

Master 1401

Chapter 1401 1401. Breaking The Tension

"I have already planned that out with our talented friend here. I left plans to upgrade existing armor last time we were here." Mordant pointed to a blueprint posted on a wall. It appeared to be very firm fitting armor that would cover Mordant's entire dragon form.

"Hm, maybe I should consider new armor...no I don't need it." Walker had his spectacular armor for defense and important events. He knew he did it need more just because he felt pressured about the royal dragons getting them.

"Should we be worried that Ignus seems too jovial? I didn't think he could act like that. Maybe it's just because he took a liking to the wandering blacksmith when he found him in the past." It was odd watching how Ignus even joked with the wandering blacksmiths.

"If I recall, that is one of the few non dragon relationships he has had in life. He bragged about his armor for a few years." Mordant remembered being very annoyed at the fiery bragging about armor and finding a hidden blacksmith with unique ideas.

"That sounds about right from what I've seen of Ignus. At least it looks like he's finished up." Walker looked at the wandering blacksmith heading toward the back of the forge.

"I told him to get some rest before even trying to modify my designs. They'll take some time to properly change, teach, and forge." Ignus spoke as if he had done the most casual thing ever.

"How did you manage that? He'll work on projects for days upon days..." this was certainly an impressive feat to achieve.

Ignus just stayed silent with a smirk on his face. He wasn't going to reveal his tricks to anyone. "Now show me this home that Mordant was built for him as well. I need to see if it is everything it's been said to be." Ignus would not allow anything to pass him by.

Meanwhile...

Midnight was carefully looking at the two new hatchlings. They were surprisingly close and from what she could see by the orange and red scales, they were older sister and younger brother. She liked this because it reminded her of Onyx and her relationship.

Every time that Midnight would get too close to the younger hatchling the older sister would get more defensive. However, this was not an issue. It was just how a sibling should act.

Luckily, the three hatchlings that Mordant had brought were more curious and less intimidating compared to the two larger fire affinity hatchlings. This also applies to the three being less intimidating than Midnight who gave off a much more oppressive aura due to her true dragon champion bloodline.

The hatchlings with the appraisal skill had already used it on the two fire affinity hatchlings to see what she could understand. She was very intuitive and found that she was more curious about them and what they could do. None of the hatchlings had ever met another affinity dragon before.

"Good, I managed to catch up to you. I wasn't sure if you would have made it to the check ups yet." Su found that Midnight and the hatchlings were in a quiet part of the square which was still fairly cleared after Ignus had landed. People were not keen to potentially anger a dragon so they held back.

Midnight huffed softly at the sudden appearance of Su. She wasn't sure how to approach the fearful hatchlings.

"Midnight, from what it seems these two are older than the other three. I would bet they were left alone without much teaching at all for some time." Getting this perspective from Su would help Midnight meet the hatchlings in the middle to understand each other.

This led Midnight to use what she knew best. Food. She burst in to a continuous symphony of small growls which escorted the three hatchlings who understood that Midnight would be bringing them to a good surprise that they could eat.

The fire affinity hatchlings were intrigued by this. They could comprehend the promise of food. Since they had not eaten much but the scraps they had found from other monsters' kills in the lava lands. This made them much more interested but skeptical to just receive food.

"I'll stay next to the two new arrivals. You keep those three in check." Su let Midnight handle the rambunctious three who knew they were about to get a feast.

Out of all the places in Genesis, Midnight could only choose one place to eat. It had to be Hilda's bakery. As Walker's mother Hilda was also Midnight's adoptive mother. Therefore, Hilda would be family to these hatchlings just the same as Midnight was.

Approaching Hilda's bakery proved slightly tough. There were a decent number of people outside talking and eating bread or sandwiches that were snakes fresh. Yet, when Midnight with the hatchlings and Su approached they made some room for her. Most people knew who she was.

"Thank you. We are just grabbing some food for the hatchlings." Su was sure to thank the people who gave them space. Midnight did not hold back once inside. She bypassed two employees that worked the counter who just watched in surprise and Midnight snuck through toward the oven.

"What brings you here? Shouldn't you be busy with that dragon who flew in?" The noise of the oven burning attracted the attention of the two new fire affinity hatchlings. The warmth they felt was enough to somewhat break the tension. They weren't the happiest to leave the warm comfort of the lava.

"And you have two new little ones to watch. Hello there, if you like my stone oven so much you are always welcome to come see me. I just happen to have taken out a small roast testing some spicy dried peppers I bartered for from the forest elves." Hilda was very proud of her new creation. She was attempting it to appeal to the flame elves who might appreciate the hot spices.

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Chapter 1402 1402. Dress Nice

The flame dragon hatchlings thought they had found the world's greatest treasure. The roasted giant earth ant meat had been completely brined in the dried spice mixture using various fruit juices.

"I made it to be a little sweet because who doesn't like sweet? Then add some of this that and those...and you have my new spiced roasted meat dish. I'm thinking of selling it as the harvest season special." Midnight and Su were the only two listening.

The staff members had managed to hold themselves back so far. At first, they had been worried about the dragon hatchlings coming behind the counter. They had been given strict rules by Hilda upon them being hired. They knew to keep people out of the kitchen.

Even Su walking in had made them worry that they would lose their jobs. However, now that they were seeing how happy Hilda was to see them and the drooling looks of the hatchlings, they were convinced. They had a new adoration of little dragons.

