

Master 1371

Chapter 1371 1371. Insult To All Elves

Stunned silence was the first thing that Gil and Alma were capable of. However, there was a growing feeling in Alma's chest. One that was foreign to her normally. One that she had not needed to show.

"How pathetic." The disgusted tone that Alma allowed to escape her lips was enough to make anyone's skin crawl. "To think that the flame elves have fallen to such a sad low in their generation."

The words of retaliation caught in the flame elf king's throat. "You do not know a single thing about the outside world. Your streets are full of pretty things and nothing else. Your ideals are old and flawed. Genesis is where everyone is EQUAL. Every race. Merfolk, elves, humans, dragons, dwarves, goblins, grey haired spiders, demi-humans, and every race to join us as we grow." Seeing the fury in Alma's eyes made Gil wonder just how angry she truly was.

"I did not give up my name for the future title of queen. Instead, I give my time and dreams. I will stand for all elves, even you in your delusions. But know this, you will not have a place in Genesis with your foolish ideals that you are better than anyone else. That worthless thinking will slow the growth of the harpies on the cusp of obtaining their rights as a proper intelligent race. It will poison the bonds we work hard to forge." Alma looked at Gil with expectant eyes.

"You speak ill of myself and my entire race but you lack the knowledge of what we have done. Humans have fought alongside dragons. We have discovered ruins. We have brought many races together already. But that is small to you since you are blinded. Alma would still stand for you if you gave up your poor world view." Gil was sure that Alma had been waiting for him to join her. His words had to match her tenacity.

"As I stated before, my titles are many, my bonds great. But if I need to explain it in simpler terms, I am a human arcane archer. And I am better than most archers that elven race gives birth to. Can you say the same? Can you say that you have everything above a human? Because I see nothing worthwhile here."

Gil took a deep breath and began to reinforce Alma even further. The more he spoke the higher she seemed to stand. "Where are the other elemental spirits? All I see are fire spirits. How sad that you thrust them out because that is the only explanation. The fruits I saw in your stalls were there for looks, but no one was buying. Your people moved as if forced to. Do you have any respect for your own people? I would never support such acts. Every single being in this world is equal and deserves such respect."

Zephyr took the opportunity to float in to the air causing a breeze to rattle the room. The flame elves looked at her with panic. They had not expected a grand wind spirit to be in their presence. "Do you not recognize a grand wind elemental spirit given a name by the world? Do you not recognize Zephyr, my family?" This statement alone shook the flame elves' hearts.

It had been generations since a grand elemental spirit had been seen within their walls. The flame elves had once been living in turn with a grand fire elemental spirit but it had left them. Since that day they had done any and all things to recover their ability to house it with no success.

"Blasphemy! We are pure fire elemental beings that represent the true elemental will of the world. We will clean your sins from the face of the world! Do not walk in here believing you can forc-"

"You will remain silent!" Alma shouted full force. "I would not give my hand to such a narrow minded fool who can not even care for his people. You do not deserve the title of flame elf king. Nor do your people deserve a place in Genesis unless they can open their eyes!"

At this point, the flame elf guards burst in to flames. The fires changed shape becoming armors. Gil was witnessing the flame knights that he had been told about but not in the way he had hoped to. "Gil, have you used your party chat to tell Walker?" Alma knew that they needed help. But she was worried that Gil had been caught in the moment forgetting to ask for it.

"Don't underestimate me. If it's for your safety, I would call for the entirety of Genesis to go to war. I sent him a notification the moment I saw the oddness of the elemental spirits." Gil smirked as he watched Alma reach down and touch a root of a crag tree. The entire floor was made up of them.

"Then we will wait for them. Protective measures!" Alma had the enforcers encircle her and Gil. Gil had arrows drawn ready to defend. The flame knights had begun to move inward. Towards them...

(Just after Gil sent Walker a party chat notification.)

"Ignus. I need to cut this short. My family needs me." The radical change in conversation was enough to show Ignus just who Walker was deep down. Every dragon was prideful. They would oust the weaklings from their nests. But that did not mean they wouldn't defend those around them to the very last breath.

Ignus was a prime example of the lengths he would go for. If something dared to harm a single dragonkin on his watch...it would spell the end for whatever had done so.

"If this is within my territory, I am obligated to come as well." This was his home. Ignus owned and protected it. No one would be allowed to harm a royal dragon or their family. No matter how Ignus felt about them. This was a dragon's pride.

Chapter 1372 1372. Wind's Fury

"Imprisonment for life! The flame elves will fix this impure mistake and properly redeem the names of tall elves. The grand fire spirit shall return! The flame elf king made this decree as the fire knights moved to capture them.

"Protect the queen!" The four enforcers moved to intercept the flame knights. Unfortunately, they were only able to combat four of them. The remaining approached Gil and Alma.

"Your nature is at my bidding!" The crag tree roots surged up, swiping away a flame knight as they attempted to get near Alma. she was not allowing a single one to reach her. She had ideals to live up to and a newly found elf city to bring back to the right path. It cost Alma a significant amount of her mana to use such skills with plants she was not familiar with or had grown herself.

"Don't even try it!" Gil fired multiple arrows at the approaching knights only to find that they were able to deflect them. The flame knights were able to wield the flames like armor. It set them aside from the traditional elven values. The flame elves had taken their elemental affinity and focused on them in the sense of defense and up close battle. That was why they had throwing spears and guards instead of enforcers.

