his body. This was not what he had originally intended but what he had discovered through a gamble. The natural mana had not been separated but it had been used to manipulate elemental manas around it. This was an intense form of control while also showing strength.

"Haa, hahah, haaa, aha!" The laughter was like flying for Walker. He was feeling stronger than ever. That was until his mana reached nothing and his body fell forward. The entire armor that had been formed broke in to dust around him. Fleur fell in to another slumber within the eternal orb. Walker had used a skill much too intense for him to use just yet. But it was one that was undoubtedly meant for him to use.

Chapter 1352 1352. Covered In Dirt

"So, do you want to explain why I had to drag your butt inside? Why you were asleep outside in a pile of dirt?" Remey had somehow managed to be the one that made it to the mansion first at the end of the day. Therefore, she had been the one that found Walker passed out in the training area behind the mansion. He had created a pile of dust and dirt with his skill earlier which had become his pillow.

"You see...I was training and tried to use a skill but I used all of my mana trying to keep it up..." Even the small smile that Walker had was enough to make Remey punch his arm.

"And you are happy with that? I found you in the dirt! What's wrong with you. There's training to your limit and just plain being dumb." Since Remey's training was brutal in its own way, Walker was surprised to hear that she was so upset. "You're lucky I found you before it started raining. Or Mordant saw you."

Walker glanced outside to see a torrential downpour. The rain was coming down faster than one could keep up with. The entirety of Genesis would be soaked thoroughly before the night was up. "I didn't consider the backlash from testing my elemental mana to make new skills. Originally I was just trying to break the natural mana back in to elemental mana for training. But I got distracted and started to try and create dragon like skills."

"Oh, makes sense. You want to impress the dragons more so who cares about looking like a fool in front of them or worse, showing weakness. Aren't you a royal dragon too? Shouldn't you be acting the part while another is in the city?" Part of Walker wanted to say that Mordant was back in the mage tower. However, he knew that was the wrong answer. He had risked a lot more than he realized at the time.

"I'll be more careful." Walker felt odd that it was Remey reprimanding him. But it was her that had gone out and started to grow up lately. She had an entire guild under her care now. How would she not start to think about things in a more mature way?

Yet, as Walker thought about it, Remey had always been more mature. She had so many siblings to take care of when she was in the orphanage. If he had not pursued better food, medicine, and care for them then she would never be where she was today. Out of the entire party, Remey may have been the most adult even though she had a hot head personality at times.

Remey looked at Walker carefully. She found the guilt on his face then decided it was enough to change the subject for now. "You know, those hatchlings did pretty well today. Midnight is out rewarding them with some street food but they earned it. The two at the adventurer's guild training grounds have more talent than we thought. One has a great sense of smell while the other is perfect for stealth."

"Did you hear about the third one? Aiden should have told Midnight and the dragonkin warrior with them how the last hatchling did." Walker wasn't sure if Remey knew.

"I walked Midnight home before she left again. The dragonkin with that hatchling was pretty interesting. She looked at all of my gear and inspected it closely. That guy, Aiden seemed to take a real liking to her. Even offered her a room there if Midnight approved."

"Huh, how about that? I knew it would go well but that's better than I thought. I wonder if Mordant expected this?" The pair continued their talk for a short while more before Walker noticed he was ruining the couch he was sitting on with the dirt he was still covered in. Therefore, he left to clean himself as Gil walked in the door.

"Why are you covered in dirt?"

"He's dumb that's why," Remey smirked while walking away leaving Gil questioning what had happened.

Feeling more than just one pulling at his shirt was a strange feeling. Walker was used to Midnight pulling him out of bed to get up but this time when he opened his eyes he found the three hatchlings working hard to pull him from his slumber while Midnight watched.

"Midnight...you really had them....try this?" Walker's groggy response elicited a slight huff that was more of a laugh. "Don't laugh at me! I will freeze you!" Midnight jumped back as Walker whipped a hand out trying to hit her with a little cold breeze with his mana manipulation.

He was technically a royal dragon and now he had three dragons pulling him out of bed. Where was the respect? "Are you three going out this morning?" Walker found it impressive that Midnight had been staying in her dragonkin form more and more lately. But what was more impressive was that she handed a note to Walker that said cathedral.

The writing was not straight or easily legible, but it was enough. "You wrote this? You are really coming along! Now you just need to start putting more speech in to practice." Walker teased Midnight a little after his praise. He wanted to encourage her to keep pushing ahead to learn more. He knew that she was already grasping the concept of writing and reading much faster than most people would. It was only a matter of time before she was able to speak.

"You are right though. I want to go to the cathedral with you. Onyx should be coming with us to the lava fields and volcanoes. I doubt he is going to miss the chance for an adventure since he has been so busy helping the abyssal serpent hatchlings." Midnight huffed in approval while the hatchlings took pride in waking Walker up.