"Oh don't make that face. You three can try some slow roast I am bringing home for dinner. I need taste testers." The three darkness affinity hatchlings changed their attitude instantly. They were convinced that Hilda was a goddess of food.

"Well, it seems that you might have five new guards for your bakery." Su was surprised to see the enthusiasm that the fire elemental hatchlings had. It was as if they were completely different beings.

"Everyone needs food. I think they were too shy to come out and just act the way they want. I do think they need a good cleaning though." Hilda was nearly ready to start giving the two fire affinity hatchlings a bath but thought better of it.

"I don't want to tell this to Walker, but, I think these two didn't actually live in the fire dragon village. I think they were out in the lava lands free. They might need some time." Midnight nudged Su in agreement. She had understood this as well.

"I'm sure he knows. I can imagine the look on his face the moment he saw them. They have a home with us and that's all that matters." Hilda patted the two fire affinity hatchlings in the head. They didn't even growl at her. They had found their first person to trust.

"Alma! What do you mean I need to wear something nice. Nice how?" Gil was trying to catch up to Alma. The arrival of Ignus had caused her to rush to the Genesis building seeing him for only a moment.

"Like I said, the fire dragon is here and that means so will his dragonkin soon. That means flame elves will send a small group with them. That was part of the talks I had with them. I want you to look your best." Alma was not giving Gil more information the way he wanted.

"I understand that. You told me before but why nice? Is there something else I need to be ready for?" Alma had been walking with the water elf representative and two attendants that had recently come from the forest elf city.

"Gil, just do it for me, please. I promise you will get everything you need to know." Alma kept walking, leaving Gil confused and unsure.

With Alma leaving him in the dust, Gil started to aimlessly wander. "Zephyr, I have no idea what she wants me to do but I guess I'll have to find new clothes...I need to talk to Lisa."

Changing from his aimless path, Gil made a straight for Lisa's shop. It had been a hot topic in the city lately with a few children of merchants wearing her clothing.

"Excuse me, but Miss Lisa is not accepting customers today. It is a design day for her to work on custom orders." The woman was a new employee eating outside the door. She was in charge of accepting pick up orders and letting customers know what was going on.

"Oh, well can you let Lisa know that Gil is here to chat for a bit?" When Gil said this a look of surprise appeared on the attendant's face.

"You're that Gil. I was told if Miss Lisa's family came by to let them in. Please follow me." The attendant led Gil inside with a hood in her step. She preferred to let people inside than out of the shop.

"Miss Lisa, a member of your family is here."

For Lisa's age, she was already well ahead of most people. If someone didn't know she had help from others, they would never believe she had the skills to run a seamstress shop.

"Gil! You're back too! I wasn't sure who would stop by so soon. It's been so busy!" Lisa was brighter than anything since she was seeing Gil for the first time in a while.

"Of course I would come. I also need your expertise." Upon hearing that Gil needed her skills, Lisa was even happier that he had come.

"Tell me everything you need." Her serious focus made even her employee smile with determination. Lisa had the very same insane focus that Walker did. It was a singular trait that showed their relation.

"Alma said I need to dress nice for when the flame elves get here and that she would explain more then." The defeat in Gil's voice struck home with how he was feeling about the situation.

"I know exactly what you need. You're basically an elven archer at the lead of Genesis. I will make you the perfect arcane archer hero fighting rune sewn armor... I'll just make it!" Lisa rushed away dragging her employee with her. Gil wasn't sure if he had ever seen Lisa so excited before.

"I'll trust you!" Gil could only shout while he watched the back room door slam shut. "She's really passionate."

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Chapter 1403 1403. More Placed Orders

"Taste tested and approved by our two new dragon hatchlings." Su had been put in charge of introducing the new meal that Hilda had invented. The recipe was still a work in progress but it was worth sharing with Ignus.

"And this is tradition to have such meals throughout every race in your village?" Ever since Walker had brought Ignus to the mansion he had received questions like this.

"It's something we like to do whenever we can. We are not always together as a family. I know it is also done like this at the end of the royal dragon court meetings. But this is normal. This is family and tonight you are waiting with our family." Walker knew that not everyone was there for various reasons. Everyone had their own lives. But this was family.

"It seems to mean much more to you and everyone within your village. It is a tradition I appreciate. I can understand how it will bring your people together." Ignus didn't have any poor words or strong criticisms. This made people strong. This could unite the ideals that brought all of them together.

"Have you considered having one built for yourself? This kind of building with small modifications is very worthy of a dragon." Mordant had been pushing for Ignus to just have a mansion plan set up to be built. He had ignored the fact that Ignus had said that his village moved with the fire elemental mana density.

"You can have one made in a central area near the tamers' outpost. That way you will have a place to go and relax when the village is being moved." Walker offered a solution. He felt that it may be good that there were luxurious places for the dragons to rest in dragonkin form. The sole reason was that they would be able to visit other dragon villages and create better bonds. It was a way to attract such thoughts.

"The dwarven craftsman are perfect you know. They have helped a few times with my shop design. The oven has already been modified for faster heating. Then I had some tables and a patio placed outside. They even said they can find a way to create more indoor seating. You are coming to my bakery tomorrow, right?" Hilda was watching as Ignus devoured the spicy roasts she had made.

