

Master 1431

Chapter 1431 1431. Hatchling Visits

"Thank you for your participation in the crafting guild's first ever competitions. Please remember that all items that will not be given as rewards for the battle competitions next will be on auction at the Garnet family auction house tonight!" The end of the competition seemed to cause a lot of people to give in to their tiredness. Too many had stayed awake during the entire twenty four hour period.

"The battles." Ignus seemed to be on a roll with the energy from the crafting competitions. He had fully accepted Genesis and was ready to see more. "My dragonkin will be participating. I expect more surprises in their competition."

"Don't even doubt us. You've seen Barry, he's not the strongest warrior here. There are others that will join the competitions to see what they can do against those said to be the strongest." Walker had to push a little. He felt it would make things more fun in the long run.

"Does that mean you will be fighting? I wouldn't expect a royal dragon to do such things when they should remain composed." Mordant came at Walker. He wasn't going to sit on the sidelines and allow for there to be a one way gloating competition over warriors. He believed this would have their own merits in a battle.

"Don't speak like you will have winners among the battle. Your warriors do not have the physical strength." This comment was all that the two needed to start glaring at each other with challenge.

"And now, maybe we should go and rest. There is plenty of time for us to push each other later. I want to see what people can do too." Walker started to head away which was enough to make Mordant and Ignus follow. "I also want to get some decent food." the mention of his mother's cooking was the easy way to get anyone to stop fighting. Even Remey couldn't resist the temptations.

"Old man, what are you doing?!" Remey was currently locked in her office trying to figure out how she was going to handle the massive boom in merchant requests. However, the old master alchemist had burst in.

"What do you mean, what are you doing? I am here because this little dragon came all the way here without Midnight looking for you!" There were two familiar dragon hatchlings right behind the old master alchemist. They seemed to be a little defensive because of the unfamiliar environment.

"Partner, the little alchemy fire dragon is here with her brother," Remey whispered slightly to get her alchemy fire spirit to leave the spirit mark and come out to see them. As soon as the fire spirit showed itself the younger fire dragon hatchling became much more energetic.

"What are you planning to do?" The old master alchemist felt like he saw the future in Remey's eyes. It was all too clear that she was going to be ignoring her portion of the paperwork so that she could focus on the dragon hatchlings.

"I need to help them get their fire to a better level. So, I am going to go and make a potion. A fire affinity potion which should help them both." Remey walked right past the old master alchemist toward one of the labs that had more space for them to explore a little. It was better that the hatchlings wouldn't feel boxed in since Remey knew they must be used to the openness of the lava lands.

"You two will really like it here. The heat from the flames makes it pretty warm so it will be closer to your home. Plus, you can get a lot of experience learning about herbs and other things. I don't know if your older brother will feel the same way about alchemy as you, but he can still learn about fire elemental mana here." There was a happy huff from the younger fire dragon as she understood some of what the alchemy fire spirit was telling her after Remey spoke.

"Don't go saying that I might get violent with the cauldron if I fail. I never fail a potion. Who are you to say that anyways? Hm? You mess up the same as I do when the potion fails since I depend on your help to maintain the heat!" Remey caught a few words that the alchemy fire spirit was saying to the little hatchlings. She was not the happiest to be teased in front of new students.

"This is a real alchemy lab. Shelves for the potions, herbs, and tools. The cauldrons are here since it's a large lab, there are three. This is how you increase airflow to boost the flames if you aren't as good as us. There are vents in the ceiling, ways to cool with water baths here, and these are books with basic knowledge for those still learning. I will see if we can get some books translated or a teacher to show you both how to read." Remey was ready to jump in to it without any further conversation. It would be a waste not to show off a little.

"The fire affinity potions I will make for both of you are not something I assume you will be able to make right away. They are things I am making because you need them. You can breathe alchemy flames, that's great. But you can not control them. And you need to get acclimated with fire more as the older sibling so that you can breathe flames too. I also recommend finding other fire spirits or Midnight to help teach you."

This was the basics of what Remey wanted them to be able to do. She didn't speak much after that. From here, Remey was already moving to get ingredients and heat the cauldrons. She was making a double batch of fire affinity potions with materials she had within the lab. She and the alchemy fire spirit were plainly showing off.

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Chapter 1432 1432. Arrow Making Troubles

"Why are you so dead set on going to Remey again?" Alma had taken some time off so that she could spend it with Gil. She wanted to see what he was thinking about becoming a main member of the elven community after a proper ceremony. Yet, she was surprised to find that he was planning to head right to Remey after he had spent the entire time in the forest elf area of Genesis.