Chapter 1353 1353. Can You?

Onyx had been going through what Ibis would need to know. He had secretly had copies made of all the books that he had found about abyssal serpents. He had also had some things written down that he had learned about himself as he grew. The same was set up for heavenly serpents but it was much less knowledge.

"Alice, I think we will have more hatchlings later today." Onyx had checked the remaining abyssal serpent eggs. All appeared to be close to hatching in his opinion. The heavenly serpent eggs were also gathering light elemental mana at a decent rate.

"Mhm." Alice was sitting after a performance softly stroking Arora's head. Arora appeared to be very happy with this situation since she had gained a lot of light elemental mana on top of the attention.

"I think so too. It will be very lively over here. Just watch out, by the time we are back from the volcano lava fields they might have grown up." Walker's small comment made Onyx's eyes widen slightly. He didn't want to think that the hatchlings would ever grow up and not need him. In the short time he had been teaching them, Onyx had become very attached.

"They will always need family." The calm response from Alice was just what Onyx needed to hear.

"How am I supposed to tease my little brother if you are going to undermine me like that." Alice just smirked while Onyx felt he had witnessed a victory for Alice.

"Brother, what are you here for today? Have you come just to see the hatchlings? They are resting now." Onyx wasn't sure what Walker had planned.

"I mostly came to see you two. I wanted to spend some time before we have to head off to the heat of the volcanoes. I know you are planning to come along since Ibis is here, but Alice is staying from what I understand." There was a little sadness in Walker's voice. He wanted to spend more time with Alice as well.

"I am staying...Near Genesis." She was shy. But she took a deep breath to prepare herself. "I am going to a nearby village that had some problems." She was ready to take on such a task for herself. This was a very big deal for any member of the cathedral.

"Is this what the high priest has spoken about before? Are you leaving on a healing quest the way other priests and healers do?" The excitement built in Walker's voice. He wasn't afraid that Alice would end up hurt. He was excited because he knew how big of a deal a journey like this was for any healer in the cathedral. This sort of quest was a major rite of passage.

"Alice is! I helped her with the route planning." Onyx slithered over toward a nearby table and snatched a rolled up paper with his tail. He whipped it toward Walker who easily grabbed the paper out of the air.

"Oh, I see. You are going a little closer to the demon land border. But the village is right near the start of the demonic forest. That must mean that the problem is demonic monster related?" Walker's eyes narrowed. He knew how dangerous demonic monsters were.

Everyone knew how demonic monsters were driven by their desires. They had no chances of ever gaining sentience. Being able to control them was something many thought impossible. Walker could only recall one person he had met or heard of controlling demonic boars.

After a deep breath of his own, Walker looked at Alice. "I shouldn't be doing this since I was a little too energetic in my training yesterday, but show me what makes you think you will be safe going against potential demonic monsters." Without another word, Walker started to walk out of the cathedral. He was moving right to the back where there was a place for him and Alice to train.,

Since there had been so much destruction due to training. The high priest had broken and had the space enlarged. He had come up with a few plans to use the space to train the healers to avoid dangers while healing. It was a very bright idea since many of the healers would be out in the world come the next few years. Genesis was growing and there had already been multiple healers that had gone out to face monsters.

With the potential freeing of the demons soon, it made sense that healers would be in the midst of a real war. There were demons that like the corruption and evil within their lands. They would fight to the death to defend that. No one could fault them for fighting for what they believed. But they could fault them for the atrocities they committed in their lives.

"Brother, Alice can go without-"

"Onyx. this isn't about whether she can or can not. This is about whether she will be able to protect others and herself." Holding a life in her hands was normal for Alice. But that life was one she might be healing. Not taking.

The entire party had seen Alice defeat monsters. That was a fact. She had been able to steel herself and defeat them with relative ease. Yet, none had put her against a sentient being. A demon arriving where she would be going was very low in probability. However, the chance that a corrupt demon leaving through the border would be there. Walker wanted to ensure that the woman he had just started to truly love would be safe.

"You won't win easily." The look that Alice was giving Walker would have caused most people to get chills. She knew that this was not a laughing matter. She had even had Arora slither off of her arm toward Onyx. She was being extremely serious.

Chapter 1354 1354. Unexpected Attacks

The song started softly. Walker wasn't even sure he could hear words. But that was exactly what Alice had been practicing. She had been trying to control her own voice.

Where Alice had learned to control her mana to a very fine detail while using or not using the bracelet that Walker had given her. She had realized she greatly neglected the fact that she had to train her muscles. It was the same way that Remey had begun to fall behind due to forgetting her body due to alchemy.

The training had been very subtle. It was simple compared to what other people would do. It came down to stamina and control of her muscles. If Alice could not control her muscles around her mouth, neck, and even lungs then she would fail to properly hit the notes that she wanted. That would, in turn, cause the feeling of the music she made to become warped. Instead of swords of light, she might end up with dull hammers.