"Stand down!" Gil was hit from behind knocking his quiver far across the room. Zephyr was within the bow using all of her might to direct wind elemental mana toward her and Gil. She wanted him to be able to have the fastest arrows possible for the battle they found themselves in. However, Gil could not do so without arrows.

Due to the recoil of Alma's sudden attack and use of mana, she was already panting. She couldn't seem to sweep the crag tree roots again while the flame knights stood back up. She was completely defenseless against the knights approaching her. Gil watched as one was about to grab Alma and take her away from him. Take her away from the dreams she had forged. Away from all those she cared for.

"Zephyr...we can't let this happen." Gil felt his blood chill. He gripped his bow tightly and breathed calmly. His eyes seemed to be seeing everything in slow motion. The only thing that mattered was that Alma was in his sights and no one would harm her. No one.

The intense burst of wind that followed Gil standing up was one that no flame knight could stand against. The wind was whipping in brutal torrents around him as Gil reached a hand to where his quiver should be. To see the air currents was the mark of powerful wind elemental mana being used. As the wind condensed within Gil's hand, the form of a greenish arrow appeared.

From the arrow Gil had created came constant screaming. The intensity of the wind suddenly died when he pulled back his bow. But by now there were fifteen flame knights moving right after him.

"The grand wind spirit Zephyr commands the skies to bow before me. Bow before the avatar of wind and welcome the gale!" Zephyr's words echoed. Every single being within the area could hear her. It did not matter what language or how it was spoken. They understood the calamity being brought upon them.

Gil released the arrow. The air that had seemed to freeze was caught in an uproar. Shredding streams tore through the crag tree branches while throwing the flame knights like ragdolls. The walls of the flame king's hall were torn asunder while the flame king found himself trapped within a torrent of wind only to be slammed upon the ground multiple times.

Gil's arrow flew through the ceiling and in to the skies causing the clouds to warp. Sparks from the larvae flows were caught in to a massive spout of twirling flames. The flame elves fell in to a panic believing they had summoned the wrath of the world.

The only ones left without a single scratch on them were the elite enforcers and Alma who were looking at Gil with dropped jaws. His form was covered in wind matching the shapes that Zephyr took. Wind elemental spirit marks covered his arms and neck like tattoos. "We will not allow harm to come to those we protect." The words flowed from Gil's mouth as if carried by a soft spring breeze to their ears.

The next sound that came in to their ears was Gil hitting the ground unconscious and the flapping of dragon wings. Walker and Ignus had rushed ahead without holding back. They left everything else behind to bring their force upon the people that may be harming Walker's family. "Alma! Tell me what happened!"

Walker rolled Gil over without a single pause. He was using healing spells and lifting Gil's head to drink a mana potion. The natural mana around him was visibly rippling. Even Ignus felt that he would have trouble controlling the fire elemental mana with Walker in such a state.

Miraculously, a single figure raised itself from the ground. Bruises were already forming on their body. "A tantrum fit for a lower race without purity. Brining a beast to defend you. The flame elves will achieve purity and bring back the grand fire spirit to its rightful home!" The voice of the flame elf king was maddened.

"You caused this?" Walker had used healing spells and two mana potions on Gil. he knew that Gil was safe. But his rage at seeing that Gil was harmed did not settle. "I came because my family said something was off here and they did not feel safe. I came here to this?" Walker stepped forward slowly. The mana gathered around him. "The flame elves do not deserve the warmth they praise any longer. You have lost the right."

Chapter 1373 1373. Cooling Stones

"Ignus, bare with the cold." Ignus was unsure of what Walker meant. He just knew that Walker was extremely angry. It was easy to see, but unexpected. From what Ignus had seen, Walker was calm headed and balanced.

"Walker, don't force yourself to deal with this. The elves-"

"Alma, you have burns on your arms from the trees here. Gil will be unhappy if you don't heal up quickly. Have your enforcers help you. I will handle this while you rest." Walker's words seemed sweet, yet they had a dark lining.

The mana condensed quickly around Walker. He considered attacking and defeating the flame king while the coyote would have to be handled differently, but looking at the attendants picking themselves up caused Walker to change his thinking.

The entire royal flame elf court had hateful eyes. They looked at Gil passed out on the ground after defending the person he loved with disgust. The hatred the flame elves had grown for everyone was too great. It was the same form of poison that the demon lands were infected with. The corruption that should have no place in the world.

A single flame knight attempted to walk toward Walker but was too slow to do anything. "I may not be able to freeze this place, but I can remove the warmth of your pure flames." There was a domineering tone in Walker's voice. It was the same tone a dragon roar had. The same tone that demanded attention.

Walker did not have a small amount of water prepared for this journey. He had brought multiple barrels in case they were needed. The entire terrain was water poor. How could they have found water in this place? The question had prompted Walker to store a lot of it for whatever need he had. This time, his need was not for drinking or sharing with others.

The sizzling of water starting to evaporate on the black stones was followed by a simple few words. "If I had more water this would be a proper ice dragon's domain. Count yourself lucky that you are not frozen fully."

Walker's hand touched the steaming water causing a radical change. The ring around him became frozen and ice crystal covered. But further, the stones began to rapidly cool. Cracking sounds rang out as this spread through the flame elf city. The entire city soon felt the change. Even without the cooling feeling being strong in every spot, the warped stone had a chain reaction.