"I want wind affinity potions along with any other affinity potions she will make me. If my wind affinity is improved temporarily I might be able to make insanely powerful wind elemental arrows. And, if I have a weaker affinity for other elements, then I will need help making string elemental arrows that are not wind." This was the logical conclusion for him after he had thought about his current situation.

"With this clothing, I can better make arrows and use them. It helps a lot but not enough. I need to be the best I can be to live up to the standards set for me." Gil had taken the elves very seriously. They had made a grand gesture of welcoming him in to their society with their ceremony.

He had known he was already part of the elven society. Yet, having it said and shown in such a way had pushed him to develop a whole new level of commitment. He was human, that would be who he was forever. However, he was not a representative that many elves looked up to. That meant he needed to live up to and beyond their views of him.

Seeing this pure determination, Alma was speechless. She felt her heart beat and face flush in approval. She couldn't have imagined that Gil's heroic tendency would not be limited to just helping people. He wanted to represent them in their drive to become better. The elves would have a whole generation inspired by a human that had helped change their culture for the better.

p "Then you will need to keep up with me!" Alma had done her own training. This let her run ahead of Gil in surprise. "That is if you can!" Her small giggle was all that Gil needed to hear. He rushed after her all the way to the alchemy guild where he found a larger crowd than expected.

"Please maintain your line and wait to be called on. The potions are still available for everyone participating in the battles ahead!" The shouts of staff were clear. They were selling the potions to those that may need them during the battles in the coliseum starting soon.

"I assume there are many warriors trying to cover their weaknesses since the battles will allow for a potion as well." Alma had already seen the new posters. There were multiple levels of compassion based on age and type of battle.

"Oh, makes sense. If a mage goes up against their opposite element then they might want some resistant potions. Or if a fist fighter wanted to counter they might want something similar. What I think will be tough are the people that try and rely on mana and healing potions to win. They don't realize the fatigue that builds up is more dangerous than the injuries they heal."

This was a very hard lesson for some people to learn. Some will rely on healing potions not realizing that the injuries healed are not fully healed. The body can only heal so fast and the wound will be weak for some time. Then the mana potions will only do so much. Yes, they can refill mana for someone to use. But, they don't deal with the mental strain. The weakened mental capacity could easily cause someone to mess up and harm themselves.

"It will be a good thing that many mages were hired to put up protective barriers. Some of them are even master mages from various taxes." Alma had spoken with the water and flame elves who had volunteered for the positions. There were even a few sent over from the forest elf city after the queen had heard of the competition.

"I think it's even better that a few wandering mages were drawn by the mage tower in advance. They were able to bargain for time studying the tower or on the elemental floors so that they would act as assistants during the fight.

"Miss Alma, Sir Gil. Please feel free to head to the floor you need to venture to. But the three guild masters are all busy." One of the attendants managed to get Gil and Alma's attention to tell them this.

"It's alright, we are only here to steal away some potions from Remey. She should be fine if I offer her a snack or two." Gil had brought some sandwiches from the leftover roasted meats that Walker's mother had made the night before. He had to stop by the mansion to clean up and wash his clothing in the morning.

"I know they are busy, but this is something else. I can see that the lecture halls are over crowded." Alma pointed out the multiple lecture halls where master alchemists were speaking about their theories or the basics of potion making in general.

"I don't think I saw on their class board that Remey was teaching anything today. I bet she is stuck with paperwork and will want someone to give her a break." Gil felt very confident in this while climbing the stairs. However, when they reached the lab near her office, they heard strange growls.

"Umm, Remey?" Gil gave a soft push to the door only to find that Remey was sitting silently while two dragon hatchlings circled her watching very tiny movements. "Well, how about that?" Gil found the sight very strange and unexpected. Yet, he wasn't really sure what he would have found.

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Chapter 1433 1433. Armor Ideas

"Su?" Walker had been wandering about again after getting some rest. He had tried his best to sleep as much as possible because he felt that he would be unable to avoid participating in a battle during the matches soon to begin.

"Oh! I didn't think you would be around here. The armor shops are selling things like crazy so I wanted to look at some and get inspiration for improvements I might want for my armor. I have been trying to train a few more skills related to elemental affinity." Su was a little shy about telling this to Walker. He was miles ahead of her when it came to the study of elemental mana.

"That's a great idea! I bet I could learn a few things too since so many people tried new ideas during the competitions." Walker, on the other hand, did not see any issues with Su training her affinities. It was only natural since she would slowly awaken every elemental affinity to match him and Midnight.

"Your armor has some elemental runes now but not the same as my eternal orb can make natural mana. You should look to get your armor recarved with the dragon and origin hybrid runes." Walker knew that the ideas behind them were not perfect yet. However, having those runes would make things much better for Su's training.