The stamina training had also been simple. Alice had been moving around the cathedral more and more. She was not a stranger to the constant movement and long hours. The cathedral would heal many people and often had busy days.

Yet, the stamina that Alice needed had to revolve around quick movements in controlled ways. Since she was more used to staying in the same position holding a patient, helping put pressure on wounds, or just standing ready to help, she was not as comfortable with moving constantly to avoid battles.

The best way that Alice had come up with a training method was one that involved everyone in the cathedral. She had challenged them to trip her, block her, and even try to push her out of the way. The high priest had hated the idea until she had stood face to face with him to explain why. As soon as he understood the reasons behind it along with how much it would help Alice in the long run, he had agreed. Even if he still had to bite his tongue when doing so.

Small needles of light shot at Walker. He felt the hair on the back of his neck stand. The skills to sense mana were enough to tell him a dangerous attack was coming. Naturally, he did what anyone would. He dove to the side to avoid it. When he looked up he saw the glitter of yellow and white light elemental needs on the ground.

Before he could change positions, the pitch of Alice's voice changed causing the same needles of light to shift in to one larger sword swinging around. Walker dodged upward using the wind ripple skill. He tried to send a blast of air at Alice but she was nowhere near where she had been a moment ago.

Alice had taken advantage of the fact that Walker needed to move to dodge her first and second attack. It was not the attack she thought would win but the attack that she thought would give her time to start



singing a song that she had worked on with Midnight as the inspiration. A song that she had wanted to show off as the trump card that could defend those she loved.

Rise and fall came with the words Walker heard. The light elemental mana became dense and vibrant. It was as if the shape gathering behind Alice was dark compared to the outline of light. When the shape became more defined under the strength that Alice put in to her words, the melody shifted. It became erratic and full of energy.

The light elemental figure of Midnight dashed forward in wide leaps. Wings spread out and light elemental claws fell downward toward Walker. The more the song Alice sang changed, the more the created figure of light elemental mana attacked and moved. Walker was forced on the defensive while trying to understand what Alice had done and how he should counter it. He couldn't just dodge by jumping in to the air.

"You said serious, here's serious!" Walker channeled the water elemental mana in the air. The rain that had fallen the night before was enough for him to use to his advantage. Mixing the water and earth was easy. It was already bonded. But making the frost whip as he had before in to a fusion skill using earth as well was mentally taxing. Earth didn't like to whip around like elastic.

The ground became cold and tough while the whip made the sound of grinding and shattering. The whip that split out from where Walker stood was carrying devastating elemental mana. But with that came the fact that it had slowed. Walker was not familiar with this fusion nor was he able to perfectly control it. But it was serious. Alice had to deal with a foreign attack she had never seen before.

The light elemental image of Midnight opened its mouth in silent roar. The light elemental teeth snapped down on the moving whip tearing the image apart. But miraculously, the song did not end. The broken light elemental mana covered the fusion whip Walker had made causing it to become trapped in a webbing of light elemental mana.

In the next moment, a large spider shape formed walking along the stuck whip. It was slow, very slow. Alice's song had slowed to a creepy and unsettling tone. She had mirrored it after the grey haired spiders she saw who were carefully hunting pests around the Genesis walls as guards. Her inspiration was unmatched.

"Brother, that's not just Alice's singing. That's her new skill, singer's dreams. Alice can dream up any creature she has seen before in to a light elemental form." Onyx had been the first test dummy for this skill. It had not started out so elegantly. But now? It was an unpredictable attack and defense.

## Chapter 1355 1355. More Than Enough

,m "This is a little too crazy." Walker gave up on trying to fuse the earth and the water to make a frozen earth whip. The idea had been good for a heavier attack but bad for speed. Not only this, but it was not an easy to use skill in the heat of battle. The only reason he had wanted to use it was because he would be able to surprise Alice.

Knowing that the water was the most prominent elemental mana around due to the previous rain the other night, Walker started to think about the water related skills he could use. However, that brought him to an idea. A brilliant idea.

Light elemental mana was strong. It could break through a lot but it needed to be able to come from the surroundings. Mostly, the sun. during dark ways when the sun was trapped behind clouds or even at night, the light elemental mana was weaker. It would struggle to gather anywhere let alone when someone manipulated it.

"Your new skill won't touch me!" Walker jumped and turned to face the light elemental image of a spider coming toward him. He was using the dance of seasons to his advantage along with the wind ripple skill. Every place his feet landed, water would be kicked up.

To the untrained eye, this was just Walker moving too fast with a great amount of force. However, to someone paying attention or that could sense the water elemental mana, it was more. Walker was slowly making mist rise up from the ground by warming the water his feet touched. Doing so was easy since he could pull the small amounts of fire elemental mana from around him to cause this.