The opposing forces caused stones to crack and the crag tree roots to shift. The deep lava beneath the rock was also cooling and creating pressure. The entire flame elf main hall was being broken in to cracked shards. The flame elf kin could only collapse looking at the price he had to pay for threatening Genesis and its people.

"Ice dragon domain.... The wrong path to use here. But effective." Ignus mumbled to himself watching this happen. The reaction that the small amount of water elemental mana was having on an entire area of land was wondrous. Ignus rarely brings his fire elemental mana in relation to other elemental manas to mind. He focused on fire elemental mana purity. But not to the degree that the flame elves did. Walker was able to cause reactions in other elemental manas using all of this which presented itself in the very ground cracking through a city.

The elite enforcers had already moved to keep Gil on their shoulders. The other two were assisting Alma. One had run to grab Gil's quiver of arrows since they knew the value it had to him. "Ignus, I will make a statement. Then I can return to what we were doing." Walker was still using some mana to hold the area beneath his feet together. The cracked stone was trying to burst apart in a jumble since it was under pressure.

"Take your time and make your point. This is a fitting punishment for ignoring respect." Ignus was partially glad to see that Walker was willing to punish those that offended him. However, there was also the fact that Walker had done so with a skill that every dragon could use in their own elemental form. It was something that made him wonder what Walker could do with a nature dragon domain.

Using the wind ripple skill, Walker moved high in to the air. "Those of the flame elf city! You have insulted the city of Genesis. You believe in your purity and standing above all races. You are wrong!" Walker used the wind elemental mana to carry his voice to the entire city.

"In Genesis people are all equal disregarding race. If you wish to leave your way of life here for equality, you may take the journey there. If you dare to bring trouble to Genesis or other races, you will be punished!" With this, Walker released his hold on the earth elemental mana.

Stones cracked further being released from their pressure. The elemental manipulation Walker had done to create hot and cold spots was minimal in the scheme of things. Yet, it highlighted his understanding of elemental mana and what a small change could do. The city had lost its foundations and the crack trees had shifted. It was easy to avoid being harmed but it would cause a lot of trouble to put back together. Walker had damaged the entire city with one move.

But this had freed the mask from the city's face. The painted statues lost pieces of their color showing the rugged and burnt exterior. The market that Gil had seen lost the fabrics hiding the rotting crack tree wood. Everything had been ignored. The city was on its last legs and the flame elf king had let it all happen.

As evidence of all this, a few flame elves were cheering. Something unusual in Walker's ears until he heard the hatred born for the flame elf king and his attendants. This was all not as simple as it had appeared. "Time to leave." Walker moved through the air following Ignus who was leading back to the village. He was doing his best to hold himself together since he had abused his mana yet again. His body cried for him to stop and rest.

Chapter 1374 1374. Answers

Getting back to Ignus's village was a very fast process. Due to his annoyance that the enforcers were carrying Gil slowly, Ignus had directly grabbed them with his claws and carried them all the way there. It was something that made Walker think higher of Ignus because the excuse was too forced.

"Alma, tell me what you saw and why things were like that?" Walker wanted all the information. Gil was resting since he had overexerted himself. It was clear that Walker had rushed in causing a lot of drama without knowing the full story.

"When we went in to their city Gil noticed the spirits. Zephyr was even acting protective of him. The more we looked we felt off. Everything was too perfectly set up for us. Even the elves walking around were too perfect. None of them were working. Just walking around." This was very unnerving since it could have been someone using a skill.

"We were brought to the flame elf king's hall. He had very bad information about Genesis. He thought that I was the one going to rule over all of it. Uniting the elves wasn't for equality and peace but to rule everyone. He was terrible. He thought Gil was a servant. He didn't even let Gil speak at first." Alma shook slightly becoming angry.

"It only got worse the more he spoke without letting us explain things. It was like our words were just imaginary. Then he said that he invited us there to join together, by marrying me." Alma saw Walker's eyes become wide.

"That explains why Gil may have been angry enough to not hold back...But that still doesn't explain things. What was that form that Gil was in? Where did the powerful wind come from that broke the flame elf king's hall?" These were very important to Walker. He and Fleur had felt the mana being controlled with extreme precision.

"I don't know it well. The elders would know it better. But from what I do know, Gil has become the avatar of wind. It's something that spirit mages have the potential for. The title is given by a grand elemental spirit or equal. That spirit chooses an avatar to bond with completely. Basically, Zephyr and Gil become one through that skill." Alma had a small tear running down her cheek.

"One of the flame knights was going to grab me and Gil made an arrow out of wind to knock them back. I used an attack that left me wide open and he was pushed too hard. It's my fault that he won't wake up." The enforcers felt the same as Alma. they had failed their positions. Gil had paid the price for all of them failing. Their silent prayers to the world for him to be well were all they could do now.

"And now between the wind and you the entire city might be ruined!" Alma's face fell in to her hands. She felt that she had even ruined the chances for the flame elves to ever reunite with the other elves and join Genesis. The future she had been working toward was already lost before it had a chance to be born.

"That is where you are wrong. After I waved those pathetic fire illusions away I saw everything. That city as you call it was nothing more than rubble. To purify things they fell to ruin. It has been many years since there were flame elves in great numbers. Right about the time of the last eruption." Ignus had been silent. He was watching Walker carefully. These things happened within Ignus's territory but Walker was the one acting on what had happened.

