

Master 1421

Chapter 1421 1421. An Honor

Once the game of tag had happened and gone, Walker found himself alone walking the streets. Su had gone off to the cathedral. Midnight and Onyx had gone to explore the city more. It left Walker to see what he could see since everyone had become abuzz with the fact that the crafting competition would be happening next.

The real crowds were in the market streets. There were so many people trying to buy and sell materials that it would be a record sales day for most merchants. The savvy business merchants were buying and selling some things at marked up prices which caused some people to become unhappy.

Luckily, there were many guards who had been warned of such things. They were moving through the markets in teams of three efficiently to handle the arguments that broke out. Along with this, there were many people that had come in to Genesis recently and needed some guidance. Overall, the guards were doing an outstanding job.

Walker couldn't feel any negativity at the flourishing markets. He had wanted to see this sort of atmosphere for a long time. This is what he imagined Genesis would be when the city had grown much older.

"Did you hear, there are more elves showing up just in time for the next competitions. I even heard that some were joining!" This single gossip as a group of people passed Walker, made him open his eyes wider.

Originally, Walker was going to direct himself toward the crafting guild. He thought it would be good to hear a little more about what was going on for the competitions. However, now that he heard that there was a chance that the flame elves were there, he had to go to where he knew Alma would be.

Luckily, he was pretty close to the forest elf housing. He was easily able to spot the increased enforcers moving around with some of the normal Genesis city guards. This made him hope that he was just in time. "Hello, how's the day been? Not too busy I hope." When Walker walked up and spoke, the enforcers were more than happy to see him.

"Just as busy here as everywhere else. There are too many new elves coming here that want to make a big name for themselves. But kids will be kids." One of the enforcers couldn't help but laugh since he had seen too many big thinkers lately.

"It's good to have that though. This city had the potential for them to make big names in their own ways. Speaking of bog names. I heard the flame elves may have arrived?" The two enforcers were slightly surprised but soon accepted that Walker would have figured this out.

"Would you like to come to greet them? We have been waiting for everyone to be prepared after we welcomed them in to a resting room." The enforcer was sure that Walker would jump right in to it.

"Has Gil heard yet? If not, can I ask that someone goes to get him?" Walker knew that this was very important.

"The message has already been sent. We know that he will be arriving momentarily." Walker heard this and was very happy. Now he didn't need to run and get Gil or really wait for him. Instead, he followed the enforcers in to the forest elf homes.

The trees had been reshaped recently along with some new seedlings planted. They were all perfectly forming treehouses along with ground floor homes. It appeared that there were even a few water elves that had decided to live here rather than in the underwater homes being made in the artificial lake.

"Walker, I didn't think you would come so soon." Alma was pleasantly surprised. "The flame elves rushed here and seemed like they needed some rest. They are in one of the guest homes we made for when elves would travel here to meet." Alma seemed a little nervous so Walker was going to do his best to remain relaxed.

"I heard about it and wanted to come and see everything. By the way, this treehouse is amazing. It is easily three times the size and very well made." This was not at all a lie. The treehouse Walker was in had the highest quality growth to shape the wood in to many artistic forms.

"This will be the Genesis elven archives. It was Gil's idea to start another archive to record the elves' history within Genesis. That is why we are going to have the flame elves come here first to leave their mark." Alma sounded like she had been truly touched by the suggestion. Walker couldn't argue. The elves cared very much about the archives so having a new set of archives in Genesis was a brilliant idea.

"I made it!" Gil burst in wearing his new clothing that Lisa had recently finished. They were a mix of Green and brown to match the forest elf's attires. There were many elemental runes sewn in to the fabric which Walker could sense affecting the mana around them. Along with this, there were fine golden stitchings used to accent the patterns. Overall, it was a al looking attire that caused Gil to look much more handsome.

"Lisa really outdid herself with that one. I have to say, you might even be confused as an elf wearing that." With Walker's praise, Gil seemed much more animated. It was also because he realized he had not been too late to greet the flame elves.

"That's a good thing. Because today I have been asked by my queen, the queen of forest elves, to welcome Gil as a proper member of the forest elf city. We wanted the water and flame elves to witness it." Alma was turning a little red saying this. However, not compared to Gil who was speechless. To be honored in front of all the elves was too much for anyone to handle.

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Chapter 1422 1422. One Of The Family

From what Gil had thought, he was already more than accepted. Sure, some of the elves had joked that he was an elf with a human body. However, they had not made such a grand gesture to hold a ceremony honoring him as a member of their race. It was a big deal.

"You may technically be welcomed as a forest elf, but everyone else knows what you have done and would do for the elves. You are different from the rest of your party. Walker focuses on bringing people together, Su focuses on protecting and healing. Remey focuses on creating new things and making a point. It is all different."

Alma thought for another moment, "Onyx is going to bring about his own race to be equal with the rest of the races and Midnight is busy building a path that the dragon trace has never walked. You gave everything to bringing back the elven techniques to connect us to our high elf bloodlines. You have protected the ideal I fight for."

This was an emotional moment for Alma. She had thought of many ways to get Gil this honor. She had cared for him when he showed that he would not be limited to only helping his own race. Yet when he had begun to support her more and more, she had truly been convinced.

"Don't look at me. Alma is right, you have tried to learn more and more about the elves every single day. You were one of the main reasons we ended up training with the elves when we were in the forest elf city. You helped them change their point of views on archery. I doubt that has happened many times in their history." Walker had studied enough to know this as a true fact.