Before Alice realized what Walker was doing, she found herself blinded by the mist. She could barely make out the light elemental mana she was guiding. Her voice went from a source of power to the very signal that allowed Walker to sneak up on her.

Seeing the chance, Walker used the shadow wrapping skill to move right behind Alice. He had made a frost whip using the water elemental mana in the air. His simple goal was to wrap Alice up to stop her from moving. The surprise should be able to end the battle right there.

What Walker didn't know was that Alice had learned. She had felt too at risk when Walker and Midnight had used their shadow wrapping skill in the past. The lasting impression made her carry around light elemental mana crystals to prevent such a surprise without defenses at the ready.

As Walker appeared behind Alice, so did a light elemental shield. The bubble of light elemental mana formed around her using mana from the crystal in her hands. This also allowed him to make the next move since Walker's frost whip had bounced right off.

Radical sharp pitches caused the shield to warp. Spikes of light jumped from it as if someone was trying to fire an arrow through rubber. The rebound would cause another spike to shoot off in another direction. Walker couldn't find any predictable angle to approach Alice in. "Fine, if that's how you do it then I will freeze you completely."

Walker gave Alice the warning because he didn't want her to get hurt. There was also the fact that his surprise attack had already failed. Therefore. He slammed his hands on the ground and started to freeze the mist. Soon, small shining crystals of ice floated around the bubble spiked shield that Alice had created around her.

A coating of ice was formed before her eyes and the light elemental mana began to dissipate. She could not pull too much mana from the crystal since she would risk abusing it. If that happened she would be trapped inside as the crystal shattered. This was a problem that Gil worried about every time he made an elemental arrow.

Being limited and trapped was not making Alice happy in the least. Yet, when she looked through the shell of ice she saw the impressed smile from Walker. Never had he dreamed that Alice had hidden a new skill from him so that she could use it as a surprising trump card. The very idea was amazing since Alice could dream up everything. But now living forms that could condense and attack? Spectacular!

A simple swipe of his hand made the ice melt leaving Alice safe and dry. "I would say you are more than ready to lead a group of healers outside of Genesis yourself. That singer's dream skill was too much. I can tell it takes a lot of mana and concentration. But still...you almost got me with it." If Walker had not been able to react properly he would have been soundly beaten.

"I'll win next time." Alice nudged Walker to the side with a small smirk. She wanted to stand beside him and now she felt closer to that goal than ever.

"Aren't you impressed brother? Alice has worked hard to be ready to go out like this. She can protect the five healers going with her like it is nothing!" The boastful attitude that Onyx had showed how much

he had bonded with Alice. The two had close goals and worked together to achieve them. Alice was just the same as Walker when Onyx thought of family.

"I would say you have shown me more than enough to survive the trip. I think I owe you a reward." Walker coughed slightly while offering his hand. He was planning to find the best food in Genesis to treat Alice to today.

"Arora and I will be relaxing with the other hatchlings." Onyx took the hint and guided little Arora away. He left the two to their privacy for the moment. They would need it before they were apart yet again.

Chapter 1356 1356. Lava Diving Bats

"The lava diving bats are trained to head directly to a small post for tamers that gather food near the lava fields that pour down from the volcanoes. Do not make loud noises or pull on their ears. They will drop you." Elise was very stern. She had changed a few things to ensure that the party could ride the lava diving bats to the volcanoes, or at least as close as possible.

"Normally the flame elves will keep tamers at bay. But since you were invited you should be fine. Just don't use us as an excuse if things go poorly." Elise knew that the flame elves were very different from the elves he had met. They resided in the toughest landscape to live in along with keeping themselves separate by choice. They did not like strangers.

"Don't worry. We will do our best. Thank you again for the help. This will save us days and days of travel time since the mountains would be hard to get over and in to the volcanoes." Gil was very appreciative of the assistance.

"We will see what we can do to help you out when there. The flame elves are only speaking to Gil and I along with some enforcers. That should be a good small group to build a connection with without overwhelming them." Alma was exceptionally positive about this. She didn't expect the flame elves to look out for her first.

"These things are massive. I'm glad I came. I don't think I have ever seen a bat like this." Remey was completely in awe over the massive bats that she was looking at.

'Lave diving bats

These bats grow exceptionally large so that they can hold more strength in their wings. This allows them to fly through the air and the lava. Many of their lava bats hunt and consume lava dwelling fish. The thick skin they develop is extremely resistant to high temperatures. However, it can not often resist cold temperatures. They are considered a very rare triple elemental affinity monster but often live peacefully around other monsters.'

Walker was impressed with the appraisal. The bats could appear scary since they were fairly different than other bats align with their large size. But they were actually said to be peaceful for the most part. That simple fact made them very important to the tamers that could tame them. Amazing transport, peaceful, and rare elemental affinities that could help the tamer in many ways.