"I would not turn down the invitation. It would be rude to my fellow royal dragon." Everyone had found that Ignus had impeccable manners when Walker's mother and father spoke to him. In Ignus's mind, the partners of a royal dragon should be treated to the same degree of respect as the royal dragon themselves.

"Walker, you should bring them to see Lisa's shop. I was there today and she has a lot of new designs. Especially the rune sewn fabrics. It may be worth it." Both Ignus and Mordant popped their heads up to look at Gil when he said this. It was clear that they were interested in these things.

"I believe you did mention that there were some in your village that could sew rune fabrics. I would like to have some robes made if possible. What quality materials and time does it take?" Mordant was not even going to let things get away from him. He was going to ensure that they were going to have the robes made.

"I would place an order as well. I can have some burning silk sent over. It is easy enough to gather when it is the season for the grubs to emerge from the lava and grow in to ember flies." Ignus knew that it was best to barter with materials. He did not possess immense wealth that the races recognized here. Therefore, he would have to aim for other things.

"We can see my sister if she decides to-"

"Walker!!! Where is Gil! I need Gil!" Lisa's voice echoed through the mansion. Gil looked at Walker with a slightly sheepish face since he knew he was the cause of it.

"That's my little sister now. She's a little loud and still much younger so don't get too upset if she rambles on. We are in here!" Lisa followed the sound of Walker's voice along with the smell of freshly cooked food.

Hilda was not sure that Lisa would be making it home due to the fact that they had already been seated at the table for some time. Lisa had also taken on a decent habit of staying at work for long hours. It was her passion as a seamstress and Hilda would do nothing to stop her daughter from having that.

"I came back because I have the first part of what I am making for Gil. He said he needed nice clothing so I am making him special shirts and pants with elemental runes, a design that focuses on archery, and the toughest silk I have." Lisa had found herself inspired. She compared the designs she had with some traditional forest elf attire. When she had found what some of the arcane archers wore, she felt that she had been hit with a brilliant idea.

"This shirt has your wind elemental rune in the center with the other runes on the sleeves so you can make arrows easier. But you and Zephyr need to be sure you have better wind mana around." The white fabric was sewn with colored elemental runes matching the color to their specific elemental mana. It was a very precise creation.

"You made those in just the time from when I visited to now!?" Gil was understandably shocked.

"Of course I did. I had my staff help me with my other orders. Mother taught me to manage them as if they were pairs of hands. They are just as much me as I am." Lisa stood tall making Ignus and Mordant smirk. They enjoyed the pride they saw in Lisa's eyes.

"Myself and my fellow royal dragon have orders we would like to place with you tomorrow. We look forward to seeing your shop." Mordant spoke for Ignus and they both saw Lisa burst in to a wider smile.

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Chapter 1404 1404. Night Before

Lisa found that she had herself some decent clients who were promising rare materials. It wasn't the imagination that limited Lisa in her creations. She found that she was being limited by the materials she could see with.

"You'll have the best darkness elemental gathering runes I can make. And you will have the best fire elemental gathering runes I can make!" Lisa made these promises easily. Everything she made was to the best of her abilities.

"I know you only know the elven runes, but once they research the mage tower origin runes, I will share copies." Walker wanted to ensure that as many people would see the research results as possible. Especially Lisa since he knew that She would be teaching them to herself as soon as she saw them.

Lisa nodded a few times before grabbing Gil and dragging him away. There was a silent prayer for him since he hadn't even finished half of his plate of food. Mordant and Ignus had to hold themselves back from claiming it, they were royal dragons and couldn't be swayed by food.

"I was just saying that we need to be ready for tomorrow. But you sleeping in your alchemy lab again will make you an old grouch and you sleeping in your pile of papers will make you late." Remey's reprimands were loud enough for everyone to hear as she was walking in.

"I thought you would stay at the guild until tomorrow." Su was the most surprised to see that Remey had arrived.

"Well, we were going to. But if we do that then these two will not come out of the labs and offices until the event was already underway. We have the herbs organized, the arena has been reset, and everyone has been registered." The way it sounded, Remey was a lot less stressed than she could be. She was very prepared for the next competition happening.

"They are going to let people in to the stands, right? I want to say I saw some of the dwarven craftsmen putting up temporary rune carved walls so that any smoke won't affect those watching." Walker had noticed this when they were at the coliseum. He had taken a lot of the preparatory building in since he wanted to understand how the different arenas being built would be used.

"It's going to be weird because not many new alchemists are used to people watching them. We told a lot of them today during small preparation and registration lectures what to expect. We are going to

enforce harsh noise regulations from the crowd. But that doesn't mean we won't have one or two people that might cause minor explosions." Remey was sure that there would be an issue here or there.

"That's why we have a few mages coming as walking assistants. They will help maintain the strength of flames and other skills being used. That's why we want you to walk the arenas as well." Trish looked at Walker to see what his answer would be. She was sure he would say yes but did worry that he would say no because Mordant and Ignus were present.

"Of course I will. I can't say no to the first ever alchemy guild competition. Ignus, Mordant, you two were planning to come as well, right? You are going to start a trade relationship with the alchemy guild and want to see the new members being tested. You might be able to help spot some good talents, especially since Ignus has a high sense for fire elemental mana."

"I am very interested in the beginnings of your guild. I would like to place a standing order for more of the fire affinity potions I received as a gift. Especially higher quality versions." Ignus knew that the high fire affinity potions had to exist. He wanted them and was willing to pay the price for them.