"I also saw a lot of those fabrics and paintings erased after Gil's attack. That was all for show, just as he thought. I would not be surprised if the flame elf city has been slowly falling in to ruins before you ever arrived. And what was that about a grand fire spirit?" Walker was slowly assembling the pieces.

As Walker was understanding the situation, Alma was already ahead of him. It snapped her out of self pity and put her back in to her focused mindset. "The flame elves lost the grand fire spirit they worshiped at some point. They said that they would be able to bring it back by bringing the elves together. If they have been giving everything up to attract the grand flame spirit..."

"Then they have been throwing their people aside for years already." Walker finished her sentence. The two were disgusted that a ruler could do such a thing.

"You may be unhappy with my people for ousting the weak. But we would never sacrifice all of our people to purify elemental mana. Or to attract the attention of anyone." Ignus found a great amount of distaste in the flame elves' actions. Purification of mana should not be through sacrifice. It should be through careful meditation and learning. It should be a positive pursuit instead of a corrupted poisoned one.

"The real question is, where did the flame elves go? There were no bodies around, no signs that they did untold evils. So where could they be?" Walker wanted to go and return there as soon as he could. He wanted to find the answers to his question so that he could ensure those responsible for any crime would come to justice.

,m "Banished. Every elf has the same tradition. Banish those that do not conform to the traditions. The forest elves were always less likely to do so. The forests were not a place we felt should be full of the banished. Byt the flame elves were strict, they banished their people even before they went mad." Alma felt that she was discovering a terrible thing. Banishment was the loss of one's home. A great insult. A tragedy for the criminals that could not be punished in other ways.

Chapter 1375 1375. Where They Went

"I may be able to shed light on that. The volcano that erupted caused me to move my village. It was troublesome but the flow of lava changed and so did the potency of mana." Ignus was certain that he

knew where a grand fire spirit would go. He did not interact with them but he did know of them. And since Walker had shown that there were items that could be made specifically for elemental spirits, it made Ignus think about starting to learn more about them.

"The volcano is still active. It has fire elemental mana directed toward it but it is not safe for my dragonkin warriors to grow. I have come near there to train myself. There always seems to be a few elves there but I would ignore them."

"You're saying that the banished elves moved to the volcano so that they could be near the grand fire spirit?" Walker received a nod. He was surprised that Ignus was so good at knowing his territory. "You keep a close eye on your territory. I can learn from that." Walker gave credit where credit was due. He would not forget this as a lesson.

"That's where I have to go next then. I can fix this. They were kicked from their city because their leaders lost their minds. I can't let them think they are alone." The hope that Alma felt for the flame elves was pushing her. But Walker stopped her from standing.

"You will rest here. Gil is still unconscious, your four guards are in no shape to do anything, and you still lack mana." The parental tone was much stronger when Walker spoke at that moment. He was not going to allow anyone to further get hurt. Especially with Gil still unable to protect himself.

"You speak of matters like this as if they are troublesome. I can send one of my children to deal with it. They have been lazing about. Purifying their elemental mana has been the last thing on their list to do. I need a task to make them understand that they still need to grow. This should be demeaning enough. A simple messenger to bring back a flame elf from the volcano." Ignus grinned. He was going to make Walker more indebted to him as well.

"I mean no insult by this. But please allow me to go too. I need to be the one to unite my people. If I rely on you and only you then the elves won't be able to come together under our own power." Alma surprised Ignus with this. He had expected her to just give in. He was the most powerful one here. She shouldn't even think about going against him.

"If that is what you desire then you have one hour to prepare. You will go with my son. He will take you there and you will get three hours to make them follow you. Nothing more and nothing less." Ignus placed these restrictions for simple reasons. The volcano was a dangerous force of nature. Even he would find danger there. He had to protect his son to a degree.

Second, there was the fact that Alma had gone against him. He wanted to see her use that courage to get what she desired. Any being that was willing to speak back to a great dragon such as him should be able to make that happen.

And third, Walker was watching Alma carefully, he was not wrong about her current situation. Her body had been overtaxed using mana so quickly. She needed to recover and she just hadn't accepted it yet. Walker was the one who spoke the most logic but since Alma refused to follow it then Ignus would make it more challenging.

,m "Where are we going?" The rough voice of Gil interrupted their conversation. Alma nearly fell over when she jumped up and rushed to his side. The hug she gave him could have broken bones if Alma was any stronger. "You're safe..." the two words were filled with more warmth than the lava flowing underneath the stones.

"You know you should let him breathe. And you are doing this in front of a dragon and your elite enforcers." Walker smirked a little seeing that Alma became very red faced very quickly. She didn't even have the words to respond. "Glad you're awake. I thought I was going to lose a brother there. But it's your fault for using all of your mana like that Mr. Avatar of the grand wind spirit Zephyr." The teasing tone had some seriousness worked in to it.

"I can't say it isn't my fault. I didn't stay close enough to Alma and that fire was about to touch her. She would have been..." The air stirred slightly as Gil clenched his fists. But he was quick to calm himself. "I can't answer all the questions right now. I know a few things though."

Walker knew what was coming but waited for Gil to say it, "My new title is called avatar of the wind. It comes with the spiritual avatar skill. But it also is a one and done skill. I use all my mana to take that form and fire a powerful arrow. I couldn't control it at all, it was just my anger using it." Gil was understandably confused. He needed to speak to Zephyr.