"Remey, are you sure you can leave the guild? You have the ending of the herb gathering competition and the start of the potion competition soon." Gil wasn't fully convinced that everyone should be going. It made sense that Su, Midnight, and Walker went. They were heading to meet the fire dragons. Then Alma and Gil were heading to the flame elven city. Onyx was also an odd one out but it was clear he needed an adventure to properly clear his mind from the recent stresses of life.

"Who do you think is going to look for rare fire elemental herbs as prizes for the winners? Not to mention the high fire elemental affinity potion, materials to make better cauldrons, and better tools." The look that Remey gave Gil was more of a challenge. If he dared to speak out against her again she would be showing off her more recent training with alchemical flames.

"Do you want me to give Ignus one of the low tier afire affinity potions?" Walker knew the answer already but felt that Remey had been waiting for it.

"Yes, that would help." Remey handed over five of them. The perfect amount to get Ignus and any other dragons that tried them hooked. "By the way, Onyx and I made some plans of our own while we are in the area. We aren't involved with the elves' affairs like that and we aren't dragons. We have spoken about personal matters we will work on."

This made them all wonder but it appeared that Remey nor Onyx, would be sharing anything. "As long as you both can handle it. I will make sure you have the potions you need and everything else." Since Walker had all the potions along with spare gear, he wanted to ensure that Remey and Onyx Would be alright on their own later.

"You all know that you have to actually leave so that you can figure this out, right?" Elise was sure that they had all forgotten that they actually needed to get in the backs of the lava diving bats to go to the

area they wanted to be. "And how will you handle the heat too? The tamers can set you up with something pretty good there." Elise saw more potential for the guide to win some points with the party.

"Oh, I'm glad you asked. We have water elemental rune bracelets along with the necklaces that Midnight got for us when we were in the dwarven city. Paired together, they should be able to handle the high heat and keep us safe. We won't be swimming in lava but we will be able to do what we need to do." Su showed off the two items that they wore. She was proud to show off the very helpful gifts she had received over the time from Midnight and the wandering blacksmith.

"Just remember we promised the wandering blacksmith we would bring something back for him since he gave us the bracelets to go with the necklaces. Between the three groups we split in to, we should find something." Walker reminded everyone while he hefted himself up on the back of one lava diving bat.

Midnight was very carefully getting on one since she was a dragon and could easily spook them. But the bats were very tough willed. They could swim in lava afterall and did not shy away from scary situations.

Chapter 1357 1357. Hard Heads

"Human. You have some skill I will admit that. But do not dare to think you can outdo my warriors just because you arrived with some eye catching battles." Ignus was looking down in full dragon form at Barry.

"With all due respect, I am not here to impress you. This sort of thing is simple training. Not that it is challenging. I would fare better against that little champion of yours." Barry didn't even let up against Ignus's high and mighty attitude. As far as he was concerned, there was no need for pleasantries on a battle field.

"This is why I did not want to take you from the water or the earth bastards! I knew the human sent would be foolish." Ignus breathed a row of flames around him in annoyance. But Barry was still standing right where he had been. Not even a single hair was singed.

"The earth dragon fellow was focused on his task., yes, stubborn. But focused and could care less who I was. Just that the job was done. The water dragon gentleman, worth respect. He was very adaptable. Wish I could train a bit more around him. I could learn a thing or two. You? You are a lot like me when I go all out. I hate that." Barry flexed slightly causing his joints to creak under the stress of his own muscles.

"Me! Like a human! Do you know how many years I have witnessed on this mountain? You are nothing like me." The cries of the dragonkin echoed around them as they found another rogue dragon holed up in a small volcanic cave. The battle had started while Ignus and Barry had bickered. The pair were all talk and seemingly no action in this situation.

"Ha! Another fight." Barry was dashing away in a moment. He hefted one of his axes and extended the handle. One of his new favorite weapons had recently been forged.

The large dual blade axes were rare for people to use unless it was someone specially focused on cutting forests. But for Barry, they were brutal weapons. Having them forged with additional weight usually made them have very solid designs to handle that weight. But with the dwarves in Genesis, Barry had managed to get strong, heavy, and changeable axes.

The handles could extend to give him wider reach to be used as a double handed ax. That way he could train in another style of battle. The very idea had made him shake with excitement. It had been years since he was able to properly adapt and change his style of fighting. It could push him to a new level of strength.

As much as the dragonkin warriors mirrored Ignus in fiery battle intentions, they were more level headed. As Barry roared with glee toward the rogue dragon covered in ash, they moved away. The very first time that Barry had arrived on their hunt to find rogue dragons, he had accidentally destroyed five dragonkin warriors' armors, knocked seven unconscious, and defeated three rogue dragons in a row. The berserker rage that Barry had been under gained him major respect.

"This stupid human. Why would we bother with them since they have small ideas to put races together." Ignus just groaned and mumbled while watching the fight. He didn't like that the world would change without him being around to do it. It was an insult to his being. Yet, he could not admit that he was not impressed a little bit.

