

Master 1381

Chapter 1381 1381. Ignus's Son

"That would be my son. He is too young to have a dragonkin form as I do but you can still speak with him. But do not disrespect him. He is much less easy going than I am." Ignus said this before he walked out of the room that Gil and Alma were in with the four elite enforcers. They were stunned that Ignus would refer to himself as easy going since he had already started a fight with Barry once.

Gil and Alma had only a few minutes to speak with Barry before he committed to going back out. He was very serious about helping with the rogue dragons. Due to the terrain and lack of travelers, most of the rogue dragons had made small nests throughout the lava lands. They were just waiting around to attack any dragonkin warriors that neared their location.

Gil followed the direction that Ignus had left with Alma and the enforcers behind him. None of them had suffered great injury and were mostly just shaken by the experience. The enforcers felt that they had to establish lost trust between themselves and those they served. Alma felt that she had underestimated the situation the flame elves may have been in and failed as a leader.

And Gil, he had lost control of his emotions causing Zephyr and him to become sitting ducks after using a skill he had not even known about. All of them could improve.

"They may be a human and Elf but they are important. They are living in the new village I told you about. If you can manage I expect you to become friendly with them. They may be able to find the things you like to eat better." It seemed that Ignus's son was very food driven but compared to the age that dragons deemed someone an adult, his son was still very young.

The size that Ignus's son had was about a third of what Ignus had in his dragon form. But the matching teeth and claws proved that they were indeed related. But the largest difference were the scales. The son had bright red scales without much depth. Gil theorized that it was the difference in fire elemental mana purification. It would take many years for Ignus's son to get to where his father was in the process.

"You six. My son and I are placing the pride of my people on you. I expect you to be back with good news soon. Then my son will take you to your city. He has not left the area for a few years and should get accustomed to traveling with the new potential for the future." Ignus would not admit that he was going to be sending dragons to Genesis. He was still apprehensive. Yet he would ensure that everything was done the best way possible now.

"Of course. You have invested in us and we will invest in you. We can't betray the trust you have offered by assisting us." Gil was very calm and respectful. The way he spoke made both Ignus and his son huff in appeasement.

"I will carry you but do not expect me to fly slowly. Father has told me of your need for a quick transportation. If you have any issues you may call for me. But I will not allow any to speak my name until it is worthy to be roared to the heavens." The attitude that Ignus's son had left them all silent. Even Ignus sighted slightly.

"Then we thank you for the assistance. It will surely make everything go smoothly." Alma was the first to recover. She walked closer to Ignus's son and waited for Gil and the enforcers to follow suit.

"Get out of here. You have a time limit." Ignus walked away while his son scooped the six in his claws. He was able to comfortably carry them without the worry of dropping them while in the air. The six of them struggled to handle the whipping wind. However, Gil soon found himself feeling more and more comfortable.

His body was absorbing the wind elemental mana now that they were higher in the sky. The fact that they had gone to a better place for this was perfect for the resting Zephyr. But it also illustrated the changes that had happened to Gil after gaining his new title. The avatar of wind would be able to do much more than he realized. That was research for another time, Gil knew that he should visit the mage tower wind elemental floor sooner than later.

Through the gaps in the claws, they could see the massive volcano getting closer. Many smaller volcanoes were nearby along with large flows of lava. The magma pools had some monsters moving around inside them but that was not what concerned them. What caught their attention was the fact that there were large crag trees around the smallest lava flows.

The trees had been grown in a way that was clearly under the influence of the flame elves. On top of this, they were surrounded by many earth, fire, and wind elemental spirits. "Gil! These are the flame elves that were banished! They made new homes!" The sight before Gil was one he would never forget. Alma was smiling with tears forming in her eyes. But they were happy. They were pure unhidden happiness.

"We are going to land there and welcome them to Genesis. Let's just hope that they aren't afraid of us." Gil wiped away one of the tears before Alma caught herself. She was quick to calm her mind whole Ignus's son started to get closer to the ground. He wasn't here to fool around and know that he had

more to do afterwards. So, he would use the time to absorb some fire elemental mana near the volcano. That way he would not be bored.

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Chapter 1382 1382. Grandpa

Causing a commotion was exactly what they had done. When Ignus's son landed he had aimed for the largest crag tree he could spot. It was also near the largest patch of dark stones without any lava flowing nearby. "Little elves, I have brought you those who wish to meet you." Ignus's son roared outward which added to the stress.

"And now I think they are all hiding." Gil shook his head while stabilizing himself. He felt that his legs had partially turned to jelly after being in the air for a while.

"They will come out. Just wait until we are alone." Ignus's son flapped back in to the air leaving the six behind. He didn't have any intention of staying in one place. This was a dangerous area to explore.

"We are from the city of Genesis. My name is Alma, future queen of the forest elves, representative of the elves on the Genesis council. I come to speak with the current elder in charge of the flames elves to welcome you to Genesis as equally represented citizens." There was still no movement from any direction.

"Alma, I am going to give this a shot." Gil wanted to help and knew that the flame elves would be worried that they would fall under the pain of another banishment. "We have punished the foolish king and his attendants. You will have a home within Genesis until the day you die. We do not believe in banishment, nor do we care for purity. We ask one thing, equality above all else no matter the race."