"It just doesn't feel real. I was already one of you as far as I was concerned. We all get along, I care about what happens with the elves because I feel at home here. I have built real connections that helped me understand the system that I have and the person that I am." Gil felt that he was going to get overly emotional. However, Walker saw that Gil was being more of himself than he usually was. This was a very important moment for him.

As a few of the water and forest elf elders walked in, they smiled at Gil in welcome. They knew exactly what the first part of their meeting was about and knew that it was another step to becoming stronger within Genesis.

"We apologize for taking our time. We know you have some very important plans for the day." The same flame elf elder walked in followed by four flame knights. They were wearing regular armor and standing tall to guard the elder. "I am glad to see your stories about your home were more than true."

From what the flame elves had seen walking in to Genesis, their rush to get here was worthwhile. There was abundant food, people, and most importantly potential. They did not need to worry that they would be exiled because they had seen the laws clearly posted. It was even lucky for them to see the guards strictly adhering to them while the flame elves were guided to the forest elf treehouses.

"If we had lied to you, then I don't believe you would stay with Genesis. Yet, here you are. Welcome to our home. The future of the continent and maybe even the world." Alma was showing her high hopes for Genesis that went well beyond just her lifetime.

"Gil, it is good to see you as well. I can tell you are a bit more rested now." The flame elf elder didn't hesitate to greet Gil and look at him up and down. "Very fine quality clothing. We do not have such rune sewn robes since we were exiled. Please show me the shop later. I believe my people would appreciate it."

"It's actually Walker's younger sister that made them. Walker brought her back some rune sewn patterns from the forest elf city and she loved them a lot. Now she may alter the runes after research in

the mage tower advances, but they will remain to be amazing. This was actually specially made for today." Gil spun around slowly showing off the high quality.

"Yes! Today you can have my blessing as well. You are the first to be able to spur the grand fire spirit in to speaking. We have learned a lot because of you. A new grand fire spirit will arrive and we will reestablish our home. It is the start of rebirth." The flame elf elder was looking at the future with only positivity.

Through these interactions, the elders moved to grab three small chests from the back of the hall they were in. "These are three armbands. I am sure you have seen elves wearing them. The meaning is simple, when an elf of any affinity reaches adult hood, they are given one. You are being handed one from the water, forest, and flame elves now. It represents the belief we have for you to always be great. To stand for nature and your own values."

Alma became very professional. Walker could tell she had practiced this many times so that she could say it all clearly. Gil just stood still while the elders went up to hand him each armband. They were simple silver carved with different patterns representing the forests, waters, and flames.

"I will accept these and hope that I can always live beyond the expectations of my family." Gil was not just considering the party as his family anymore. The kindness the elves had shown him was enough to make them family as well.

There was also the fact that Walker was more than convinced that Gil was whole heartedly committed to being beside Alma as long as he could. The two would never be able to hide their true feelings. It made him wonder just how Alice was doing...

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Chapter 1423 1423. Healing Journey (4)

"None of them seem able to wake up due to enormous exhaustion. Their mana is still low along with their residual injuries draining their health. We need to move them with us back to a safe place." The healers had all reached a decision. They were just reporting to Alice what had to be done.

"It's not right to leave them. We will bring them to genesis." The decision was exactly what was right. It had only been a short time since they left on their journey, however, the lives of others were much more important. If they did not return and help those in need, it would be a tragedy.

"If I remember right, we can move to the village with the pearl grapes. They have merchant carts for their produce. That should get us back faster." Alice nodded in agreement with this. She would be glad to ask this of them. They could even pay the village for the assistance.

Along with this, they would be able to warn the village that more demons may be fleeing the demon lands for safety. It could become a direct trail for the demons to come and find safety within Genesis.

Without any other hesitation, the healers did what they did best. They began to find small pieces of wood from nearby bushes or trees to make quick cots. They always had additional fabric to connect them which was just common sense in their line of work. With their knowledge and speed, they had a long cot that they easily fit the injured demons on. This way they could use all of their strength to move as one and carry the injured.

"We push on then." The healers echoed this from Alice and began to move. The time it would take did not matter, Alice had already started to sing to increase the speed at which they moved. Her hoarse voice did not matter. She could still make a sound which meant she could still sing.

Covering the same distance as they had taken more time. Took more of a toll. Where Alice was losing mana and drinking mana potions constantly, the other healers felt the strain on their bodies.

Healers were tenacious. They were used to many hours of hard work healing and fighting off mana exhaustion. They would never become true healers without pushing themselves to the extreme to help others. Yet, this was harder than they knew. Carrying the weight of multiple people was a strain that went against the normal al focus of healers.

Before long, the sound of hooves coming behind them. The energy that they had was low and for a moment they all thought they were hearing things. "Halt! State your business along this trail!"

The soldier on top of the horse looked down at them and realized they were healers. Instead of the stern act he had before, he jumped down to look at them. "I can help, let's tie that stretcher to my horse and we can move faster with less weight." Just because the soldier was coming from the border did not mean he was heartless. He did not see enemies now that he had a clear view.

"I am delivering a message to the Genesis council, I will ensure you make it to the nearest village on the way." The soldier was not going to leave the injured alone. He would do his best to maintain his mission while also helping others. He had seen Genesis and knew what it stood for.