"I appreciate your desire for my hard work. It took a few years to develop the theory alone. With little Remey's assistance, I have made leaps in theory." The old master alchemist was more than proud to hear that even royal dragons were enjoying the affinity potions. He wanted to hear more and more about them.

"I will come as well. It is always interesting to see the young grow up. Especially from what I have seen within your village." Mordant saw that the old master alchemist was hitting it off with Ignus. Therefore, he responded to Walker.

"Try this, there are some brilliant flavors." Ignus practically forced food on the old master alchemist. Unfortunately, the old master alchemist was not one to handle the spicy roasted meats. Yet there was nothing he could do, when a dragon asked you to eat, you ate. He couldn't offend such a figure.

"Midnight, are the hatchlings still curled up asleep in your spot?" Midnight had been sulking for some time while she ate her own food. Normally she would be much louder and trying to win a little extra attention. Her response was a simple glance away while she pretended not to hear Walker.

"If you want we can see about lighting the other fire places in the mansion. I know there are a few in the upstairs guest rooms." The idea made Midnight perk up slightly. However, she quickly shook her head. She would remain near the hatchlings while they slept so that she was able to handle anything that happened. Hilda had done a lot today to break the ice with the fire elemental hatchlings. She couldn't let that progress slip away.

"Then I will make sure there are a few extra snacks around. I think mother made us some caramel apple pie." The three simple words were enough to make the room go silent. Everyone knew how great Hilda's caramel apple pie was. Even Ignus and Mordant knew they had heard something that was sure to be amazing.

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Chapter 1405 1405. Alchemy Introductions

"Midnight, if you rush ahead that fast then you will end up there before everyone." Walker pretended to reprimand Midnight, but everyone knew that he was just fine watching her and the hatchlings rush toward the coliseum they had been in before.

"Following your rules in your village still strikes me as odd. Many others are walking around the streets and you can act so casual." Ignus had not begun to feel comfortable in the least about how they were moving through Genesis. If he were walking within his village many would stop to pay respects or move out of his way.

"This is how it should be. Just because someone does something for the city doesn't mean that every citizen should worship them. We are the very same as everyone else. Equals that can work together for a better future." Walker had already used this line a few times but now it felt like he was just repeating himself.

"There are those who pay respects though, they wave to you constantly." Mordant had noticed this very quickly. Anyone that had guided him or been with him so far had received such waves. He quickly gathered that this was the same as the dragonkin that would offer bows to him. Along with this, there was also the fact that some gossiped about the things that Walker and his party had done.

"You may have started to notice, but here, he is revered by all of them. Even those that have not been helped personally see him and speak about what he has done. Our dragonkin just know our power and standing. I would not mind seeing respect come To dragons as a whole" Mordant made a point to whisper this to Ignus. The idea would take many efforts from many dragons. If every race could have more developed respect for the dragon race, then it would be a major improvement.

"There are way more people here than I thought there would be. Remey said we have seats set up for you to watch though. Want to take the short route? Midnight and the hatchlings are already being helped by some of the alchemy guild staff." Walker pointed out the guards and alchemy guild staff guiding them inside.

"What do you have..." Mordant Watched Walker smirk and stepped in to the air.

"You two are dragons with dragonkin forms. I know you can use your wings to fly unlike other dragonkin with wings. So, let's take a shortcut." This would not be allowed if it was anyone else. There was a separate place for the demi-human and harpies to fly to and enter the coliseum. However, Walker could guide the two royal dragons to their seats because they were special guests of Genesis.

The sight of them traveling through the air to a section of seating marked with clear names made a decent number of eyes focus on them. "So you wanted a grand entrance." Ignus didn't mock Walker too much for this but found it somewhat amusing.

"Of course I did. How else would we come? I have to show off the guests we have. You could go and sit with the other representatives present if you want?" Walker raised an eyebrow at the pair since he was also pointing out the section of seating for the Genesis representatives. Many were waiting patiently to see the first day of competition.

"That sounds much better. They may have unique insights on such an event." Mordant was already moving, leaving Ignus behind. Therefore, Ignus reacted by moving as well. Walker made a simple motion to a staff member. He had planned this out perfectly. Now the two would choose to bond with the Genesis representative more.

"I will leave you two and start helping out Remey. She is going to be announcing the start at any moment now." Walker looked around the many smaller battle arenas. They had been separated in to these smaller arenas so that multiple battles could go on at once. For this case, it was so multiple levels of the alchemy competition could be done at once.

"Walker, there you are. I thought you would end up talking over there forever. I am about to announce things. Just wait here with the mages who are going to be patrolling with you. Some alchemists and herbalists might join you too." Remey was wearing her best clothing made specifically for the alchemy guild.

"Let's quiet down!" The shout was made louder by some rune formations that the dwarves had created for announcements. The crystals attached could enhance the sounds made around them as long as enough mana was fed in to them. Remey was not acting overly polite to make her announcements today.

"This is the first ever alchemy competition hosted by the alchemy guild! The new members and aspiring members will have a certain time limit to produce a certain potion. Those in the advanced competitions will have a chance to win a better herb, mentorship, or even new equipment! Those that can perform the best of the best will have the chance to become instructors within the guild!" This surprised many in the crowd since it was a strange way for the instructors to be chosen.