Gil took a deep breath, "I swear this on my title as hero, my title as educationist, my title as friend to the goblins, my title as the avatar of wind!" The system reacted and so did the world. Swearing such a thing on his titles was powerful. It spoke to every being that could hear him. It was more than just a pledge.

The mana seemed to freeze around them for a split second until everything returned to the calm it was before. The sound of a single pair of footsteps approaching revealed a tall and skinny elder flame elf.

"Forgive me and my fellow flame elves. We had to maintain some defensiveness to protect ourselves. We are already living in a rather dangerous place." The man smiled softly. "Please, come and sit with me for a while, I am the grandpa here. Or at least that's what everyone calls me. I used to be the right hand of our king before he became obsessed. It pains me to see it happen but I believe the lava flows that way for a reason."

The calmness in the elderly elf's speech was radically different from the flame elf king. There was acceptance and openness where the king had been brutal and hateful. "I find myself surprised that you would seek us out. We were ready to remain here until nature decided to take control. But since the grand fire spirit is here, we followed. It was all we could hold on to. Even if it is within the heart of the volcano sleeping."

"We had gathered that much with our allies. The dragons are somewhat close to Genesis since we have a royal dragon as a friend and family." Alma flowed in to the conversation easily. "I don't want to waste your time but we have come to extend a hand. Especially after you have survived being thrust out of your homes."

"I see that. It has been some time since that happened. And the older elves with children have been pushing for us to move to a safer place. But we have yet to find it. Elderly elves like me are still stubborn." The crag trees became more lively as the elder led them to a large table made of black stone out in the open. "Please feel free to sit. We have our meetings here in the open so that any can listen if they so desire. It helped many accept our situation."

A few flame elves approached looking at Gil and Alma carefully. They were cautious until one with a bow and arrow caught Gil's eye. "I like your bow there. I can tell you made it yourself. But the arrows need some work. The feathers on the edge are off, making your arrow fall to the left. Try to copy this." He handed one of the basic arrows he had made to the flame elf.

"The one with many titles. He is kind like his titles would suggest he is. But the way you act and speak he is not the only one with titles?" The elder that referred to himself as grandpa was asking for the singular purpose of information gathering. He was not ready to risk the people he had helped save for one person's words.

"Yes, he is one of five hero title holders, the others are an alchemical brawler, draconic guardian, true dragon champion, and master of none. I do have to admit, they are all human except for the true dragon champion. She is an actual dragon. But the master of none is the royal dragon. It takes a lot of getting used to but they are the reason my new home exists. The reason the elves are uniting again. I want you to join us. Help bring our race back together as it should be."

The firmness in Alma's response was one that the elder felt to his core. Since he and everyone else had been banished from their homes over the years, they had felt empty. But those that heard the way Alma spoke were immediately filled with a new hope.

"Alma, I think while we are here I will go and see about that grand fore spirit. I can feel that I need to." Gil said this but he wasn't standing alone. The other elemental spirits were close around him watching and waiting. They could feel the mana around Gil. They knew about his title.

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Chapter 1383 1383. Check It Out

"It may be old fashioned for me to be warning young ones like you, but the volcano is nowhere for you to play around." The elder looked at Gil with stern eyes. He did not want to see the only guests they had ever receive harmed.

"I know it's dangerous. The wind spirits have warned me but they also said that the volcano is calm right now. It's the perfect time for me to go and investigate this grand fire spirit." Gil smirked a little seeing the flame elves become shocked at what he was saying.

"You can speak to the elemental spirits?" The elder asked the question that everyone had already heard the answer to. But he had to hear it flat out.

"Yes, well, only the wind elemental spirits for now. I need to figure out how to speak to the others. I did say that I have a title from Zephyr the named wind spirit. She and I are pretty much the same at this point." Gil patted his chest where the new spirit mark was. The spirit mark that made his very soul feel at one with the wind.

"Then go. Be quick and be safe. I will trust you there. My family will guide you." The elder motioned for one of the flame elves nearby to come closer. "Take this young one to the cave near the entrance. Allow him to walk through safely." The elf that the elder motioned to was slim and agile. She was silent but motioned for Gil to follow her.

"Gil, we will be waiting." Alma was not happy that Gil was taking this on himself. She wanted to go with him but knew where her place was. While Gil was investigating the grand fire spirit, she would be building connections. She would be bringing the people closer together so they could pursue a new life in Genesis free of their worries of banishment.

"Now tell me, future queen of the elves, what races have been brought together and what have you built together?" Alma smiled brilliantly at this.

"We have built a home."

The flame elf in front of Gil had changed a bit since they separated from the others. She didn't wear the calm expression anymore and instead looked over at Gil constantly. She was keeping a close eye on his actions and what he may be doing. "You know that I am not here to cause trouble, right? If I was, the elemental spirits wouldn't come near me for a second. They can tell these things."

"You may have fooled them. The king was able to bait some fire spirits in to remaining in the city with elemental crystals. We are not so foolish." Her voice was soft but spoken with influence.

"That's another wrong thing he has done. I would prefer not to learn more but I have to hear it. How else will we prevent it from happening again?" Gil walked silently for a moment. "You should know that Genesis already has the water and forest elves. We have the mage tower that the desert elves once used as well. Not that they were the ones to build it but that's a long story. I plan to help Alma unite the elves again. Along with some of my own goals."