Every swing that Barry let loose was enough to cause the rogue dragon major damage. On top of all of this, Barry was tough like a dragonkin. He had no armor, nothing to protect him from the heat, and nothing to save himself from the ragged claws of the rogue dragons. However, he somehow managed to walk away unhurt. Barely even dirty. Even as his clothing seemed to char, Barry's body resisted the environment itself.

,m "That's another one down!" Barry laughed as he watched the large rogue dragon collapse. The flame attacks that the dragonkin warriors used were much less effective since the rogue dragons had once

lived in the fire dragon villages. They lost their minds but they had the blood of fire dragons. They would be able to live in the volcanoes as well.

Smaller roars burst out from nearby. These roars did not give Barry the desire to attack in the least. "Lord! We found something!" The dragonkin that shouted attracted the interest of Ignus. When he landed he saw two smaller hatchlings. Two that had been forced out just less than a year ago from the village.

"What do you intend to do? Hm? They aren't attacking mindlessly like the other failures of the dragon race. Are those ones going to get to live? Or will they die?" There was another kind of brutality in Barry's words. They said too many things for words to explain. Yet, Ignus knew that he would need to battle this human to the death if the answer was wrong.

"That natural mana kid said he would raise a hatchling to be even better than we could imagine. Let's put that to the test. I will watch him fail with two brats that weren't even strong enough to properly resist the what here." Ignus saw the slightly tinged scales on the hatchlings. They were weak and did not belong in his villages.

"If that's the choice you made then it was the right one. They belong in Genesis where they can become truly powerful. They might even surpass you." Barry spoke softly. It was these words that seemed to hit Ignus harder than any of the others the human had spoken yet. There was just something about the way that Barry changed demeanor when he spoke things with true meaning.

Chapter 1358 1358. Forward Thinking

"Whoa there! Keep calm. Let the guests off and you can go and play in the lava for a while!" The tamers that helped the party off of the back of the lava diving bats were struggling to calm them. They were too happy to be home and wanted to rush off toward the lava already.

Walker looked around. He had watched as the landscape changed below them while holding on to the bats. The fields gave way to mountains and the mountains to rolling hills of lava spread out between large volcanoes. The height they were at allowed the party to see that they could potentially pass through this area and back to the oceans.

The tamer's outpost was much larger than Elise had made it sound. There were sturdy stone buildings with many tamers moving around to prepare food ton delivery or even training their tamed beasts. It was a fire elemental monster paradise.



Even the fact that the temperature was high seemed to be forgotten. The tamer's around had specialized gear that allowed them to further resist the heat. The entire party had assumed that they would encounter a bunch of tough and sweating tamers. The reality was different though, some appeared as if they were basking in a cool harvest breeze.

"This place is very interesting. I have already seen multiple tamed monsters that I have never imagined. But look, they also have a building to breaking down hunted monsters." Alma pointed out the large eel monster being broken down outside and hauled within the building. Not many would be able to hunt such a monster.

"I'm just glad we aren't melting in the what. The bracelets and the necklaces are perfect. Well, Midnight seems more comfortable without them though." Gil pointed out M midnight who was rolling in the small hot stones on the ground. She seemed to have found love in life. It was warmer than the fireplace, the perfect napping place for any dragon with even the smallest fire elemental affinity.

"Come on. Let's get out of the way. We should get everything situated. I have a map so we can better prepare our routes after asking around about current events." Walker knew that a map was just a map. He wouldn't know of any changes in the landscape or dangerous monsters without asking the tamers that lived here.

"Did I hear you right? You want to catch up on what's going on? That's easy. Check the board over there. It has things to watch out for and closed trails. The lava flow changes throughout the day so some are more recently cleared or blocked." The guidance from the tamer handling the lava diving bats was very welcome. Everyone said their thank you's to him before following the advice.

"It says there is a lava flow here, two pits here, and lava slimes here." Gil was checking everything over comparing to the planned pathways that he and Alma had decided to take. "We should be safe overall. Nothing too crazy."

"That's good for you. The pathways we planned to take are a little more of a mess." Walker saw that two routes he had chosen were covered in a lava flow.

"Can't you use your skills to make the pathways safer? I bet you can solidify the lava by cooling it in to stone." Gil tried to be helpful but knew it was a longshot.

"I don't want to ruin the environment. Plus, I don't know what monsters are hiding away in the lava. If I cool it I could anger them and we could be sitting targets for them." Walker knew that the monsters within the lava would be tough to handle. On top of that, they were also monsters that the group was not used to hunting.

"Well, Onyx and I will stay nearby here. We are after things that grow near lava and hot places but nothing too dangerous." Remey and Onyx left the rest of the group behind. They seemed too driven to stop for an explanation.