"Furthermore, there are herbalist growing and identification competitions ongoing for the exact same rewards. I thank the adventurers guild for the work they put in to ensure we have many herbs prepared. That is why there will be free classes on proper herb harvesting for any adventurers guild members from today on!" This received a massive roar of approval.

"Now, I can't explain all the rules without my fellow guild masters. The two at my sides are master alchemists of high respect that many of you have met." Remey waved for Trish and the old master alchemist to come forward to continue the introduction of the event.

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Chapter 1406 1406. Trickey Herbs

"Hello there, I am very glad to see so many young ones here today. It makes my old bones years to see just what brilliant things you will invent tomorrow." The greeting from the old master alchemist made a decent few people smile. Knowing that they had a brilliant potential was worth telling anyone and everyone regardless of what they had done yet in their life.

"There are materials in the best possible condition down to the worst on the herbalist tables. They will begin their appraisals of the herbs. From there they will be graded and sent to the secondary part of the competition. The herbalists will complete and earn rewards first." The old master alchemist paused looking at the herbalists slowly lining up near empty tables.

"The herbalist who score the highest with the most accurate appraisals will be allowed to take positions working in the guilds front counter. Those competing the growing competitions will have the chance to earn control of an entire field!"

The reaction from every herbalist was pure excitement. They wanted to be able to grow whatever they wanted exactly the way they wanted. The best part was that each field came with assistant herbalists so there was lower risk with high reward.

"Moving on to the alchemy!" Trish took the lead causing many to go silent again. "The herbs will be selected by our competitors and they will have time to prepare potions ranging from the low tier quality all the way to high tier. The rewards will vary but I expect that there will be some brilliant new techniques shown off today!" Trish was sure that some of the younger alchemists had already developed their own methods.

"We will have mages traversing the competitors to ensure safety. We have invited multiple figures such as the water elf high mage, our very own Master of none, and even general Scylla will be watching over everyone to send her guards when help is needed." Trish did not sugar coat it to make people think that danger was small. Many of the alchemists were under pressure and would most likely cause some sort of issue.

Walker was listening carefully and looked over at the high mage. The water elf had come when he had been freed from Lust's mind control. He had lost almost everything when it came to his research. Therefore, he was extremely excited to join the research on the mage tower to discover a whole new path to better control over water elemental mana.

"I kind of like not being called anything else other than the system I have." Walker mused out loud since he hadn't expected Trish to go with this. The longer list of titles felt like he was bragging and trying to stand over everyone else. It was too much.

"I agree, coming here and being able to continue on with what I want is very relaxing. I always had to maintain an image before I came here..well before the trouble." The high mage was agreeing with Walker very much.

"Now, to keep it all moving, I will be accepting five of the best minds in alchemy to become the first ever elite class within the alchemy guild. They will receive the best guidance from multiple masters throughout a single year. There will also be five herbalists selected with the exact same benefits!"

Trish shared the last major rewards as Remey walked back toward the center of the coliseum. She had set up one singular arena without any cauldrons or materials. The only things there were the rewards

for every winner. The smaller rewards for those that participated would be given as the alchemists or herbalists left.

"With that, Herbalists prepare yourselves! Alchemists, be at the ready! Begin!" The three spoke in unison as a flurry of movement began.

Walker made a goal to pass by the herbs as they were being brought out. The herbalists that had chosen to join the appraisal competitions seemed to be very well prepared. Many had unique tools that they would use to discern the quality. This was very important to ensure that the basic herb appraisal skills they had gave them more detailed information. There was also the fact that not all of them had some form of herb appraisal skill.

Walker could see some basic herbs that were in every single alchemy lab. However, when he caught something that he already knew looked different he couldn't help but appraise it himself with his all around appraisal skill.

'Painted grass

This is just field grass. It has been roughly cut then painted using a basic carpenter's sealant. It is completely useless to most things and with the added paint, it can not even be used as feed for cattle due to the paint being added. This is not even worth calling a trick.'

The paint made it seem slightly shiny which caused a decent few herbalists to glance and focus on it. What Walker really wondered about was the singular mushroom that didn't seem outstanding at all.

'Porous mushroom

The mushroom is not known as a porous mushroom because it can absorb water. It is an incredible high tier ingredient in any and all antidotal potions. With this addition in the potion, it will be able to nearly guarantee the potion to be a high quality antidote. These porous mushrooms are common in nature if someone is to look in the proper area. Thus specific porous mushroom is perfect quality.'

Walker knew that this was being overlooked because it was a common ingredient in many antidote potions. However, it was a perfect ingredient which would be very valuable to any alchemist who was

trying to make an antidote for a powerful poison. Many would pay a high amount of gold for a single one. Walker just smirked for every single young herbalist that walked by it.

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Chapter 1407 1407. Already Done

"That's the first batch of herbs! Arena one has the chance to start!" Remey had been put in charge of watching what was happening as things progressed. This allowed her to announce and keep people focused on the big happenings within the competitions.

There were a few of the master herbalists watching over the younger herbalists. They were giving grades and also explaining the basic faults in things. What Walker found very surprising was that Gil's mother had made her way to be a judge in the growing portion happening nearby the central arena.

She was a farmer and had many skills that revolved around how fast she could grow what and to what quality. That meant that she had more than enough experience to understand where someone would have gone wrong and how to fix it. This was a major learning chance for all of them.