"So you are like all humans. You have your own goals." The humpf that Gil received was a little too harsh, But he continued on.

"I am an arcane archer with more titles than I know what to do with. But I also have a quest to bring the dagger arts of the elves back together. The high elf dagger arts are lost because the dagger arts were

split up between the elemental varieties of elves. To have your culture split is an insult to it. Elves are meant to live together in balance and harmony. All of your teachings I have found so far illustrate this."

"Do you know why we left? The home the elves once it had fallen to pieces after our leaders fought over elemental affinities. The worst part in the books is that the other affinities wanted us to move to places where we would not be as powerful as we are. The flame elves have the most power over the elemental affinity we possess. Never forget that." The flame elf woman snapped her finger and a small ball of fire appeared before dissipating.

"Then you will like Genesis, literally more and more dragons have been coming, and having someone able to handle the potential fire dangers of fire dragon hatchlings might be good. That and the blacksmiths might need help. To be fair, the dwarves have their hands full with everything they are working on but they have made some serious efforts to learn spirit speech from the elves. That's what happens with true spirit forging though."

"Spirit forging!"

"No, not spirit forging. True spirit forging. The right way without harming spirits. Zephyr used to be trapped in this bow, but I helped reforge it. She was freed and became more important to me than I can even describe. Genesis is the home to all elemental affinities and will not practice something that harms elemental spirits." There was something in Gil's eyes that silenced the elf from speaking any longer. She already understood that he was speaking from his core and not lying to her.

"This is the cave that takes us to the summit. It is faster than you think and free from lava. No monsters live within so you will be safe. Do not approach the bubbling magma at the center. It will not go well." Gil felt the extreme heat coming from the cave and mentally prepared himself to deal with it.

"I will see you in a little bit. Wish me luck." Gil left with a smile and a wave. He was going to see what this grand fire spirit was all about.

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Chapter 1384 1384. Questions Upon Questions

p There was an increasing heat in the tunnel that Gil knew was coming from bubbling magma. He pretended not to hear the soft rumbles getting louder since he knew the danger that it held. He also silently sent blessings to Remey since she had given him the bark to chew on. He could feel the burn of his eyes and nostrils from the fumes produced.

The wind elemental mana that had naturally gathered around Gil seemed to increase as he moved through the tunnel. This didn't make much sense since he was heading toward a string source of fire elemental mana with a lot of earth elemental mana from the stones nearby. But he just accepted it since he was still unsure how to handle the newfound increase in his senses.

The stones seemed to change as he got closer to the opening that was shining with a bright yellow light of flames. There was a glassy smoothness to them, even the ceiling was flat and dark as if it was a black mirror. "Zephyr, we are about to meet another grand spirit. I hope you can hear me." Gil worried that Zephyr was too tired to be able to sense what was happening. But a small change in the wind around him gave clarity.

The moment he stepped in to the light, Gil found himself on a large ledge. He was looking down at a massive bubbling pit of magma. Hotter than any he had ever seen or felt. Rocks bubbled up to the surface just to melt in to the mix. Nothing could withstand such heat. Even the monsters that swam in lava would have trouble in such a place.

The only oddity was a single spec of pure white heat in the center of the bubbling magma. A familiar shape took form as the white heat dimmed. "Zephyr!"

In a flash of heat, a spirit the same size with similar features moved around Gil. instead of the feather like patterns around it, the grand fire spirit had arching flames. There were many smaller fire spirits that melted off of it due to the incredibly dense fire elemental mana it bade gathered.

"You look different, funny. You aren't in your spirit form! Zephyr!!!!" Gil was completely shocked. The angry face the grand fire spirit made seemed a lot like Remey. On top of all that, Gil wasn't sure how he could even understand it.

"I'm not Zephyr. I'm Gil. She's resting in the spirit mark here."

"No, I can feel it. You are the same. Both of you are one of you. I can feel it." The surety in the grand fire spirit's words even convinced Gil.

A soft breeze blew from Gil causing the grand fire spirit to light up again. "Good! I thought you would miss it. I am leaving. It took a few thousand years. But I can finally go to the fire elemental plane!" This was another shock that Gil was not prepared to understand.

"How can I understand you and how are you going to another plane of existence. Don't you nee-"

"Why'd you pick a human avatar? I thought you would go to the wind elemental plane. So boring. But it's fine. I figured everything out. You'll catch on eventually." The fire started to pick up more and more while Gil was stuck in his confusion. The fire spirit was gathering a massive amount of fire elemental mana to a singular point behind it.

"The others already came to say something. Well, not that water spirit. She was all steam." There was a burst of magma below in reaction to the grand fire spirit's annoyance.

"But I wanted from you. We were there thousands of years ago when it all started. I remember it. Although you don't seem to. You won't even separate your spirit from the human. They aren't like the other ones with the wings you know. They could do a lot more with their bodies." The fire spirit was becoming white hot again. But Gil couldn't feel the heat growing. Instead, he felt a hole in his chest. As if he was feeling great sadness.

"I think I can do it now. Finally, you took so long. But we will see each other again. When the world finally wakes up properly." Gil realized that tears were flowing. Tears he wasn't sure why he was crying until he heard Zephyr's voice crying out from the spirit mark.