"I was thinking that as well. But where I was lost was the design I may be comfortable in. I have a feeling that my body is going to change slightly as I acclimate to the dragon bloodline. I need to be able to grow

in to it." The dragonkin had defined muscles so Su expected to gain a little more muscle as well. Especially since she was a draconic guardian. She was literally guided to become tougher.

"I see, that's a good idea. I feel like Onyx and Midnight are hitting growth spurts again too so it wouldn't be surprising if all of us had one too." The fact that they were all not done growing was pretty apparent. Walker had gotten a lot taller recently because of their training and consistent nutrition. They were slowly beginning to look like the top adventurers they were destined to be.

"You noticed too? Midnight has added at least an inch on to the wingspan she had before. It's amazing. I swear she is growing when we spar together. I can almost see it." The two laughed while passing by many crowded merchants selling armors.

"That looks good there. It would help you a lot." Walker saw an armor with special places to attach weapons and gear.

"If I had something like that on my arms and back I could attach my shields so I don't have to hold one or both at a time." The twin shields already had ways for Su to hold them to free her hands, but they were not as secure as she might have wanted. "And if I add that, then I will be able to also carry a small bag on my hip."

The small metal hooks that Su spotted were made to fill the creases within the armor so that it would act as a slight guard in the weak points while also retaining the mobility. The best part was that Su could carry small mana potions with her to help her maintain her strength without needing to be near Walker or Remey to hand them to her.

"I would say you are right and right. The wandering blacksmith could probably add those in less than an hour. But the real question is what else do you want to add? There are too many options." Some armors that Walker was looking at were themed sets.

"That one is made to mimic thorns to people that attack you get hurt too. That one mimics high mobility for speedy blocking. That one has mirrors on it to reflect light and blind people. It's crazy how many armors are out here now!"

"Don't get too attached to those. The thorn design is great for counter attacks, yes, but it has too many small openings. The mobility is good on that armor, but it can't block heavy attacks. And that

armor...weak and just flashy. Forget any idea of stealth because I will get beaten to a pulp by every monster within the continent." Su was very harsh, criticizing the designs. Yet, that was what she needed.

"Actually, here's an idea. When you have your armor improved, have Fleur help. If we can make it so any elemental spirit can dwell within it, then you will have a wide array of help." Su's earth spirit partner seemed to take a little offense to that after popping out of the earth dwelling shield. However, it wanted Su to be safe and would not argue with that.

"I can do that, but my partner will get first chance every time." Su ensured that she appeased her partner. She had not been battling with the earth spirit's assistance lately. But in the battles of the coliseum, she planned to truly let loose to show off her skills.

'What do you think about that super heavy stone armor? It's made for pure defense and defense. Nothing else. I can't even understand how someone could move with that on!" Walker was caught by another set of armor ahead of them. Su could only grin as she saw it too and began to analyze how she would and would not be able to use it. This was a fun outing that she had not expected to enjoy so much.

"I would say that the person wearing it is immobile or barely able to move. It's for people like Barry if he would ever wear real armor." Su laughed again as she found the idea of Barry wearing armor hilarious.

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Chapter 1434 1434. Batte Introduction

"Genesis! Hear my word! As the representative of the demi-humans, a general, and a true blooded warrior, the coliseum will officially open for the first battles ever!" Scylla's war cry broke through the air to all of Genesis. Walker was certain that this was some form of skill she had to inspire warriors.

The result was instantaneous. People that had been waiting for this shut down their shops and rushed toward the coliseum to grab seats around the arenas. Many of those with the desire to fight rushed to get to the waiting rooms where they would wait to be sent against opponents.

"Su, you should run too. I will get Ignus and Mordant from the mage tower so that they can sit with the other representatives. I think they will be on their way already through."

Su gave a simple nod and sprinted off. Walker took to the air using the wind ripple skill to walk all the way over the nearby shops and homes. Scylla's cry had done more than just called the people. Many of the guards had moved in to place to more or less lock down the city so that people would not become too rowdy.

"You seem excited as well as us. We have been waiting for a notice to watch the warriors present their strengths." Mordant and Ignus met Walker in the air. He had barely made it halfway to the mage tower before he was caught.

"I have to go and see too. I know I will be dragged in to something but I want to be able to watch some of them too." It was an inevitability. Walker knew that he could not get away from Scylla's grasp. He would be dragged in to some form of battle even if it was just to show off his strength in front of Genesis.

"It is only natural that a dragon shows off their strength. Your champion should be participating as well, correct?" Now Walker wasn't sure if Midnight would. He had not expected her to do so. Yet, when Ignus asked, he almost said yes automatically.