"I can't speak to Ze[hyr either. She's asleep. The spirit mark moved to my chest. Right over my heart. I can feel it. Every heartbeat has more to it now. It has wind mana too. It's...different." Gil was lost but his hand held Alma's tighter.

As Gil calmed himself more and more, Walker summed up the situation that they had figured out. Gil went through the same emotions as them before saying one thing, "I will go and drag them back. They

have a home in Genesis where they can be anything they want." His attitude matched Alma's perfectly. Both were way too stubborn.

Chapter 1376 1376. Have You Not Noticed?

While the elite enforcers apologized to Gil for the fact that they failed, Alma was left amazed. "I didn't realize how much they had respected Gil. they apologized to me but right now, they look like they are apologizing to a brother." The way the enforcers and any archers had come to respect Gil was hard to understand.

"They see him as someone that learned and rose above the odds. A human becoming better at archery than an elf? A human that has a relationship with a grand elemental spirit which even an elf can't do? I don't know if you have been living under a rock but he is basically the hero your people think of when you mention the hero title. I'm small potatoes in comparison." Walker enjoyed the look of awe on Alma's face after saying this.

As much as Alma had looked at Gil with care, she had been blinded by her own duty. She had pursued strength for the elven people. This was simple for her to see and work toward. But she had been unable to see the degree at which Gil had incorporated himself in to their culture. Their beliefs. Their world. He was just as much an elf as he was a born human. The forest elves could care less what race he had.

"I see...I should do something about that." Alma's whisper was soft. She was thinking about how she could properly bring him in to their people with some form of title or award. But this wasn't what she should have been focusing on.

"Gil, are you able to move yet? I want to see a few things?" Walker had been holding Fleur back. She wanted to go over and check Gil out. it was the wind elemental mana that was surrounding him that interested her. She wanted to feel it and understand the change.

Walker felt that he would be able to learn a few things as well from everything. The main reason being that he might have a similar title with similar skill one day. The fact that he had a nature spirit partner set him aside from the other elemental spirits.

"You four need to get ready. Make sure you drink the mana potions and check for any lingering injuries. We have some elves to recruit." Gil left the four elite enforcers with a smile. He felt that they would want to redeem themselves no matter what., as much as they had been told they weren't at fault for the situation that occurred, they still took it upon themselves.

"What do you want to know?" Gil had a feeling that Walker would be pursuing similar goals to get to the title that he had discovered. It was unintentional but possessed great potential.

"I know you can feel it but, you have a lot of wind elemental mana clinging to your body now. I think it comes with the title and your new spirit mark. Fleur has wanted to see it for a bit now." Finally released, Fleur floated around Gil. she seemed more interested than Walker had realized she was. Gil just carefully watched. Now that Walker had mentioned it he could sense more wind elemental mana than before.

"I think I can add more wind to my arrows if I fire them. It should be a good thing. But I'm not sure I will be as good at making elemental arrows. I'll need to retrain myself." The fact that Gil was starting the notice this was massive. Just knowing that he would need to adjust his skills and techniques was the start of improvement.

"That should be a good thing. You will be able to use more force in battle and send the arrows further. You might steal away the titles revolving around archery from the forest elves." Walker joked but Alma reacted with a single glare toward them.

"Even if Gil gets them then the elves still hold them. He's pretty much one of us." Alma's huffy response made Gil chuckles slightly before drinking another mana potion.

"Ignus, I know it's sooner than I promised. But we should start thinking about leaving. The flame elves will receive their information about what is going on. I want to go there but I trust you and your offspring. Alma, Gil, you two better be back top Genesis soon. If Ignus and his dragonkin beat you then I will have to tease you more." Ignus followed Walker out of the room leaving the six to prepare themselves. They were going to gather the flame elves exiled from their homes.

,m "Leaving so soon could be seen as an insult." Ignus was not happy to let Walker show up and leave as he pleased.

"I have duties back in Genesis. I wanted to fully convince you to come there but I don't think you're planning that anytime soon. I see that you are focused elsewhere with the rogue dragons." The agreement to cleanse the lands of rogue and dangerous dragons was all too clear. The royals would not abandon it so easily.

"My warriors had dealt with them. My champion is also handling things. I will be there within the week with two hatchlings. I expect you to be prepared. Your champion better be ready to show them the gold flames she breathes. My hatchlings may be inspired." The hint was enough for Walker to grasp that fire dragons highly regarded the golden flame heart.

"Ignus, I had the wrong idea about you at first. Fire doesn't need to be cruel and unfeeling. It's passionate." The last words from Walker before he walked outside toward where Midnight and Su were training made Ignus wonder if he would be able to resist fighting Walker later on. Some things were better off left unspoken. But that was for another time. Ignus could see his dragonkin warriors returning with Barry.

Chapter 1377 1377. Leaving So Soon?

"So will you tell me what has been happening yet? You left Midnight and I here training saying that you would handle things. Do you not realize we can sense what you are feeling? Midnight more than I, but still. I know." Su had harsh energy around her words. She was not about to let Walker avoid it all.

"The flame elf king has been exiling his people to the point that only a very small portion of his city is actually occupied and livable. He also wanted to marry Alma to increase power and work toward elemental purity. A huge mess. Now Gil has a new title and Zephyr is resting. But don't worry, the exiled flame elves are near a volcano so Alma, Gil, and her guards are going there with the help from Ignus's son to recruit them in to Genesis."