"Just watch. You can come and meet me another time." The mana that gathered suddenly stopped. The flames didn't even shiver. The magma did not churn. "I renounce the name Fintan. May the world name the next grand fire spirit in my place. I look forward to the next time we meet my sister." The white heat flashed suddenly leaving Gil crying and alone.

Confusion and loss were all Gil could feel before the emptiness in his chest began to calm down.

"Zephyr, there is a lot we need to talk about. A lot. But rest well. I will head home." The volcano had

returned to how it had been before. But now, it seemed emptier. It seemed that it was less alive and soon to cool.

The slow trudge back through the cave was met by many fire and earth elemental spirits moving toward the volcano. They had felt that the grand fire spirit Fintan give his name back to the world and ascend to the fire elemental plane. But they were too young to understand that. But they felt it. Just as Gil could still feel it through Zephyr.

"What happened?" The elf that had led Gil there was panicked and angry. But when she saw Gil's face she was at a loss. She had no idea what had happened to cause Gil to be in such a shape. She could only sense that it was not the time to ask such questions.

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Chapter 1385 1385. Unbalanced Mana

Su caught Walker's attention after he had been standing still for longer than would be normal. "I know we just landed near the city, but you look like you have something else wrong?" The group had just landed after a few hours of flying. They had stopped just outside Genesis because the lava diving bats had been taught to land far outside the city at a new tamer's guild outpost. It was to maintain a safe space above the city.

"I fell...I don't know. There's something different. The sun might be a little less warm." Since Walker was a little further from the volcano and lava lands he had a hard time sensing what had gone on. However, there was a gut feeling that he couldn't pin down. A feeling that caused both he and Fleur to be unsettled.

Since Walker was so thrown off, Remey started to put together a few herbs she had to try and make a quick tea. Her idea was to use the alchemy fire spirit and fire affinity knuckles to start a small fire. They didn't need to get back inside the city anytime soon. It was an hour's walk anyways. But when she tried to get the alchemy fire spirit to leave the spirit mark she received nothing in response.

"Hey, my partner might be a little down..." She could feel that the alchemy fire spirit was at a loss of its own. It was having trouble being able to muster the fire elemental mana in any form. The change that

had overcome the elemental mana would take a few days to settle for every elemental spirit. The balance was thrown off by the sudden loss of a grand named spirit. But none of them knew that just yet.

"It's fine. We can just head back now. You and Onyx want to start on your potion idea. I can't hold you back." Walker tried to be upbeat but everyone saw through him. "I will be fine. The mana is just strange. Maybe something happened. Nature is a beast of its own." Walker was about to say more when he noticed that Gil had left a single party chat in response to Walker checking up on him.

...back at the foot of the volcano

"I left Walker a party chat to tell him we were safe and that we would speak when we returned. The flame elves need their time alone now." Gil was understanding of what had just happened. It was a very big deal. The change had even brought Ignus's son back to the flame elves to investigate. As soon as Gil had told him the situation he had left to tell his father. It was a change that would affect the place the dragons moved their main village to.

"The grand fire spirit has been the one we revere for many generations. We even came to such a dangerous place to follow them. However, this is just the flow of nature. How can one rise higher if they are trapped within one plane of existence? Some of the history books we have scavenged from ruins near the lava fields have stated that a race's true goal, should be to ascend to a higher existence. I find that to be enlightening." The elder had felt the change along with many other elves. It had stopped the conversation that Alma and he had been having.

"Please, do not hold back because of us. We will leave. The main points have already been discussed and you are welcome to journey to genesis. In one week the dire dragon royal will be coming as well. If I can manage it, he may have someone bring you as well." Alma did her best to offer this which the elder seemed happy about.

"We will consider that. If you would like to stay, you may. But I can not promise much hospitality. We will be performing a small fire festival for the grand spirit that has ascended." The elder had some knowledge about these things. It made Gil want to pry in to them. But it was not the time. The flame elves could share their knowledge at any time they were comfortable doing so. No one would be forcing them.

"In that case, thank you for speaking with us. And..." Gil paused for a moment looking the elder right in the eye. "The grand fire elemental spirit's name was Fintan. He gave it up to leave to the fire elemental plane. But the next grand spirit will receive the name. I understood that very clearly." Gil felt that it was

honorable to pass this on. The flame elves seemed to respect the distance with the grand fire spirit. But to Gil, it seemed lonely.

"Knowing that means more than anything you could ever give us. I can truly see why you have built such connections with the water and forest elves. Please, give me a tour of your home when I meet you next. It would be my honor to learn from someone for a change." The elder took Gil's hand firmly in a single shake before separating.

"We'll see you soon grandpa." Gil felt off saying this but the elder appeared happy. It was a term of endearment. The entire flame elf people were his family. Any that respected him and showed kindness also had the right to be his family. In just a short time, he had been able to see new hope for the flame elves. The worries the elder had were swept away, no longer would he remain sleepless in fear that the flame elves may be no more.

"Gil, Ignus's son is nearly back. I can see him there." Alma pointed up in the sky while starting to move toward the place they had landed.

"I think this has been a bigger meeting than I expected. Are you alright with a silent trip home?" Alma took Gil's hand while the enforcers followed. They were all equally stunned by the course of events since they had arrived in the lava lands.