"We are going to Genesis too." Alice's voice was rough, but it had a clear purpose. The soldier could only nod in response. He was beginning to recognize who she and the other healers were. He had seen them before. He had been to the cathedral and heard Alice sing.

"I know you...I will get you back to the high priest. He helped my mother and I can repay him by helping his daughter." The additional determination that the soldier had realized this was spectacular. He spurred his horse on while lifting the cot and walking behind it. This removed a large amount of the weight from what the healers had to carry, making the journey easier.

Alice drank down a healing potion for her throat then began to sing again. The addition of the soldier brought them to the farming village in less than an hour. The day had begun to turn to night by now and the villagers were returning to their homes. Many of them spotted the lantern on the soldier's horse while approaching.

"I apologize for the inconvenience. Please ask the head of your village for a cart and two good horses. We must return to Genesis as soon as possible." The villagers did not recognize the injured or the soldier, however, they recognized Alice and the other healers.

"What happened to our guests! You were gone less than a day and come back like this! Go and get that cart. Get water and food. I want them to be comfortable!" Miss gave orders in an efficient manner. She was no stranger to such situations.

"I am returning from the border, I happened across these healers saving what appear to be refugees. We are going to Genesis. I must report more detailed information while they must return to the cathedral to administer better care." The soldier didn't let any of the healers take the burden of explaining. He knew they were weaker at the moment.

"Then we will give you the best. These healers helped us and we want to help them. I look forward to another visit soon." Miss gave Alice a smile before rushing to help prepare the cart. This kindness had no hesitation. It spoke to how a small deed like healing their village could blossom in to something much more than anyone would expect. Exactly what Alice imagined Genesis could be.

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Chapter 1424 1424. Forging Hopes

The remainder of the ceremony had been short. Walker had left after Gil had started to speak with the elders in depth. Walker felt that it was a moment that Gil was meant to take alone so that he could closely bond with the elves. There was also the fact that Walker could tell that Alma wanted to spend a little time alone with Gil. It was clear that their relationship might change based on this.

"Midnight, I know the hatchlings are tired, but how do you still have energy?" Midnight had returned to the mansion and even after a night's rest, she was still awake. The dragon hatchlings had slept clear in to the day.

"Sister says she feels like she doesn't need any sleep because she hasn't been training as much." Onyx was just like Midnight, he had dropped the abyssal serpent hatchlings off at the cathedral before returning and staying up all night with Midnight.

"You both need to rest or train more then. We don't have anything going on immediately other than the crafting competition starting in a few hours." Walker wasn't going to push them to do anything they didn't say they had been missing out on.

Midnight's response was an angry huff, "Sister says that she has planned to help someone in the forging competition. I wonder who?" Onyx couldn't seem to get Midnight to admit who she was going to help. However, Midnight decided that she couldn't be there anymore and left the room.

"Well, that's a surprise. I know that the dragon golem and fire elemental spirit was asked to help stoke the fires along with a few fire mages, but Midnight too." Walker was considering who may have been able to convince her. A few people came to mind, but none really stood out.

"I just wonder who will be taking which prizes. From what I have been told by others, there will be ten shop rentals available." Onyx had already gathered a decent amount of information about the rewards.

"I take it you heard about the crafting material rewards, right? There will be five quests that the top five best created items will win. That means they can request to the adventurer's guild any item they want. The crafting guild will pay for it." Walker had heard this himself and was watching Onyx nod along.

"Let's head out early, I think we can see a few interesting things." Walker decided to leave earlier than he planned. He wanted to catch up to Ignus and Mordant who should be leaving the mage tower any moment. He was sure that Ignus would be interested to see Midnight forging with a blacksmith. There were also some crafters that were able to use true spirit forging.

"Brother, what else do you think we will see? I have a few things for myself that have been made recently, but I am saving them for the battles." Onyx had seen many ideas being passed around. Especially since the wandering blacksmith had been majorly busy with blueprints. Many of the other blacksmiths had come to ask him to refine their designs due to complicated orders. It was pure profit.

"I would not be surprised if someone has figured out more of the true spirit forging. I think there are a few carpenters that even learned to speak to water and earth elemental spirits by using the scrolls. They had the gold to buy them so they bought many and got lucky enough to get the skill." This was more a rumor than anything. Yet, Walker just felt that it was correct.

"If that is the case, I look forward to seeing it. There are too many things that could come of that." Walker agreed with Onyx. The two could chat for hours about a tiny percent of what could be done with spirit crafting in every aspect of crafting.

What was truly impressive though, was that many people were developing deeper relationships with elemental spirits. If it was just crafting, for now, it was a major improvement. That way the elemental spirits wouldn't suffer another dormant period where they would have to crystallize and wait to absorb mana. They could work with the races to grow stronger.

The streets were surprisingly calm for the day being half over. It was something that made both Walker and Onyx curious about until they realized that all the shops selling crafted goods were closed. Every single shop owner or crafter of some sort had closed up to go and participate or watch the competition. "This might be busier than I thought.

The alchemy competition was more specific for certain systems than others. That meant it was not a fully packed stadium so that people watch the arenas. Now, there were more crafters in Genesis which meant that there would be more people in the stadium.

"It looks like the dwarven golems are on display outside!" Walker was surprised to see this. It was a brilliant idea so that people could become more familiar with the dwarven golems. Many different types were displayed. There was even an entire row of different monster based golems.