The nonchalant attitude that Walker used was enough for Su to nod along before the word made their impact. She stopped and looked at him as if he had said something all together ridiculous. "And they were fine!?"

"Yes. Gil is fine. He used all of his mana firing a single arrow that tore away all the lies the flame elf king created. Then I may have gotten angry and broken a small part of their city using ice dragon's domain to cool the rocks and make a chain reaction. Ignus seems to have more respect for me though and is sending two hatchlings with him when he visits in a week." The happy response made Su want to smack herself in the face. Walker was just too odd sometimes.

Midnight didn't seem to worry. She could tell very much that Walker was relaxed knowing that Gil and Alma were safe. There was also the fact that she was happy to hear she would get to help two more hatchlings. The entire situation could have gone much worse. However, Walker was also stuck on the fact that Gil and Zephyr had bonded so closely. They had been training constantly even before Gil knew that Zephyr was within the bow.

"Walker, next time you bring us along no matter what. Even if you have another royal dragon with you." The hard requirement was nothing that Walker could argue with, he was stuck with it and that was that.

"Of course!...so, hope is training going?" Walker had left Du and Midnight there for a few hours. They hadn't stopped even though the sun had set and the area was only illuminated by flames and small pools of lava.

"Who do you think we are? We have been increasing our head resistance. Have you not noticed we aren't even wearing the necklace or bracelets?" Su pointed this out as if it was something that Walker should have noticed immediately.

"I did see that you were sweating, but so am I being down under the stones so I thought it was the heat getting to you." Since Walker wanted to improve his fire elemental resistance too he considered following suit. But he also worried that he would be too optimistic. Su and Midnight had much better al and regular defenses to resist conditions like this.

"We are going to leave Alma and Gil to their work. But we can start to move out. It will be better to get back to Remey and Onyx who should be prepared to leave." Walker also had to keep in mind that Remey needed to be back to the alchemy guild. The alchemy competitions were very close. The adventurer's guild would also be rewarding certain young adventurers with advancement within the guild. It would be important to hear what herbs they found that made this possible.

"This is too soon, but it's enough for now. Have you noticed that neither of us seems to need the bark Remey gave us? The poison fumes have had no effect at all since we stopped chewing it."

Su had narrowed this down to the fact that she and Midnight had more resistance than Walker would. But mainly, it was focused around the fact that they had some fire dragon abilities. The fire dragons lived in this kind of environment at all times, therefore, they resisted. Since Midnight had all elemental affinities as a nature dragon champion, so would Su. That was the key here.

"I wonder if I can be the same way then." Walker put the piece of bark in his pocket and soon found that his nostrils were burning. "Maybe not so much." His body wasn't reacting too poorly but he could feel the sluggish effect of weaker resistance. "I will tough it out for now. Just keep an eye out in case I look worse than now." The attempt to get stronger was brutal but would make a great difference.

"You kids show up and try to leave as soon as I get here. How unfair of you." The sound of heavy footsteps had already made the three turn toward them. But when Barry spoke out he made them all react.

"I had been told you were here, but I did not plan to bother you if you arrived. I know you have been working hard." Walker shook Barry's hand in greeting. He could see the small wounds all over Barry's body. The battles had not been easygoing.

"Just a few things to handle. Nothing to worry about. The older ones are the troublesome though. I will have you take this letter back to Clara. I ran in to a few interesting things that she may want to look in to." Barry could speak directly to Clara on important guild topics. He was the vice guild master. But he wanted to leave a list of things to her so it was simpler to have them written down to be brought over. He had been working on it for a few days now.

.....

Chapter 1378 1378. Taller

"We will get it to her, don't worry." Walker stored the letter away while Su started to fuss over the fact that Barry had not bandaged any of the small wounds on his body. She was showing a lot of the reasons behind her being in the cathedral. Barry didn't fight her though, he calmly took the salves and healing potion from her after Walker had pulled them from his storage.

"How have the battles been? A lot to deal with?" Walker wanted a little bit of insight on these things. It would help him explain to the other dragons if they were not pulling their weight.

"Not as many as you would think. But I have only been through three territories now. I am told that there are some that are worse than others." Not many of the royal dragons had said much but it was very clear from the things that had been said that there were worse territories than what Barry had seen already.

"I know if you get to the light dragon territory you may have a hard time. From what it sounded like in the royal dragon court, they are strict. Extremely so with their hatchlings. I would not be surprised if they have the rogue dragons unrestricted around their territory. I am unsure if they will actually bring hatchlings to Genesis either..." Walker felt that the light dragon would prove to be the hardest to handle since he had seen the attitude in the royal dragon court.

"I will keep that in mind. But I don't doubt that I will have help along the way. The dragonkin warriors have been fairly welcoming even though some are a bit too prideful." Barry had easily dealt with the few that thought of him as weak. He couldn't just let them stand over him too much. "I should be a bit stronger by the time I return to genesis. I just wonder who I will fight in tournaments.' The arena had been something on Barry's mind for some time now.

"I will let Scylla know that you want to enter. Maybe she will fight you herself." The possibility seemed to make Barry more excited.

"Get on with it. I will see you again in a little while." Barry shooed them away after that though. Su threw another bandage at him as he tried to walk away. Midnight just growled softly in parting. She had been too occupied with her current training.

"You seem to have a better grasp on the fire elemental mana." Walker could see that Midnight was working on her flame breath. She was holding it in her chest but it was clearly there. Controlled and waiting to be released.