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Chapter 1386 1386. Quiet City

The moment that Walker, Su, Midnight, Remey, and Onyx approached the city they were greeted by guards. "We are glad to see you back." The guards appeared to be numerous meaning that there may be something wrong.

"What's the problem? You all seem a little on edge?" If Walker didn't jump right in to it he would be behind the moment they walked back in the gates.

"Walker, it's like this." The guard began telling them what was going on. It was a benefit of knowing the guards but also the party's standing within Genesis.

"So the mage tower had a decrease in efficiency, the elves all reacted to the mana being off, and the elemental spirits have become reclusive except for the fire elemental spirits that seem more active. I understand." This was troubling for them since they weren't clear on the why behind all of this.

"This is what you felt, right? Should we assume that we will have answers when Gil and Alma return? He did say he would have to talk to you." Walker listened to Su carefully and slowly nodded.

"I may have answers for this come another day or so. For now, have there been any large problems?" Finding ways to help was the best course of action. Remey visibly started to prepare herself to get right in to potion making if needed.

"None that we know of. But everyone is stressed. Scylla just returned as well. I believe that there is a meeting within the genesis building at the moment to understand what is occurring." Walker knew that this was a good thing because he could go there and calm everyone down for now. But he would be stuck waiting for some time to get answers.

"Then that is where we are going. The alchemy guild can function without me. That's why the old man and Trish are there." Remey trusted the pair to take full control of the guild without issue. She couldn't always hide away within her office.

"Onyx, you head to the cathedral. I know you are worried about the hatchlings." Walker knew better than to keep Onyx back. It wasn't that he thought the hatchlings would be in trouble with the mana flow interrupted, but he knew that Onyx had worried about the hatchlings since he left. "Midnight, the same for you. Go and check on the hatchlings you are in charge of. You need to see how they have been doing in their positions and tell them about the new dragons coming."

Both Midnight and Onyx were off in a flash. They didn't need to be told twice. "It's just the three of us then. Come on." Su, Walker, and Remey took note of the less busy streets. The elves and newly joined monster races seemed to have sensed the mana more clearly leaving them to remain in a state of limbo. It was a surety that this was happening in a few more places of the world.

"I can't say I liked that it was so quick for us to get here. The roads are pretty empty." Su was happy that they made good time but unhappy that it was because people were on edge and not out.

"Let's just head upstairs. I think I can hear Scylla yelling already." Walker wanted it to be a joke but he really could hear Scylla.

"Well, is there any information!? We have the elves who can speak to the elemental spirits. Why don't they integrate the spirits to figure this all out?!" She was in a huff because she felt that someone should have answers.

"Or you can ask us because we might have a lead. And you can stop assuming the elemental spirits will tell you anything. They are just as lost as you unless they are a higher elemental spirit. Or have we gained more elemental spirits that know such things since I was almost here." Walker calmly spoke, attracting everyone's attention.

"Welcome back. We have been waiting for some more people to speak on this. It has been a very strange happening." Markus Raven was still in charge of the human side of representation. The King was still busy with his soon to be born child. Which was rightfully so.

"I can't say we have noticed much other than a tougher time carving fire elemental runes." The king of the deep had even come up and was having a vested interest in the conversation. Walker noticed that Leon was calmly sitting in the corner waiting to hear everything. Walker took a look at everyone and waited a few moments. He wasn't sure how to put things but knew he needed them all to relax.

"Gil and Alma went to the flame elves to discover a mad king who exiled all of his people. That is what I know. But what is more, they went after the banished people who followed their grand elemental fire spirit where they may have gone. I would assume it has to do with that. It could be a good thing but we need to wait for Gil and Alma to return." Everyone didn't seem to change how tense they were.

"If there was something we needed to worry about then we would have come rushing here with more information. Please just wait for-" Su was backing up Walker when they all heard the faint roar of a dragon. A sound they had not expected to hear so early.

"Tell me that you know who that is." Scylla had tensed up. She was not in the mood to fight a dragon.

"Well, Ignus is supposed to come in a week. But if the mana is off balance then he may be coming earlier..." Walker moved toward the large window to see the red scaled shape in the distance. "But that

is not Ignus, similar, but not Ignus." He took a long breath before preparing himself. He was going to be extremely busy today.

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Chapter 1387 1387. Deeper Mystery

Walker slowly moved outside of the Genesis building. The second roar he heard was from the dragon approaching, however, between its claws he saw familiar shapes. "That's Alma, Gil, and the enforcers! Clear the main square!" Walker's voice boomed over everyone. The few people around rushed to the edges.

Wind whipped up as the dragon landed in the middle of the square. The slight shake of the ground was enough to cause a few people to poke their heads out windows to see what was going on. "I take it you are Ignus's son?" Walker had put the pieces together seeing the similarities between him and Ignus.

"My father has asked me to deliver your family to you safely. I have done so. But I must leave quickly. I have been trusted to move the village for the first time. My father will come within the day and his warriors will follow beyond him." The booming voice was quickly silenced before Ignus's son whipped his wings back up to fly away.

"Get home safely, I will see your father soon," Walker shouted after Ignus's son. He knew that there was a chance that this was Ignus's way of whipping his son in to shape to take over a branch village one day. The view that Walker had of Ignus had radically changed in comparison to what it had been.