"It's not just me that thinks it's a little odd that Remey and Onyx are suddenly so close." Su felt that this was out of the blue.

"I agree, but Onyx seems to feel very driven by their goals. Whatever they need, Remey and she are working together so I will support it." Walker didn't have any ill will for this. He liked that Onyx was getting more independent and that Remey was not locked in an office somewhere.

"Midnight, what are you thinking? Want to skirt around these areas and push toward the volcanoes? I doubt we will miss the fire dragon villages." Walker had a general idea of where the fire dragon villages were, he would be able to sniff it out with Midnight once they were closer.

The approving huff from Midnight made them all nod and prepare to separate. "Wait! I forgot to give everyone this. These are dried jing tree bark. It's good to chew on when in these places. The fumes from burning rocks can be toxic and this counters them." Remey rushed over and handed out sticks of the dried jing tree bark to everyone. "Alright, now I am leaving!" Remey was gone again.

"Huh, I didn't even think that would be a problem." Gil was a little shocked. Even Alma was kicking herself since she had forgotten such an important fact.

"Remey came through on this. I think we would have been in rough shape. I didn't do enough research." Walker felt he had missed something important.

"She cares a lot and knows better about things like this. Herbs that grow here need to tolerate the toxic fumes too. Remey is the best at learning such things." Su reassured Walker and made a mental note to thank Remey. With this, they were all ready to split off.

Chapter 1359 1359. Remey's Training Plan

"Are you really sure that we shouldn't tell the others about this?" Onyx was voicing the very last of his concerns. He felt that not telling the rest of the party what they had planned was unfair. But he wasn't one to keep secrets in the first place.

"They will be fine. We are going to look for fire elemental materials along with what we need. You and I both know that you want the light and darkness affinity potions made sooner than later." Remey had been hard at work studying the materials in the lava lands before he left. The very reason was for Onyx and her development.

"But you said that the chances of us finding the burnt light leaves is very low. They are a rare high tier triple elemental herb!" Onyx felt that he was being teased but didn't know enough to fight Remey.

"I said that they would be impossible to find. But since you have me, I will just punch through it all to get what we need." Remey was partially joking while also sure that she would be able to find what they needed. She had worked hard to study the area and growing conditions.

Seeing that onyx needed a little more to calm down, she continued speaking, "The burnt light leaves grow on a round bush. They absorb the light elemental mana to the point that they start to burn but not catch flames. The burnt pieces lose their light elemental mana and absorb darkness elemental mana to resist fully burning. It is a perfect balance that traps the fire elemental mana." This was exactly why the burnt light leaves were considered to be so rare.

"I understand that. They are an enigma when compared to other singular or dual elemental herbs." Since Onyx had studied some things, he was sure that the herb was unique to the volcano areas.

"That balance makes it have purer elemental mana trapped within each leaf. Based on how it is processed, it can have many effects. In your case, I can focus the ingredients to create a light and dark affinity potion. The effectiveness will fall but it will have both manas. Or I can remove one to create a specific high elemental mana potion of light or dark." She already knew that the old master alchemist would be crying to get his hands on these herbs.

"That all changes if I make it a fire elemental affinity potion. I could make a high fire affinity potion that can drastically help someone. Or, I can make a potion with a few more unique fire elemental ingredients to make an affinity potion made for me. For me and my partner." The alchemy fire spirit was enjoying the atmosphere. The heat and fire elemental mana moved to encase it.

"You can make an alchemy fire affinity potion!?" Onyx was amazed that such a level of alchemy was already comprehended by Remey even though she had not been participating in the actions for many years.

"No. That's not it. But I can make something similar. A potion that helps me adjust to alchemy fire. I can manipulate it in a rough way. It's not at all the same with how my partner controls their flames." The alchemy fire spirit had a massive amount of control over the mana it was made out of.

"So you want to be able to control it better and this potion will do that?"

"Exactly. This will help me train my resistance to it. Technically it will be a poison. One that makes alchemy fire mana hurt me more. Don't tell Su. she might lock me up for doing this." The extreme training was not unheard of. Many defenders had to go through quests with such training to become resistant to certain elemental mana attacks. The dragonkin did this with the affinities they had as well.

"Su would not allow you to do this. But that brings me to my next question, can you make one for me?" Onyx wanted to become stronger as well. If Remey was going to put herself through brutal training that would force her beyond her limits, then why would Onyx shy away from such a thing?

"I thought you would ask that so I have some materials being held on to for when we get back. I will not make one for any of the other abyssal or heavenly serpents. I will refuse since they are not like us. Too young, and not on the front lines of constant surprises." There was much more seriousness in Remey's voice saying this. Onyx was not going to argue against her.