"Come take a look! The wolf golems are a pack type monster made in to a golem. Perfect for patrolling your crops and capturing pesky rodents!" There were many dwarves calling out the uses of certain golems. Walker was sure they would be making a great deal of gold today.

"Onyx, there's even a golem made to copy a giant swamp python." Walker pointed at the golem showing Onyx that it was similar to him.

"Brother, that golem is too small. I am bigger than it is now." Walker felt surprised again. Onyx had somehow managed to have another growth spurt without him knowing.

"In that case, then it's a baby python golem." Onyx pretended not to think Walker's joke was funny. He didn't want to just give in.

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Chapter 1425 1425. Surprise Host

"The craftsmanship of these golems is very high." Ignus came out of nowhere flanked by a few dwarves that had been trying to convince him to help them in their forging.

"Indeed, I believe these would make some very interesting sparring partners for my warriors." Mordant saw the potential that Ignus also saw. However, they both saw these as something akin to toys.

"I know you two have seen the guards that are just dwarven golems. There are also scouts, underwater golems, mining golems, and more. They are perfect when the situation may be too dangerous or unknown for living scouts. But where they become interesting is when they have a golem driver or an elemental spirit controlling them."

"You're saying that these can be controlled through more than just rune carved cores." Ignus found this amazing. This was more advanced than the foreign within his village. The golems may be weak in comparison, however, they had potential that he could not ignore.

"There's a dragon golem that was made using the true spirit forging. It can breathe flames, attack with claws, and bite just like a dragon. It is too heavy to fly but it was only a copy of a dragon physique. I believe that it could become better when better runes are researched. The fire spirit has complete

control over it unless it is not dwelling inside. Then it can be controlled by myself or others." Walker knew that the dragon golem could only be controlled by certain people for safety. But the fore spirit wouldn't let that happen anyways.

"We will see it inside then. It will be very important for us to understand the limits of what pride it can bring to the dragon race." Mordant was sure that Ignus felt the same. They had to ensure that such a creation was not mocking them.

"I promise you will be just as impressed by it. The spirit that controls it has sparred with Midnight a little. There were some decent materials used to make it tougher and have a better control of fire. Specifically, materials related to a cyclops."

Ignus's head whipped around to look right at Walker, "You found one alive!?"

"No, just the remaining parts of one. They were sued to make the golem better. Specifically, its core. No need to worry that a cyclops could be anywhere around. From what I know they are still very extinct." This was just the fate of the cyclops, nothing that seemed to be avoidable or controllable.

"Hmm, I see. Then it is of no issue. My predecessors once dealt with such monsters. They were not stronger in the use of flames. However, they were very resistant and did not perish easily." This seemed to be a topic that would not be wise to pursue. Therefore, Walker searched to change the subject.

"I can see you have developed quite the following on your way from the mage tower to here." The dwarves around seemed to pretend that they were not here to bother them. Unfortunately for them, Ignus and Mordant had reached a line.

"They have followed us since we left the elemental floors. Some even came looking but were held back by the guards. I can praise the guards that captured them. I prefer not to be bothered by their greed. I will not be helping them win a single competition. My flames will be needed in my own creations." Ignus was planning to have the wandering blacksmith's blueprints for his own armor later. His dragonkin would forge it while he heated the materials.

"As I also said, I will not show favor to anyone. My flames will rot away any materials you have. I will help only those that show outstanding talent with darkness affinity materials. I may even invite them to my village." Mordant had a slightly different approach.

"You want to steal away a blacksmith to come and work with your dragonkin? Should I take it, they will go to your village after learning in the crafting guild how to true spirit forge equipment?" Walker saw the intentions of Mordant clearly. Ignus nearly slammed his fist down in annoyance at missing such an obvious chance.

"I can't say those are bad ideas. They will make the bonds between you and Genesis stronger. Just make sure you can sponsor them with the proper materials and help them when they need it. I know they may not end up being as powerful as a dragon. Just keep that in mind." Walker wanted the best for everyone. Therefore, he was not opposed to such sponsorship happening. As long as it was in the best interest of everyone.

"If you wish for us to do so, then I may also consider an outstanding talent as one that may receive the honor of visiting my village. Any blacksmith that sees the true fires of the volcano may find themselves inspired. It would be their honor." Ignus covered his desire with high words but they were easily seen through.

"Brother, I can hear things getting louder inside." Onyx had been pleasantly enjoying the conversation. He found the insights very interesting and was using it as a teaching lesson for when he would be able to represent the abyssal serpents.

"We can't miss the start. This is the most I have ever heard the wandering blacksmith talk at once. He must be really excited to see what people come up with." Walker lost a little of his standing while saying this and rushing in. However, Ignus knew the strength in crafting that the wandering blacksmith had. It was well worth the rush to see him speak and begin a major competition.

"I understand that many expected the most esteemed blacksmith to be standing upon this stage. Unfortunately, he will be participating and creating a set of forging tools for the best blacksmith creation. You will have to deal with me." The king of the deep caves showed off his air as king in front of everyone. He was the surprise host of the crafting competition.

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Chapter 1426 1426. Forging Debates

"Listen closely because this will only be said once. Those participating within this event are limited to twenty four hours. They must use their knowledge of their craft to create an item to the highest of their abilities. There are multiple categories that will be rewarded, woodwork, leatherwork, metal work,

mechanical creations, and finally, unique. These may expand in the future but are limited for this competition."