Once the wind had died down, Walker could feel the changes in mana around him. He felt the wind elemental mana that was still drawn to Gil like a moth to a flame. "You made it back earlier than we thought. Care to come to a meeting?" Walker saw Gil take a deep breath. The look on his face said that he didn't even know how he would go about talking about what had happened.

"I can't even tell you how much better it is to be back here," Gil smirked a little while giving Walker a hug. He had been worried about what everyone would think as they came back since there was so much that had potentially gone wrong during their outing.

Moving back up to the meeting room, Walker found that everyone had returned to their seats pretending to be calm. The thing that gave Scylla away was her fidgeting. "You weren't really going to try and fight a dragon just because it was coming here, right? What if I was the dragon coming here?" Walker's attempt at a joke was met with nothing, just people looking at him strangely.

"I think I should be the first to speak. Gil's subject is more complicated than we can explain." Alma knew that she was going to need to take the lead. She was the representative for the elves. "The flame elves have struggled against the moving of mana and their core beliefs. This led their king and leadership to develop unhealthy tendencies. Tendencies that prioritize the grand fire spirit and mana purity over the people."

Alma had thought that this would be easier to say. However, she felt her heart breaking all over again for the flame elves that had been pushed out of their homes. "The flame elf city was in a terrible state hidden by lies. The true people had followed the mana toward the grand fire elemental spirit to make a dangerous home. They will be coming here. Some may need help rebuilding their city after the remaining criminals are put on a proper trial." Alma stood tall. She was sure that Genesis would more than lend a hand.

"Some fire trait demi-humans will assist. Being shunned because of purity is an outrage. There are many different traits within my home kingdom. Many different beings that oppose one another that are deeply bonded together. We can help you flame elves with their home." Scylla knew that the demi-human people would look at this as their duty and offered assistance immediately. It wasn't even worth thinking about too hard.

"That leads me to the grand fire elemental spirit; Fintan. He gave up his name to be passed to the next grand fire elemental spirit the world recognizes. That way, he could ascend to the fire elemental plane. He said complicated things about seeing Zephyr again. I have no idea how he could speak with me but it could be my newfound connection and title." Walker was beginning to see why this was so complicated.

"The flame elves may have more records and so may other elves. There also seemed to be a connection with a race that once left for another plane as well. Fintan did not say much. He was more excited that Zephyr was there to see him off and that she was not going to the wind elemental plane. Somehow they would all meet again. The grand elemental spirits that were there when they were all named..."

Gil knew that everything he said was hard to grasp. Things that happened thousands of years ago that only the oldest of the old could remember. The room was silent while they absorbed this information. However, there was more to it. More to what this situation may mean.

"I felt the mana become strange when he gave up the name. It was like the fire elemental mana is looking for a core. I think the grand elemental spirits are named by the world to help with balance somehow" Gil's theory meant a lot of things. Especially to Walker who was helping Fleur, a nature spirit and a world spirit.

p "It may not be my place to speak of this, but have we considered finding someone older to ask for information from?" Clara had been waiting and listening. She had not acted yet because it was not her place. She was a guild master but not really a member of the council.

"What do you have in mind?" Walker was the one to ask. He had a strange feeling about what Clara may be insinuating.

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Chapter 1388 1388. Holding Off

As some know, the adventurer's guild has more or less banned the exploration of the surface ancient ruins. This is because of an event involving the omnipotent party meeting an ancient being. One that goes by the name of, Immortal king. He is an ancient lich capable of controlling thousands of undead trapped within the ruins."

Those that had not heard of this were understandably shocked. It had been a carefully guarded secret because of the danger that came with knowing these things. Along with that, there was also the fact that if adventurers began attempting to go there to attack the undead, they could aggravate the immortal king. The party had already confirmed that he enjoyed playing with those that came snooping.

"I simply believe that with undead king's age, they may have records about what it means for the mana to be unbalanced. For what a spirit ascending means. I can't say that an ancient race would have answers. But the older races we have researched prior have given us a lot. Immortal king may have a different story than the ancient race that left the tower, but it's a chance."

Walker felt that Clara was uncomfortable coming out with this. The possibility that Genesis could become the target for Immortal king was high. There was too much for him to want to play with here. But it was a good idea. "I hate to say this, but I agree. Just not right away. Let's let the flame elves get here and the competitions to be settled. The world works in strange ways and we should see things begin to even out soon."

"I agree with putting this off. Genesis does not need to add to the threats we have right now. I believe the elves can bring a great deal of light to this case. I will have my archeologists study the ruins we have found more carefully first." The king of the deep caves agreed with this, then stood to walk out. He wanted to pass on these orders before things progressed.

"There seems to be a lot changing in the world. So, I will have my father participate in this. He can send scouts to water side ruins. There are a few that none of you would be able to safely access." Leon knew that the merfolk people had found underwater ruins before. But one had bothered to search them since there was no need.

"Feel free to ask my aquatic troops for assistance. They can act as guards." Scylla and Leon agreed quickly on this. They were better off working together than apart.

"I know this may not be to the topic we are on... Alma, are you planning to pursue the stone elves and the frost elves next? Or will you wait?" Markus Raven came out to ask his question. There was a very serious look on his face that said he had many intentions.