Where things really began to ramp up in learning was when the demi-human farmers stepped in to join Gil's mother in judging. No one had seen Gil's mother around the mansion for a few days and it was clear why. She had been with the demi-human farmers sharing their growing techniques and skills. It was an incredibly valuable chance for more than just the herbalists to learn and grow.

Scylla had been the one to approach the alchemy guild about having the demi-human farmer brought from her home city so that it would build better connections. There was also the secondary chance for the farmers that came from the demi-human fields to train the new farmers just starting around Genesis. They paired perfectly with the master herbalists already recruited by the alchemy guild.

Moving to the first arena that had begun potion making, Walker was not surprised to see that some fire mages had entered the competitions. Just because they were not alchemists did not mean that they would lack the ability to make potions.

This was the same with the few healers that had also joined the competition. They had the skills to make basic salves and some would even have a hybrid skill group that allowed them to use some minor healing skills that enhance their uses of medicines they made themselves low tier healing potions

qualified as medicines they made themselves which meant that a low tier healing potion may have the same effect as a mid tier healing potion.

There was also the fact that the high priest had vouched for the healers that had asked to enter. Most people within the alchemy guild had forgotten the fact that the cathedral also purchased a great deal of herbs used for medicines. It was another route that they could pursue in their research.

Looking in to the stands, many of the healers and nuns were there to cheer on their friends. Even the high priest was sitting in the middle with a proud but slightly sad expression. Walker knew exactly why this was. Alice had already left with the other healers on her leave from the cathedral to help a smaller village. It was a major step for her and Walker had not stood in her way at all. He just wished he could have gone with her.

Refocusing his mind, Walker allowed himself to open his senses to the elemental mana around. He had to focus on the fire elemental mana so that he would be able to stop any of it from running amok. Not every alchemist had the skills to control the temperature. Some were left with the old school method of lowering the temperature by removing fuel from the fire.

In just a few moments, the high water mage had already jumped in to stop a fire in one cauldron. The young alchemist had heated it too fast causing it to burst in to flames. The young alchemist appeared to have been too nervous to double check what he had been doing. It was unfortunate however, it was a valuable lesson. They would be able to learn more before the next competition would be held.

"The second arena has begun to create their potions! The first successful potion has been made!" Remey sounded a little surprised. However, the boy that had brought up the successful low tier healing potion was one that Walker had seen in the alchemy guild before. He was someone that had been there since the guild had been built.

"Not bad, that kid is always helping to move herbs. Especially the new shipments bought from merchants." One of the other passing mages was a member of the guild already. He was nowhere near master alchemist but he was experienced enough to where he didn't need to worry about participating.

"Good to hear that someone has been learning in the best way that they can." Walker could tell that the boy had used his hard work to learn more before the competition. If Walker could place bets, he would bet that the boy had also attended many of the free lectures the guild had offered.

"Mordant, what do you think of all this? There are many that are attempting to enter this guild that has been created." Ignus couldn't help but feel at least a little amazed that the number of participants seemed unending.

"It's very entertaining. A mystery to me. We don't rely so much on potion. We are strong alone. We have missed out by not following this path." Mordant was thinking about the history that the dragons had. They had never put much effort in to the alchemy side of things. Now that he was seeing that the other races put so much effort in to it, he wondered what they had truly missed all these years.

"I will send some dragonkin with the potential for alchemy. They need to learn these things." Ignus saw the chance and was going to take advantage, the dragons could only get stronger.

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Chapter 1408 1408. Healing Journey

Traveling had been a fairly easy event so far. The healers had stocked up on herbs that could keep monsters away. They had followed strict rules to ensure that they were not leaving a trail that pack type monsters could follow them. And they had rested well to maintain their strength at all times.

Alice had been leading this effort to a greater degree than the other healers had expected. They knew that the high priest had approved for Alice to leave the cathedral in this way so that she could grow as a person. However, they had not realized how much Alice had learned when she had left on adventures with Walker's party.

When she would sing, they were not used to seeing her battle the few horned rabbits they had passed by. Most of them had techniques to avoid the few monsters they may run in to. Some had even purchased special dwarven and elven items that could create a smokescreen to hide them in for an easy escape.

"According to the map and route we are taking, the first village near the borders should only have about ten buildings and fifteen families. They are mostly farmers that harvest produce that can not grow near large populations." The healer that had come with Alice was a unique case. She had been given the wandering healer system by the world.

This meant that she had skills that were strictly made to help her wander about and heal others. For the first five years, she had remained within the cathedral to learn the knowledge necessary to live life on the move. After that, she had waited for the right chance to leave and begin her travels.

The chance to move to Genesis was perfect because she could help create a new cathedral before wandering toward the demon lands where healers were needed. Whether it was soldiers, merchants, or just small villages, she was ready to help them. She had been inspired by the dreams to help those who were hurt by the corrupted demons in charge of the demon lands.

Hearing this put Alice in an even brighter mood. She was glad that they were making good time. She had been walking carefully the last few hours because one of the elven healers that had come with her had some tracking abilities and found some monster tracks. Alma had asked the healer to join them because it would expand the bond between the elves and the church. They had different beliefs but similar practices.

The last three of their group were not specified in any position. They were basic healers that had been in the cathedral for some time. They were very skilled since there had been many things that happened which allowed them to grow their skills. As far as Alice was concerned, they could stand at the top of any cathedral.