The crowd of merchants and younger crafters was very impressed that so many chances existed to win things. They had expected there to be basic categories but nothing too expansive. Some people were surprised to see that mechanical creations were in this competition. However, as they looked at the dwarven blacksmiths, they realized that they were going to be blessed to see a golem created.

The unique category gained the most attention though. "I think the unique category will be the best result. They will be using monster materials I assume." Mordant was already checking out the unique monster materials. Some even gave off delectable scents that he would gladly have hunted with his dragonkin.

"There are no rules as long as you do not break the taboos of forging. You shall not copy and steal another's design. You shall not forcefully bond an elemental spirit within your work. You will not use your soul as fuel to create your work. You will not insult another crafter's work, if you are found to be doing so..." The king of the deep slammed a massive pickaxe down on the main arena causing many cracks to form. Everyone knew what the punishment would be.

"To that respect, I wish everyone the best. Take the materials that have been carved from the earth and fought for with blood and sweat. Create something worth the world's gaze. Create something worthy of the name of Genesis. Begin!"

In seconds the coliseum was full of smoke. Many mages began using their skills to purify the air and keep things from becoming toxic. This was the same used to be inscribed on wind elemental crystals above chimneys to purify the air.

Many flames burst up as small forges were beginning to heat materials. Some of the carpenters were using large tools to carve their very own parts from large chunks of unique wood. The most amazing seemed to be a statue carver that had begun to already cut out the face from a solid chunk of stone. Walker had not seen such crafters up close and was impressed at the speed.

"There are many here that have unique ideas. I believe that this is what inspiration can do when many races are brought together." Mordant saw why Genesis was going to grow. He was seeing very clearly the potential being realized.

"I understand what you are seeing. Many are already using different techniques influenced by the other races. That dwarf is carving stone like vines. That elf is carving wood in to columns. It is an interesting change from their traditional values." Ignus became much more philosophical. It surprised them but was very correct.

"I can see a few familiar faces. I didn't think our dragonkin would be joining. For that small group of flames elves." Walker watched as Ignus and Mordant both smirked. They knew that their dragonkin would be making weapons that they used within their villages. It would outdo many of the basic things being made.

"If they bothered to learn anything, they may take all of the prizes offered here." Ignus gloated when he saw that his dragonkin blacksmith was hefting larger hammers than the others while forging with hotter flames.

"You don't think you could watch your dragonkin beat mine? Do you? Foolish as always. They stand no chance against the darkness elemental wood we have brought to craft the finest staff." Mordant saw one of his dragonkin carving multiple darkness affinity woods to create a close combat staff with darkness elemental runes on it.

"Well, if we are competing, then you should look over there." Walker pointed to where Midnight was working with a very familiar face. "That is Rodney, I've helped him with his quests before. I also know that he has a lot of potential. Not to mention that he is one of the people responsible for pushing the crafting guild to become a real guild rather than just a group of people."

"So that is where your champion has gone. She is forging. How interesting. But she is not doing..." Ignus saw that Midnight was using the golden flames she could breathe from her golden flame heart. She was not going easy on the work she performed.

"He's using a fusion of seven ores on that single ingot. That's something I don't think many people could manage without Midnight's help. Rodney is pretty unique." Walker continued to gloat a little here and there when he saw Ignus get stuck on the work Midnight and Rodney were doing.

"I just wish to see that true spirit fogging." Mordant pointed to the elemental spirits that had built up around the coliseum. It was easy to see that they were waiting to be able to jump in to the competition.

"I wonder how many of them will have the partners to create something. It would be nice to see some dual elemental true spirit fogging. I heard that they were going to be doing so here." Onyx shared this surprising news without even blinking. He wanted them to be impressed by the things he had learned without their knowledge.

"That explains why Rodney is making use of so many different ores. I can't wait to see." Walker lost himself to his curiosity. It was all downhill from there. The three fell in to banter about who was using what and who could do what. It was something many dwarves around heard and began to argue with them. Sooner than expected, the entire crowd of merchants and young crafters fell in to lengthy debates about crafting.

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Chapter 1427 1427. Twin Carpenters

"Have you noticed that young girl?" Mordant pointed slowly toward the carpenters. From what he had seen, the girl was not making any sense. She was creating strange parts without any plan.

"No, but that doesn't look like carpentry. Look at the golems." Walker started to see the similarities between the golems and the carpentry parts.

"So that little girl is making a golem out of wood. Is that possible?" The question was loud enough for many to hear. It started a debate amongst the crowd which is exactly what Ignus had intended. He could carefully listen to the arguments around to learn the answers.

"That was sneaky, but I like it. I can hear many saying that it is not the materials but the runes that matter. Therefore, I would assume she has that seed as a core?" Morant looked carefully at a large brown seed on the girl's work table.

'Century tree seed

The century tree is a tree that can only ever live up to a century. They will grow as large as the environment allows. The energy they have stored within them is enough for them to live for the entire century without needing to absorb large amounts of earth elemental mana. The century tree is known for attracting water and earth affinity monsters due to the powerful fruit it creates when it withers.'

Walker shared this appraisal with the two royal dragons and Onyx. They thought that it was a very wise choice for a core. "It has plenty of mana condensed within. The runes she uses will most likely be earth and water which are perfect for wood. Whatever she makes she will be able to impress people. But why does it look like she is making wings?" Onyx spoke up to enhance the appraisal from Walker with his own curiosity.