"That would be the next step. There are hints about the stone elves within the mountains. They will be hard to find though. The frost elves are the most talkative and may visit on their own. They don't like leaving the year round frozen lands in the high mountains." Alma was sure that the frost elves would come. They had maintained communications with the forest elves for a long time.

"Should I assume that the wind elves and the frost elves are one in the same?" Markus had drawn this conclusion some time ago. But he was waiting for a solid answer.

"Yes, the water elves that left from the colder regions were partnered with wind elves. They joined and became of mixed affinities. The flow of water and wind are very similar. The wind elves used to stay in the mountains or plains but found the plateau where the water elves were going had powerful winds all year round. That helped them bond." Alma did not hesitate to share more. The frost elves were the few elves that had never actually closed their city. It was just impossible for the average person to venture to.

"I would think they had a relationship with the water or wind dragons. Especially since they are on the highest plateau. I wonder if I can look in to it." Walker mumbled out loud his ideas. He might be able to speak with Ignus about what he could do to get the wind royal dragon Ventus to Genesis next.

"If you all do not mind, I would like my enforcers to get rest. I believe Gil and I should also take some time to rest before we proceed with anything else. It has been an eventful episode." Alma took the pause in conversation as the best chance to leave. Gil didn't argue and followed her out.

"On that note, I will head out as well. Clean up and then look at the mage tower for Mordant. Someone should share with him that Ignus is coming." Walker was followed by Su, but Remey remained behind. She was going to meet with a few people to focus on the alchemy guild before she went back to the guild to see Trish and the old master alchemist.

There was a lot happening after the dragon had been sighted. Many people came out to see what had happened and the gossip had started. However, Markus Raven had thought of this and sent a few key guards to send messages around the city. It was a good method to cut down on panic or worries.

p "Su, do you think we are going to be able to relax? Or do you think the potion making competition that Remey is setting up will get dramatic?" Walker was just joking a little since he already knew it would be a big event.

"We will have two dragons here for affinity potions. I doubt we will have any free time." She laughed a little before she and Walker headed toward the mansion.

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Chapter 1389 1389. Mixed Blood

"So, he's on his way here?" Mordant had more than heard Walker coming up the mage tower steps. It had been a peaceful night after the guards had shared the news of what was going on. Of course, some details were left out but enough was given so that people could understand that it was a natural happening. Now, Walker was well rested and heading to find Mordant.

"Yes. His son helped Gil and Alma back here. It's really impressive how fast dragons can fly sometimes." Walker had been stuck on this. He was not able to move at such speeds because he lacked wings. The amount of mana he would need to actually fly at similar speeds would be astronomical.

p "That's what you are stuck on? Are you jealous of us natural born dragons? From the way you look, you may become more like a dragon than you know." Mordant found it very amusing having Walker in such a state. But it was also because he had grown comfortable around Walker. During the few days that he had been alone Mordant actually found himself missing the companionship of someone able to properly relax in their own village.

"I have some methods to make myself wings if I want. But I will end up down on the floor faster than it's worth making them. I can even go beyond just wings using my skills...but that's even worse on my mana stores." Walker felt that he was still too young to even try such things. In the grand scheme of things, he was very weak compared to the dragons that were older.

"It all comes with time. Do you think I was able to shape shadows and travel through them when I was born? No, just like Ignus and all other dragons, I had to learn. I just have a higher elemental affinity than most, making me the most qualified to rule my village." Mordant looked around the darkness elemental floor. He had been there for some time absorbing the mana.

"That's a fair point. I have plenty of time to learn a few things." Walker got back to the main topic at hand, "Ignus will come, and just like you, a little later his dragonkin will arrive. But he is bringing two hatchlings. I assume there were none other than them that could come with him. But I can't vouch for how many eggs are born a year or in ten." Walker was lost on this.

"It varied depending on the elemental mana and the state of the main village. It's hard to explain but you will not have to worry over such things unless you decide to enforce strict rules. From what I see in your village's future, you will have many mixed blood and affinity dragons. That could be a good thing...or not." Mordant knew that he had read some records and met more dual or even triple elemental affinity dragons than Walker. As a fellow royal dragon, it was his duty to pass on this knowledge.

"I see that as well. But it could be very good. A fire and water affinity dragon in a blacksmith could make impeccable items. Perfect control of quenching and heating techniques. Or an earth and water affinity dragon that could grow the best crops beating out any other that attempted to do the same. There is too much potential." What Walker could imagine seemed to go on forever. The uses of multiple affinities seemed to never end.

"And what of the dragons who have clashing affinities? Will they struggle to find a balance? Will they have teachers that have been through the same experiences? You say that the water and fire elemental dragon will be ideal for forging. But will they be able to find a balance and absorb pure fire and pure water elemental mana at the same time? Not everyone can use this tower." Mordant brought up the issues he could already see. The tower being one specifically.

"I didn't want to worry about the mage tower. We are researching it so the people in and out are very limited. Once we understand the runes I assume we would build more. Maybe three or four more. There would need to be staff to make appointments and even set requirements to even be allowed inside. But the big problem would be making them accessible to everyone. Regardless of race."