"We will make it there by the end of the day." The declaration brought them all more energy. Hearing Alice speak had become much less rare since she had been able to control her skills. Now she didn't have to worry about using all of her mana when she was speaking or singing, this allowed her to communicate better.

Arora had been enjoying the journey as well. She had been wrapped around Alice's arm the entire time. Alice had tried to leave Arora behind with Onyx and Ibus, unfortunately, Arora had become smarter than any of them knew.

When Alice had left early in the morning while Walker had been away, Arora had snuck in to the simple bag she was carrying. After an hour of travel, Alice had opened the bag to get some water only to find that the metal bottle created for her to carry water in, had Arora wrapped around it. There had been a moment of disbelief before she had outright accepted it. She would be traveling with her new partner regardless now since they couldn't just turn around.

The skies had been clear proving to be ideal for Arora to keep absorbing the light elemental mana. The positive was that she had absorbed plenty from Ibis's summons before they left so Arora actually had a

great deal of stored light elemental mana. She wouldn't need to worry about being out of pure light mana for some weeks.

"Wait, is that another one of those rabbit monsters?" The healer that called out was a rather young boy who had a unique affinity for healing. He was from a merchant family who had given him the choice of traveling or joining the cathedral in Genesis where their new shop was opened.

Looking ahead, Alice saw what the healer had seen. It was a horned rabbit that had managed to completely miss them even though the group had become very close to it. "What should we do? We are too close to risk backing away or using the smoke to keep it at bay. We might need to use the smoke bomb or the smoke potion we have." The healers didn't want to lose these things since they were very important resources.

"No, I will handle it. We can use it as a greeting for the village." Alice became much more serious upon saying this. She had made the call and would begin attacking.

The song that started was hard to understand, but the air felt like it was becoming heavy. The swords that Alice had condensed would normally be multiple so that she could go after the target if it moved. Yet she had developed a new way of using the condensed light elemental sword that she would make. She had begun to add more and more elemental mana to it in a way that it would dissipate layer by layer. That way it would move faster.

Alice looked at the horned rabbit ahead of them and started to move side to side so that she would be hard to lock on to as a target. Her singing had just started to announce her presence to the horned rabbit.

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Chapter 1409 1409. Healing Journey (2)

A flash of light was all the horned rabbit saw before the blade of light had defeated it. Alice continued to sing while taking in the surroundings.

It was not normal for a single horned rabbit to be around. They were often in groups with anyone traveling through the area would have to know. Therefore, Alice had ensured that every healer with her was alert.

This was not the first time they had seen a monster defeated. Nor was it the first time they had seen blood. What put them on a slight edge was the fact that Alice could be so powerful. It really hit home when she showed this aspect of her skills.

Two of the healers with her started to break the horned rabbit down so they could carry it. Alice remained on alert to ensure that nothing would show up. "We can move forward."

As soon as it was taken care of the group continued on their way. The village they were heading toward began to take shape ahead of them.

Small farmhouses seemed to make up the majority, however, that was not what caught their attention. The vines growing on long metal wires were thick and clearly older than most other small plants around. "They're grapes! This is where the pearl grapes are grown!"

The exclamation from one healer brought realization to all of them. Pearl grapes were a very popular breed of grape that could only be grown in places without many pests. They were very sweet and very nutritious. Having a far away village growing them made sense so they could increase productivity.

"They are the best for babies and anyone who needs a little something extra when sick." The conversation burst in to lively energy. The healers were very familiar with these grapes, even the elven healer had seen them grown within the forest at lesser amounts.

"Travelers incoming!" The shouts dominoed down a small fence line. There were a few guards that worked to watch the main village and patrol the fields. Many monsters would attempt to sneak in to eat the pearl grapes during harvest.

The middle aged woman that jogged over to them was looking fairly tired. Her clothing was covered in smudges of dirt from working. "Well, we could say you've come at the right time. We are planting the new field and could really use a few healers. I'm the head of the farm here, just call me Miss."

Alice couldn't help but think that this woman would make quick friends with Gil's mother. They had the same aura of life and confidence. "I'm Alice, we are traveling healers. We have some horned rabbit to share."

Miss showed a little surprise since she wasn't sure how they had managed to travel from the nearby cities with so much supplies.

"We came from the newest neighboring city Genesis. On the way, we met a few monsters. Alice was able to handle them so that we could give you a gift upon arriving." The elven healer took the lead next to Alice. She had a lot of confidence in the way she spoke which really helped the flow of conversation.

"Oh, if that's the case we will gladly accept it. This is a busy season and we have a lot of mouths to feed. Any little thing is appreciated. We just might look a little dirty. Working in the field leads to that and some decent cuts and scrapes."

For the head of her village, everyone thought that Miss was young. Yet, as they watched her point out buildings and wave to others, it was clear that she had a firm grasp on the situation. "We've lived here for years. I'm fifth generation and proud of it. We've had a few merchants from your Genesis city. Even some adventurers that came asking about rare herbs. I look forward to seeing some new faces."

Listening to Miss speak, they could tell that the smaller villages would have some knowledge about Genesis. However, it would take time for them to get the larger details. "Here we are, anyone who bumps themselves somehow in the field swings by here. Just try and help out our herbalist. She's always in need of some help. I'll find someone to set you up with refreshments."

The village seemed to be full of vibrant faces. The spot they were brought to was a large open center with a tent over the top to block the sun. A few farmers were sitting around with bandages.