"That's my fault. She was attempting to train in the hottest spot but I wanted to watch her bring in fire elemental mana to breathe flames. I want to be able to utilize the changes in my body sooner." Walker was a little surprised by Su's desire to breathe dragon fire. But it made sense, she had changed due to her bond with Midnight. And she had the potential to breathe flames. She even saw the skills as there in her system.

"If you manage to breathe fire you might be able to do some interesting attacks. When you have an opponent right up close during a shield bash you could add fire damage. It could be a very strong tactic against tough opponents." The potential that Su had before her was great. Walker couldn't say he didn't see it clearly.

"The real question is, will you be able to breathe flames?" Su wasn't sure if Walker would be able to. He had learned monster skills but none that augmented his body. He was still human from what Su could see.

"Well, I can't say I am totally human with how I have bonded with Midnight, elemental mana, and Onyx. To be fair, I also have a unique bond with Fleur that might change things. I feel like I am more of a mystery than I want to admit." Walker was clear in the fact that he wouldn't be able to speak in depth about this. He had to wait and see what he learned as he grew.

"One thing is clear though, you are hitting your own growth spurt. You are getting almost as tall as me." Su was the tallest in the party. It came with her general standing as the tank that protected everyone. She knew that she had always been taller because her parents were fairly tall. Yet now, she felt that she might end up shorter than the others. Everyone was growing while she was becoming tougher.

"I have been noticing it a little. It's about time though. Every day I get older, right?" Walker laughed a little while glancing at Midnight. She had also grown again but he had been avoiding the thought process.

Midnight was a dragon. Compared to Ignus in dragon form, she was minuscule. But she would be that size eventually. Therefore, he needed to keep preparing for such a time. There was the fact that Midnight Had been taking her dragonkin form more often. She was getting used to it. So much so that Walker thought she might need to start some battle training while in the dragonkin form.

"Midnight, when we get back to Genesis and settle down, do you want to train with me? Train in your dragonkin from? Maybe you can learn to use a weapon too. I'm sure you can make one just for you if the wandering blacksmith needs help spirit forging." He knew that the wandering blacksmith would never say no to Midnight who added her dragon flames to his forge often. Midnight responded with a short roar of approval. She would always train with Walker.

.....

Chapter 1379 1379. More Herb Finds

"Why is it that Walker told us to head back to the beast tamer's post and isn't here? He never uses the party chat function because we all are seeing each other so often." Remey was annoyed. She and Onyx had just made a huge find of burnt light leaves. But they had to quickly gather them to rush back to the post.

"Brother must have his reasons. He will need to tell us when he gets here." The fact that they had found a lot of the ingredients that they needed made both more relaxed overall. Bit Onyx was slightly annoyed that he wasn't getting more materials that the lava field had to offer.

"I was going to look for some crag tree seeds. They are very hard to grow but if I can find the right herbalist, then we can grow sprouts. There are skills that let an herbalist dwarf a tree. It's perfect for harvesting the flaming flower petals from the crag tree. They can be used for fire elemental potions.

Especially ones that heal burns. It's a unique medicine that causes the fire elemental mana to be pulled from the body instead of enhancing it."

Since Remey was in full teaching mode, Onyx kept his attention on her words while looking around. He could learn about the herbs and potions that he had been dragged in to making. He knew that Remey would not allow him to wander off while she made the potions for him.

"Remey, what about those herbs? They are being brought in to feed the tamed monsters, but are they not able to be used for anything?" The piles of herbs were harvested so that the tamed monsters could eat them or even use them as bedding. What Remey and Onyx had been blind to was the potential that they could be used for potions as well.

"Onyx, start exploring. If you find something good I will make you an extra few potions." Remey moved with lightning speed. She had become curious and started to ask the tamers in charge of the monster's resting stalls questions. She was going to find everything that she needed regardless of what was going on.

"Well, the crumbling grass is just that. Grass that grows fast, dries out in the heat, and crumbles. But it is good for bedding since it helps keep pests away. It would be even better if we had more water around here to make it a paste. Then we could add it to some gaps in the doors.' The tamer was very knowledgeable about the uses of the crumbling grass.

"Then it should be alright if I take some for alchemy experiments?" Remey had the idea that she might be able to make a paste or pellet that would keep away bug type monsters. That way the alchemy guild could sell them to the merchants and travelers.

"We harvest twenty or some of these wagons a day. The grass grows back before we even have half a day to use it. Just don't take from the wagon over there. That's a little rarer." The rule caused Remey to become more interested. She looked and saw that the crumbling grass was much older. It had a tougher exterior and was still attached to some roots.

"I did say to leave it alone. This is a wagon full of mutated crumbling grass. They get rough outer shells and take up a lot of space. We don't know why it happens but we pull it up every chance we get and dump it in to magma to get rid of it. We can't let it spread. It could take over the whole field."

"Even better for me to experiment with then. I would say it has taken on a stronger earth elemental affinity instead of a stronger fire elemental affinity. That way it can resist the wind and still stay together. I bet inside there are seeds instead of staying on the roots. There's a weird step in evolution that herbs go through where they both grow from roots and seeds at the same time." Remey grabbed a few and broke them open. Her point was proven by the tiny black seeds that fell in to her hand.