The problem that this came with was that some races would never get a smaller form or ability to change their size. Therefore, the tower would be limited to certain races which was already a problem. "So you will make a grand mage tower? A massive building that even I could fit in without changing my form?" Mordant knew that this was the end goal. The solution that would have to be put out there eventually.

"I would say you are correct. But for that, we need years, materials, a power source, experts in rune carving, and so much more. Genesis is still very young and needs to get the foundations poured." Walker felt that he may be getting too ahead of himself.

"You have maps. Plan it all now. I already have plans for two more branch villages when the granddaughters are of age. Will they actually be built? Who's to say. But I have the plans in case I need them. I recommend you look for the shadows that will form as your village rises to block the sun." Mordant stood up from where he had been meditating. The darkness spirit that was his partner moved around a little upset to leave. "By the way, when will you explain the change in the mana?" Mordant had not heard the news yet.

While the pair moved downward, Walker explained the events that had occurred. They made Mordant become exceptionally silent while he thought. It gave Walker a few hints about what the dragons may or may not know.

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Chapter 1390 1390. Larger Shop

"I can tell. I can see it written on your face, you know. You already have knowledge about the elemental planes. I do too but the things I know are very limited." Walker could only reference a single shelf of books within any of the races' libraries about the elemental planes. Not a single person from what they knew was able to go back and forth between them.

"I know that Ibis, the former adventurer's guild master, can summon beings from the light elemental plane. But that's the most we know. He can't get information about it without breaking his summons. But there are rankings there. The stronger the light element's affinity and purity, the higher they stand there." Walker waited as Mordant considered things a little bit longer. Luckily there were plenty of stairs to walk down.

"The elemental planes are an enigma. We dragons pride ourselves on the purity of our mana. I have the purest darkness elemental mana among any dragon that we know exists. But I am still nothing compared to the beings of the darkness elemental plane. Just tearing a small hole to steal away some of that mana would bring me years ahead of where I am now."

There seemed to be a lot that could come of this. "If we made holes in whatever the boundaries are between these plains, then wouldn't it cause issues?" highly pure elemental mana would not easily mix in to the world. This was an entire plane of existence that had balanced mana flowing as nature needed it to. Even a slight change as a grand elemental spirit left caused ripples everywhere.

"That is exactly why we do not try to force ourselves in to such a plane. That does not mean that some ancient dragons have not ascended. There is an occurrence that happens under certain unknown circumstances. My great grandfather reached what we deem the highest elemental purity with darkness elemental mana. The next time he tried to melt in to shadows to become one with them he disappeared. Mana became erratic in the area for many days before returning to normal."

Mordant seemed that he was inspired by this story. It was something his family had achieved that he desired to achieve. "Dragons believe that this happens when we become properly bonded with elemental mana. That way we flawlessly transition in to the proper plane to continue to grow. Do you find this to be hard to believe?" Mordant had shared a lot with Walker. But Mordant had seen how much his dragonkin were learning. Many things would change after their trip to Genesis.

"I think I can understand it. I can't say that it will be the same for every race. The ancient race that created the mage tower is said to have moved somewhere else. They could have gone to elemental

planes or another place all together. There's so much that we don't know." Walker could go on for hours, days, or years trying to find the right answers.

"That also brings the question, as a nature dragon, will you have a plane of existence to ascend to? Or is this it? What more is there?" This was something that Mordant became much more animated over. He wanted answers. The things in Genesis were extremely entertaining. Radically different from his village or the ones he had been to growing up for many many years. The things he had in front of him constantly enlightened him. Anyone would become addicted to the feeling.

"If I believe what Gil told us about the grand fire elemental spirit, then there is something else. The spirit said it would meet the other grand spirits again. Therefore, that means there is a place where the elemental planes meet. A place with purer mana, balance, and potentially more answers." The two had made it down the mage tower and on to the streets. Mordant had a few ideas in mind but the blacksmith was his first to do for the day.

"We can get in to this more after your village has grown. For now, come with me to evaluate what my dragonkin crafters are learning. I have been very impressed by this wandering blacksmith. The things we taught him are already second nature." Mordant was referring to the draconic runes that had been shown off.

"If I know anything about him, he has every rune you even think about memorized to use and manipulate as he sees fit. I would say he has a hidden title that puts him at the top of every blacksmith." Walker didn't doubt that the wandering blacksmith was more than worthy of a title based on the work that he was capable of.

"Still speaking highly of him. Good." Mordant led the way. Walker was very surprised to see how confidently Mordant walked around through the city. He had memorized the layout and enjoyed walking around without having to keep tradition in mind. It was freeing and showed in every step.

"Here we are. This is the shop he started in and behind is the three shops he bought for teaching." Walker had not realized that the wandering blacksmith had expanded the shop by purchasing three more stores behind his on the next stone street. It was impressive how seamlessly they had been converted together.

Walking inside, Walker felt a heat he thought he had left behind in the lava lands. "It's almost as hot as Ignus's village in here." Walker saw many of the dragonkin that were unable to work slumped on the ground. But the wandering blacksmith was standing right there in the middle with Midnight and the hatchlings watching.

I guess we are going to interrupt a lesson on how dragon fire can be used to forge today." Mordant was pleasantly surprised by this. He did not consider that the hatchlings could pursue this as another option than the first paths placed before them. Midnight was doing very well in this respect.