"So miss brought you right on over. It's good to see young healers around getting out in the open. I was the same way when I was younger, left to explore and find a place to build my garden." The older woman was very hunched over from years of tending herbs and making medicines. She was very energetic though.

"We are here to help so take a rest for the day before we move on tomorrow!" This was repeated by every healer almost as if it was rehearsed. Alice nodded with a smile before she moved to the center of the resting area.

The soft song she began singing caught everyone's attention. Alice was certain that she would bring in more than just those here to get some small wounds bandaged.

The light started to dance around in a rainbow of orbs. Alice didn't put any specific direction in to her song, just tried to bring the aura of healing and warmth to the area. It was a song she had written to maintain her mana while also helping others.

While the other healers had started checking bandages and setting up for anyone else that may need anything. Alice's song brought people from their houses and even a few of the guards in break came over. Her music was enough to bring brightness to anyone.

"It's not every day we have travelers like these." Miss looked over at the herbalist she had just introduced them to and smiled. This was a very pleasant surprise.

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Chapter 1410 1410. Bad To Good

"Walker! A little help!" Since Walker was able to use the earth elemental mana, he had been called upon a few times now. He could encapsulate the cauldron that was overheating while the water mages used their skills to flood the flames and rapidly cool it.

With this call, Walker was brought to focus on a cauldron that was already smoking black toxic fumes. If he hadn't used the eternal orb staff form in that second, then it would have burst in to explosive flames spewing the contents at nearby participants.

The earth wrapped around the cauldron leaving a small space at the top. One of the water mages stepped forward using their skills to fill it with water. Together with Walker, the pair was able to freeze the top. The next moment the ice cracked and caused the water to bubble over. The steam let off was still burnt black but it had cooled enough not to cause anyone injury.

"I would say you need to work on your long term mana control. You allowed the fire elemental mana to get too powerful even more, you were out of mana to keep a handle on it." Walker gave the little advice that he could while also pushing himself to keep moving on. He had dealt with this a decent number of times so far.

"We have the first high health potion success. The herbs used were perfect quality, perfect method, and perfectly stored!" This announcement gained a lot of attention. The man who had accomplished this was a forest elf that clearly spent a lot of time on their technique.

From the distance away that Walker was, he could tell that Trish was glad to see him succeed. She had not taken any students really in her recent years. However, she had shared that she had met many alchemists that learned within the city. Trish hadn't even known that there had been more of the forest elf alchemists that had come to specifically join the competition and guild.

Just as Walker was making another round of the area, he caught on to a younger herbalist walking toward the judges. The demon girl was one of the ones that was rescued with the water elves. She had been dragged by Lust but was not able to be controlled by the poison Lust had used. Therefore, she had been forced in to the prison cells for most of her life.

She appeared to have gained a lot more weight which was much healthier than the malnourished state. Even more, she was bright. There was a warmth around her that most people could see. Just in the way she walked, spoke volumes of how confident and full of life she was.

"Hm, that girl seems to have found a high quality porous mushroom. I bet she will get something very good handing it in." Walker took the chance to follow behind her and listen in on the presentation of the item.

When the old master alchemist saw her coming he stood up, two master herbalists followed him and stood waiting to hear what the demon girl had to say. "Is this your final appraisal results for your competition entry?" One of the master herbalists asked to ensure that this was what the participant desired.

"Yes. This is my entry. I have found the highest quality herb within the entire pile offered." She spoke with perfect posture and confidence. It was clear that she had been practicing this over and over.

"This may appear to be a basic porous mushroom. But you would be wrong, it is not basic. This is the best high quality porous mushroom you could get. From the small black ridges on the stem, you can tell that it is perfectly ripe for the picking. If they were smudged that meant that it had absorbed too much moisture. The cap is firm but not soft so it still has the important oils needed for potions within it."

The two master herbalists were nodding along. These two traits were exactly what they wanted the participants to find. It was a perfect answer to the question of how the mushroom should be appraised. "But that is not all. There is a lot more that makes this even better an ingredient to an herbalist than an alchemist." This was what caused them all to frown.

"Can you please share what that is? As an alchemist, I would like to use that in a high quality potion now rather than hand it over to an herbalist." The two master herbalists were equally confused.

"Due to my past, I was forced to consume mushrooms grown in the dark. That taught me a lot about harvesting unique mushrooms and what unlocked my foraging herbalist system. This porous mushroom was picked at the perfect time to develop spore pouched here, here, and here. It is perfect to grow more of the same quality porous mushrooms if the herbalist is careful to set up the proper environment."

The demon girl broke the cap and showed the three spore pouched, she removed them without breaking them. At first, the herbalists recoiled thinking that the mushroom had been broken for no reason. However, as soon as the old master alchemist saw this he was delighted.

"You have gone above and beyond what we expected from your appraisal. You have learned a great deal about mushrooms which you have used wisely. I believe you are qualified to achieve a high reward from this event." Walker was not the only one that had caught on to the fact that this demon girl had turned her tragedy in to a boon.

The old master alchemist whispered to the two master herbalists who had nothing but smiles now. "It has been evaluated that an herbalist has met the requirements to take over a field and be welcomed as one of the new elite students. We expect the successful participant to continue their confident learning for many years!" This announcement brought cheers from many people. They were proud to see someone succeed so well.

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