"Fine, just a few. The rest will be burned soon." The tamer just shook his head wondering if every alchemist was like this. But he had too much work to do to worry too much. Remey didn't seem to be someone that would go out of her way to make trouble for their harvests.

"Remey! I found apples." Onyx called out to Remey mentally. He was looking at the foods that some of the fire elemental monsters ate. One such monster stall had strange apples in front of them.

"I wouldn't go playing with those. Unless you are a magma turtle, you will be hurt pretty badly." The tamer nearby pointed out the red turtles eating the apples in one bite. "Those are volcanic apples. Hard to get to but very nutritious for the lava dwelling magma turtles here. They eat them with one bite and absorb the poison fumes inside. If you pop one accidentally you are as good as gone." The tamer looked to love the turtles a lot since he was willing to risk the danger to feed them.

"Are they hollow on the inside or do they have little pockets of poisons surrounded by white parts?" Remey was going in to full analysis mode to discover everything possible about this new fruit. It wasn't that she saw any potential alchemy uses but there was always a possibility. And where there was poison there could be an antidote made against it. That way the alchemy guild could sell it to the taming guild. The potential was endless. Remey became so focused on this that she didn't even notice when Walker, Su, and Midnight arrived back at the outpost.

.....

Chapter 1380 1380. Too Many Herbs

"I don't think we can leave Remey alone when there are herbs to gather. Even Onyx doesn't seem to be able to hold her back." Walker returned to the tamer outpost with Su and Midnight. They had a very uneventful journey back but that was a good thing since they were focusing on the fire and poison resistance.

"It's not just him, it looks like the tamers were no help either. Well, no help to you since it's you carrying it all." Su bumped Walker's shoulder. She rarely teased him but this was a little funny.

Remey had raided the outpost finding many herbs unique to the lava lands. She was basically a kid in a candy shop. She had surrounded herself with multiple small crates of herbs that were feed for monsters. The tamers had an excess of all of these and had found it fairly amusing that Remey was so interested.

By the end of her raid, Remey had collected over forty different herbs to experiment with or to grow in controlled environments to produce what she needed. She had even found a few crag tree seeds which she had desired more than some of the other herbs. She still had the flower petals in mind for a few potions.

"We tell you to come back here and you stole all of the tamed monster's food?" Walker didn't want to explain what had happened right away. He wanted to ensure that Remey was in a decent mood.

"What else do you think will happen when you tell me to come back here then take a million years? Why did we even need to come back anyways." Remey was not going to allow Walker to skirt the subject.

"Yes brother, what is the problem? Are we going to leave now because of some issue between you and the fire dragons?" Onyx worried that somehow the relationship between them and the fire dragons had suffered. The potential issues that could come from this were all too clear.

"No, it was Gil and Alma who had trouble..." Walker explained the situation carefully. Onyx was noticeably calm. But the look in his eyes showed more emotion than he would admit. The fact that his family had been at risk by a false king that could care less for his people was an outrage. Onyx had grown up to see people change and become better, to hear that someone had fallen so far was ridiculous.

"Remey, are you alright?" Su was looking at Remey wondering why she had not moved to charge toward the flame elf city.

"Gil already stuck it to them. He literally blew away all the lies they were showing. Then Walker showed them the error of their ways. I don't have to go and beat them up. But if they try to come to Genesis I will happily show them what we are like to those who oppress their people." Remey balled her fist to make the point clear. But she was more impressed by the fact that Gil had been able to get so close with Zephyr.

"You might be able to." Walker saw right through Remey. He could tell what she had begun to think. It was too easy. "If your alchemy fire spirit can grow in to a grand fire spirit then maybe it will be a new named spirit. I don't know the situation with the current named grand fire spirit but who says that an alchemy fire spirit and a regular fire spirit are the same things? They could both be named by the world."

"Who says I was thinking about that?" Remey pretended that it wasn't what she had been thinking about. But Su saw that she was smirking a little behind her false anger.

"On another note, we knew you needed to get back to genesis and we managed to invite Ignus over. He will come in a week with two hatchlings. I want to get Mordant ready for him to arrive too. Having two more hatchlings will be a big deal but having three of us royal dragons might be dramatic." Walker wasn't sure what antics might occur with Ignus's fiery attitude added to Genesis.

"I would be more worried that they are going to fight over the alchemists I have in the competitions! They might try and steal them away to make affinity potions for them. I need to ensure that every single one of them is registered for the guild before they compete." Remey was sure that she would find promising talents. But what she had forgotten about was the fact that any alchemist could be robbed from the guild if they do not register.

It was not illegal to perform alchemy outside of the guild. Anyone could do it. The only issue was the fact that the potions would not be alchemy guild approved and therefore they may have negative effects. There was also the stigma that they could be cursed.

The alchemy guild allowed genesis building officials to keep them under a microscope. It was Remey's idea in the beginning so that any future leader of the alchemy guild would not abuse control of potions and safety.

While Walker stayed with Remey to store away the many small crates of herbs. Su was already preparing the tamers to allow them to leave. The very same lava diving bats would be taking them home since they had been resting after the arrival.

Onyx was telling Midnight all about their search for herbs and the golem crabs they had found. But Midnight had thrown her own account of the dragon village at Onyx. Both were jealous of what the other had done but were more excited to see what they would do with the newfound experiences. But one thing that left a decent imprint on Onyx was the resistance training. He had not been doing so and felt that it was another aspect he needed to focus on to keep up with his older sister.