"Those my little brother, are the wings of a lava diving bat. She is making a lava diving bat golem out of wood with earth and water affinity. It's bold, complicated, and fits the woodworking and mechanical categories. She may be..." Walker lost his ability to speak when he saw the girl start to work on the century tree seed.

"She is using true spirit forging. And so is the boy next to her. They are twins!" The realization that the two siblings were twins caught Walker like a slap to the face. The two were both creating parts of the same golem and using true spirit forging techniques. But where it differentiated was more amazing.

The girl had called over an earth spirit while the boy had called over a water spirit. The two elemental spirits were helping them with the mana to carve water and earth elemental runes on to the century tree seed. The more runes they carved, the more the seed seemed to smooth and change. It wasn't a tree seed any longer. It was becoming the first ever wooden golem core that many had seen.

Was it unheard of to make a golem out of wood? Now. But it was something many times harder and respected by any craftsman. Yet, these two young children were doing it with ease. "Brother, from what I can gather, they are two surviving children of the fire back home. They escaped and came here." Onyx had listened to the gossip around to find the answer.

"Really? That's great!" Walker was even more invested in the twins winning a prize now. Mordant and Ignus felt left in the dark so Onyx managed to explain to them the past incident with the carpenters building in Diamond.

"Then these two have literally risen from the ashes to compete here today. That is a story worth telling when they win an award. They will win." Ignus had already given them his support after hearing that they braved the flames of death to continue on in their trade. It was something every fire dragon did in their own way. Trial by fire.

"The true spirit forging techniques seem to have spread to a rune carving spirit technique." Mordant made this observation within the other crafting materials. He saw a few of the crafters had grasped the ability to carve runes with the addition of an elemental spirit's mana.

"It is, I wonder if that is a partial adaptation of true spirit forging or a new way to create overall.' Walker wanted to dig in to things more but was stopped when he heard a loud bang and the sound of shattering metal.

"And as we expected. The first piece has shattered. There are many chances to overload a material with mana through the forging process. The blacksmith must regulate such things. There are still many hours left. Begin again!" The king of the deep caves encouraged the dwarf that had shattered a sword to start again.

"I'm glad there are healers around today. That blacksmith could have lost his hands or worse." It was natural that Walker would worry. He almost wanted to go and check on the blacksmiths himself.

"They are fighting through the fires to create. Those are scars that prove their dedication and pride." Ignus followed with his own views. He respected those that struggled for strength. This was a place where he found himself being impressed over and over.

"Oh, there is your wandering blacksmith. He had begun to spirit forge." Since Mordant was still looking for the spurt forging techniques, he had caught the wandering blacksmith beginning to forge properly.

"So he is the one with the assistance of the dragon golem you told us about. He also has one of each elemental spirit and multiple sets of tools he appears to be forging. All in twenty four hours..." Ignus could not doubt the skill level of the wandering blacksmith. He was about to make one set of forging tools for each elemental affinity as rewards for the competitions. However, there were also other tool models for leather working, wood working, and tools Walker had never seen before.

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Chapter 1428 1428. Mordant's Blacksmith

Hours passed by while everyone was more and more absorbed by the crafters competition. Those with children had brought them to bed for the night while most who could manage it stayed up. Some crafters caused damage to their items and gave up due to their mistakes while working. Staying up all night to craft was a limit some had at their age.

Others were exceeding their potentials. It was clear that some had entered a meditative state where other contestants and the crowd were nothing. Not even there. The wood working twins seemed to be as such.

They were carving rune after rune across every single wooden piece they carved. It was considered well above their level and to support it, they drank mana potions. They had been able to purchase them for a discount due to the high number of mana and health potions created during the alchemy tournament.

A few of the other participants had attempted true spirit forging but failed to be able to control the amount of elemental mana that was provided by the elemental spirits. This was an easy problem to have. The purity of the mana and the control of the mana both required stronger will to safely use. This was why the less experienced crafters were losing out. That did not mean that they had failed. Most of them had decided to go without the true spirit crafting skills and remain with regular runes or forging. They still had a chance.

Many in the crowd had fallen in love with how well the wandering blacksmith worked. Not many had seen someone with such skill working so efficiently. Multiple elemental spirits had shown up to assist him in creating the main tools for multiple crafting professions. The tool sets he had completed were enough to hand out to multiple people already, yet, he had still not stopped.

"Your friend and champion have something interesting there." Mordant saw the light and dark elemental spirits move together to help Rodney begin to forge something now that the pieces and materials were ready for assembly.

"It looks like those flames are being used for a dual elemental creation. That is to be expected since the golden flame hearts should yield such things." Ignus used it as the pride of dragons to be able to help someone achieve such things.

,m "It looks like a sword and shield pair. But the shield is shaped pretty oddly...The shield is the sheath!" Walker realized that Rodney was making a light elemental shield that was also a sheath for a darkness elemental sword. They would work in balance but also be more powerful together. It was something that was not normally made but would be perfect for a warrior that used dark and light elemental skills or skills that could gain an elemental affinity.

"I just wonder how he was able to convince a light elemental spirit to help him. I know you two should have caught on by now. The light elemental spirits are the hardest to convince. Especially if they are

going to help when the light elemental mana is the weakest. Such as now since its dark outside." Walker was clear about why he was surprised by Rodney.