"After the potion and training regime I carefully built, I should be able to fight much better. I looked in to some very old books that Gil might be able to get more information on. The flame elves one had very high alchemy affinities. Some even coated their bodies in armor made of their flames. Alchemists weren't always like Trish, they didn't need potions to cause explosions or poison mists. They used the very flames they used to make potions as weapons."

"So it isn't just Gil looking to help bring back older traditions. You might bring back a proper battle alchemist." Onyx was interested because he had finally found why Remey hadn't teased Gil about the subject matter of his recent studies.

"You're doing the same things Onyx. I saw you looking at those ancient murals of abyssal and heavenly serpents. You want to bring back the strength they once had and form your own race. That's why you and I are working together on this one. Now let's go find a lava creek with a lot of light shining on it." The pair continued on their path through the burnt black rocks.

#### Chapter 1360 1360. Arrows And Lava

"It was a little weird that Remey was asking so much about the flame elves and their alchemy history the other day, right?" Gil still felt off about it. Like he had been used for information when Remey had suddenly decided not to change whatever her plans were to join he and Alma. He had thought she would decide to come with them after learning such things.

"She was looking in to how they used alchemy fire. Didn't you realize?" Alma knew that Gil was smarter than that. He had a major affinity for archery and could figure out the complications of making elemental arrows without training. It was a genius level archery skill. But he still missed important things around him.

"Well...I don't have much to do with fire and stuff. I know the records your city had made the flame elves out to be fire elemental archers with specified fire mages. But the flames of different levels didn't make much sense." For those without in depth understanding of fire, they would miss out on why the flame elves were so unique.

"The flame elves have solely focused on fire. Unlike the mages from my home who separated them and tried to balance them with each other in a team. The flame elves discovered the levels of fire. They know dragon fire reigns near or at the top, but adding their secondary weak affinities they have managed to alter flames. Alchemy fire is one such situation." The history that Alma had memorized was radically larger than most people could even dream of.

"The flame elves should be able to master blue flames and purple flames as well. I can't say I fully grasp the differences but the ghostly blue flames have been said to be slow but extremely hot. Their enforcers are more mages than archers." This was striking to Gil since he was sure that the flame elves would have archery enforcers too.

"So it might not be just alchemy that Remey has in mind. She could be trying to do more with her fighting too." The pieces clicked together in Gil's mind. He was sure that Remey would be totally alchemy focused.

"That's exactly right. You said that she can use the alchemy fire with her punches now. You showed her the books that had the flame elves using fire as armor. So why wouldn't she want to learn? We might

even get to meet a flame knight while there. They are pretty rare though." Alma wanted to meet all the kinds of system users from the flame elves. The records that the first elves had were fairly lacking compared to the water elves.

"It will still be a little time for us to make it there. But for now, let me test out a few things." Gil had not been sure what his arrows would do within the lava filled area. The pathways were clearly marked since every adventurer or merchant traveling took it upon themselves to mark out safe trails. It was one important factor for the area.

Gil had his water elemental arrows and knew that they might not work the same way in this environment. The ice that would form was dependent on the water in the area he fired them in. "Just make sure you don't anger any monsters around here. They might not like someone firing off arrows like crazy." Alma knew that the four enforcers she had brought were hiding away in the surroundings. They Needed to hear her warning clearly.

"Everything should be fine. I touched base with the mages to ask about elemental reactions. I have also seen Walker training. He is able to mix elemental mana but the reactions that happen while he does it can teach you a lot." Just watching high natural mana be formed was very telling when it came to how the elemental manas mixed.

"Maybe I will pay attention next time I am invited to train at your mansion." Su had invited Alma to train before but she had been too busy. Now she was tempted to ask Su to train just to see what Walker was capable of and if she could grasp some understanding of elemental mana she may have missed.

"This is a water elemental arrow but it forms a spike of ice. I have no idea what it will do here.." The water elemental wither spike arrow was pulled back before Alma could offer her ideas of what might happen. The release of the arrow sent it flying fairly nearby. But it still landed next to a lava pool.

Instead of water gathering and creating a spike, the arrow seemed to just burn up. "So it's a lost-" The lava in the pool suddenly cooled and hardened before slowly melting again. "So I created a temporary stepping stone. That's great." This was unexpected but very useful. Gil could use this to cross dangerous areas.

"Very good. Water is not useless but you lost an arrow so be wary of your limits." The enforcers also witnessed this encounter and knew that Alma was speaking to them. If they used their arrows they would be risking losing them. They could not recover and battle consistently.

"Even the fire arrows might do that. But what about the damage they cause?" Gil already drew and released the fire elemental wither spike arrow while speaking. It landed further away since Gil feared the reaction.

The fear was warranted. The arrow landed and caused a very large burst of flames before burning the arrow to ashes. "Exactly as I thought. Faster burst of fire, less chance of recovery, but perfect for stunning an enemy. Even if the enemy is a fire affinity monster!" These experiments were making Gil feel like he had discovered archery all over again. It was all too exciting.