"It is a wonder why that would be. But it is hard to make certain light affinity dragons do things as well." Ignus and Mordant both shared a knowing glance. Walker had yet to experience such things.

"I will keep that in mind." Walker knew he would deal with this at a later time. "Oh, someone is going up with a bracer made of leather."

Walker watched as a simple bracer made of leather was brought up to the main arena. The king of the deep caves called over multiple appraisal experts from the merchants, Garnet family auction house, and crafting guild. They discussed shortly before the item was handed back and the leatherworker told to wait further.

"It seems they were not outstanding but still very good. I can tell they had issues in their darkness affinity runes from here. The mana is gathering but not flowing." Mordant had the best opinion of this so he did not argue. "However, I like that child there. The young dwarf is crafting blind. He has near perfect mastery of those darkness elemental runes."

The boy that Mordant was watching had cloth over his eyes. It was clear he had been burned by some accident. But that was nothing to him, he was still forging carefully and efficiently. He had two darkness elemental spirits next to him while he carved darkness elemental runes on to a halbert.

"I will be taking him." Mordant jumped up and flapped his wings to descend to the main arena. The boy had completed his work and was being assisted to the main arena. Walker could see Mordant speaking with the king of the deep caves about offering a reward to the boy.

"For the first time in this competition, we have someone worthy of a reward. This was not decided by us, but the reward will stand. The royal dragon Mordant has seen an incredible affinity for crafting darkness elemental runes and forging darkness elemental items. This has brought him to offer a sponsorship to this young man here!" The crowd lost it. They couldn't imagine such a hidden reward.

"He had to make a scene here. Just to get one blacksmith in his village." Ignus was jealous and scoffed at it even though he knew how amazing this was.

The boy was on the verge of jumping around. It took all his energy just to remain standing. The two darkness elemental spirits stayed by his side and even seemed to be speaking with him. Walker smiled seeing that a deserving person was benefiting. As a gift, the boy even held out the darkness affinity halberd to Mordant who accepted and spoke with him. It was the biggest happening yet in the competition.

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Chapter 1429 1429. Rodney's Fame

There were many eyes on the young blacksmith with cloth over his eyes even after Mordant had returned to the staves. He was seemingly stunned that he had won such an honor through this competition. Yet, it made sense. He was exactly what Mordant had been searching for. A new blacksmith to come to his village that could make darkness affinity equipment better than his current blacksmiths.

There was also the fact that the boy would be able to teach his blacksmiths about how to spirit forge with darkness elemental spirits. It would also be good because the young blacksmith would learn the newest runes while in Genesis training. It was the best possible outcome for Mordant's village instead of leaving dragonkin blacksmiths there long term.

"You couldn't help yourself. You didn't even give him an option." Ignus tried to reprimand Mordant for rushing out. However, it just caused Mordant to laugh at him slightly.

"He is definitely suited to the talent you were looking for. I never thought that a blind blacksmith would be able to do something so amazing." There were truly impressive skills behind what the young blacksmith had done. Walker couldn't deny it, it was also the reason the crowd had cheered so much upon the announcement going out.

"That champion and Friend of yours seems to be finishing." Ignus was interested to see how the shield and sword combination came out. He was looking right at Walker so that he could hear the appraisal.

'Striking defender

+10atk, +10def, +8mdef, 20 mana storage

This is an extremely unique weapon that is not often made for warriors. Those that can use it will be able to defend and attack while only carrying the one weapon on their arm. The shield is the sheath for the sword and balances the darkness elemental mana within it. The shield holds light elemental mana which can be used to help heal the user in combat. This is a unique spirit dwelling weapon that can allow both a light and a dark elemental spirit to dwell within, hence the name; Striking defender.'

"That will be winning an award for certain. Those three over there attempted the same thing and failed." Ignus was harshly judging those who had been trying to create dual affinity items. He watched them force the mana along instead of balancing it causing their items to shatter or decay.

"I agree, I think he will have his own unique tool sets. But what I think is cooler, is that." Walker pointed out the word working twins who were stepping away from their now completed wooden bat style golem. The runes covering were glowing with mana as it started to move.

"Out of just wood. A weak material but a strong creation." Mordant was overall very impressed by the twins.

"I wouldn't say it's weak. They used cliff birch. It grows only on sheer cliffs that not many can reach. It is very hard to deal with once it has the right amount of earth elemental mana within it. But what makes it even tougher, is the fact that in the winter it cools itself and freezes its roots in to the stone so that it breaks the stone. That way it can grow more when the weather warms." Walker had sneakily apprised the materials being used. He knew just how hard it was to work with the cliff birch.

"You're saying that it will be able to stand against some of those metal golems there?" Ignus wasn't sure if he had heard Walker correctly. Such a thing sounded impossible.

"That and because of the light weight, it can do that." Walker watched the bat golem jump in to the air and begin to fly fluidly. It was going against all expectations of a wood golem and a golem in general. The crowd mirrored the amazement with shouts of encouragement.

"You have seen it clearly. We have the twin carpentry geniuses with their wood work golem. It meets all criteria to receive the elemental wood working tools created by the best blacksmith wandering the world!" The king of the deep caves watched the wandering blacksmith walk over and hand over two sets of tools.

"They have the water and the earth affinity tool sets for wood working. It seems to be a poor reward until one considers the things they will be able to make with such high quality tools." Onyx pondered just how much more advanced the twins would get in the future of their careers.

"The crafting guild's number one busy body is here too!" The joke that the king of the deep caves made was enough to make all the crafting guild members that Rodney had met laugh and shout encouragement.

"Those who have been around since the starting ideas of the crafting guild have met this young man. Rodney had studied everything and met everyone. He is sure to be the future guild master of the crafting guild. His dual elemental named weapon, the striking defender, is one of a kind. Darkness elemental sword and light elemental shield. It was created using dragon flames and true spirit forging. It even has two elemental spirits that wish to remain with their creation. Please look forward to the one they will choose from the battle competitions as their partner!"

Rodney smiled while holding up his hands. Midnight was matching him by raising her head as high as she could. The two knew exactly what they had been doing while also offering a magnificent reward. "You know, when I first met him he was stuck on a crafting quest. He made my little sister's sewing needles from dragon scale scraps. They are what sew those runes you two liked." Walker smiled thinking back fondly. He wasn't at all concerned that Ignus and Mordant had taken an interest in Rodney as a blacksmith. They could fight everyone else for his attention.

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Chapter 1430 1430. Stones And Cracking

"The closer we get to the deadline, the more entries come in. The first stone carved entry has come in and it is a mystical one!" The king of the deep caves was looking at a fully carved statue of a fictional mage.

"The statue is of a popular children's story mage that was able to create a world in a night. They are known as the eden mage. Where this story was not true, it is full of wonderful stories about the growth of mana. Tisi statue follows that same philosophy and is carved with multiple mana gems to gather elemental mana of every single type!"

This caught many on edge. They weren't sure how amazing this was. "Let me tell you. The potential this has is spectacular. None in the crafting guild have managed to carve runes in stone without causing some degree of damage. Those that succeed can only carve at most three types of elemental runes

before the stones crack and break. This is the first time the guild and many crafters have seen this potential in stone! It is a world shaking accomplishment!"

As if to follow what the king of the deep caves said, there was a silence that overtook everyone. The stone carver was an older man that seemed to have worked with every ounce of strength he had. Yet, before everyone's eyes, mana converged on him.

'The world has recognized the greatest stone carver of a generation. For the seventh time in this century, the world bestows the title; elemental carver.'

The world had seemingly waited for the perfect moment. No one was able to properly speak. The man on the main arena stage with his statue was silently crying while looking up at the sky. He was surrounded by elemental mana while his statue glowed faintly. The image everyone saw was not someone sad, but someone so filled with joy that they could not contain it.

As if a signal had been given, the entire coliseum erupted with the loudest cheers and roars of success any had heard. This stone carver had done something worthy of absolute respect. Those that crafted with stone would look at this moment for generations.

"You heard the world itself respond through our systems! We are the very first to witness this in Genesis. One of seven within a century to accomplish this feat! Welcome the unrivaled champion of the unique category!" There was another roar of victory from every crafter around. The wandering blacksmith personally stood to walk with the stone carver out of the arena.

"Even the world is moved to recognize such works. If a craftsman can do that after so many years, I can only imagine what will happen when there is more knowledge shared." Both Mordant and Ignus appeared to be greedy. They wanted to see what Genesis would produce after every crafter knew spirit forging. After every single person was more acclimated to the origin runes.

"More statues like that can increase the mana around the city. They can also be perfect for elemental spirits to feed on as sustenance. That means they will recover and help spirit craft things more often. That's not just a small accomplishment. It will affect Genesis for years." Walker spoke with pride, Both Ignus and Mordant finally saw the same thing Walker dreamed of.

"I hate that I must admit it... I am convinced. I recognize your village and everything it will be." Ignus had completely broken. He was over his stubbornness and had seen too much which led him to believe that he was witnessing a new era.

"Big words for you. I don't believe I have officially said it though. I accept Genesis as a fellow dragon village and the future of dragon culture." Mordant followed Ignus in his pledge of acceptance. It was a very meaningful moment in such an odd place.

"Then I welcome you and all members of your villages at any time. They are family as far as I am concerned." Walker gave a soft nod accepting their pledges. It was a silence in the loud cheering as if they were the only three present.

"Has anyone ever seen such a whip before!?" The king of the deep caves was still speaking. He was sharing the leatherworking item that had just appeared on stage. "A whip made of berserker elephant skin carved with earth runes!"

The whole appeared to be heavy and tough to wield. However, when the leather worker gave it the slightest movements, the ground cracked. It was made to literally shatter stone. "Impeccable quality using high tier materials. This woman may look familiar to many, she is the current master leather worker within the crafting guild. She has specifically entered to show off the skills she wishes those who learn from her to match!"

Knowing that another hidden master was showing off was great. The whip was a perfect example of why every material had a use in ways that most did not expect. The skins of certain monsters could be used in leather working which was less popular for most travelers. But seeing that such an amazing result was before them, many people realized the errors of their judgments.

"I have eaten a berserker elephant before. I took a trip through the deserts to find them. The skin was hard for even my fangs to break. Impressive." Walker had not realized how tough the skin actually was. Therefore, when Ignus expressed this, Walker wondered just how the leather working woman had managed it.

"A master is not a master for nothing. I can't wait to see what else she is capable of now that many people know who she is." Walker and the others watched carefully as more and more items were finished. Some were awarded but none came close to the prior amazingness they had just seen.