"Listen closely! There will be multiple categories for every age group. We have the purely al battles, the purely physical skill based battles, and we have the mixed and physical battles. There may not be equal in participants in each category but they will be more than enough to witness the true strength of Genesis!"

Scylla's calls brought more and more to the coliseum. She was sure that she was bringing the right amount of energy. "Our judges will decide those from each category. There will only be three who will rise among each category. Three who deserve the praise of Genesis! Welcome, King Rorick, The adventurer's guild master; Clara, and a last minute specially invited judge; Royal dragon Ignus!"

"Oh, I forgot to tell you. I spoke to your general Scylla and was invited to join as a judge." Both Mordant and Walker were stunned at how Ignus had hidden this so easily. They hadn't even caught wind that he had spoken to Scylla, let alone volunteered to be a judge.

Scylla's gaze fell on Walker with a sneaky grin. She knew that she had managed to surprise him which was only fair since he had constantly surprised many people in Genesis. No one had bothered to ask her what she was doing when she journeyed to the fire elemental floor the previous night to ask Ignus to join. She wanted to hear the opinions of a royal dragon when the battles were happening.

"A royal dragon sitting next to me to judge battles. What a world we live in. You must have a match with me later." Rorick was boiling with energy. He loved the feeling of this new coliseum. He thrived in the determination from every participant.

"Little demi-human, I can easily crush you. But if it is a lesson you desire then I shall teach it to you." Ignus felt the very same as Rorick. He wanted to test the limits of the crowd to see who would stay to watch a glorious battle between a dragon and many others.

"We are judging others, not battling ourselves. I will judge them clearly on their ability and wits. I hope you do the same." Clara attempted to be the ground for the two as they seemed ready to fly off in to battle at any moment.

"Mages have reinforced barriers all around the arenas. There is no need to worry that there is any danger. Brace yourselves to see veterans and young warriors alike enter battles to show you their skills. Will they be future guards? Soldiers? Or will they grow to be the next beacon of strength to inspire a whole new generation? You can judge them as you see fit. Bring in the first round, young warriors of all ability!"

Yet again, Scylla inspired many to roar in expectation. They were watching the many young mages walk through the doors. Some had robes while others wore armor. Most had staffs but some had other means of using their skills. Those that did not have any weapons were seen as weak. That was one common misconception that Walker already understood.

He was using his senses to feel the mana around each of them. Those with the most gear in their bodies seemed to have the most help from runes. But that also meant that they were pushing themselves. Those without seemed to understand their skills better and already held more elemental mana around them.

"I can't wait to see what they can do. By the time we get to the veteran mages, I'm not sure what things will be like." Mordant watched carefully as Walker began to get more energetic as well. He was sure that Walker would end up battling later even without encouragement.

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Chapter 1435 1435. al Battles

The al skills being prepared around the arena were what Walker focused on the most. This was a valuable chance to learn more and more about what he may be able to do. It was the perfect place for him to plan his additional training in al skills. On top of that, he was seeing many different systems being used.

There was a single glance from Mordant as soon as a mage started using darkness elemental skills. He would have said something he found that he was not at all impressed. The level of was smaller than what he could do as a darkness affinity dragon.

"I know you expected more. But, you have been studying the darkness elemental mana for a lot longer than they have. Some of them are dual elemental mages while others are singular elemental mages. What you should be looking for are those that you think might have potential. This is the youngest age group."

This seemed to make Mordant change thinking slightly. He had been looking at the mages as if they were finished with their growth. As if this was all they would ever have to show for their work. "I believe that there are a few who may show better growth if they access the mage tower elemental floors. It is dependent on what they train themselves to do."

"I agree, there are a lot with potential but that means they need to find a way to apply themselves. That mage there isn't a mage persey. He is using the elemental mana to wrap himself and create swords. It is similar to a summoner in a way." Walker felt that the mage was a very broad term.

"But that girl down two more arenas is actually a summoner. She is summoning field mice with pure earth elemental affinity. It's enough to make someone think about what a mage is. But I would say that we should keep an eye on that boy there." Walker pointed toward a boy that seemed to be walking around an extremely confused opponent.

"At first I thought that he was using some kind of mental illusion . But the closer I looked the more I started to understand. He is using poisons and medicines that he is infusing in the air. From there he is spreading them specifically around his opponent to cause them to hallucinate and give up the battle." Since this was not Mordant's elemental affinity, he had missed it.

"Interesting. I am surprised that someone would think of such a way to battle here." This made Mordant think of ulterior ways he may see someone sue the shadows. It was always straight forward when he used them to battle. Yet, the more he saw different mages using their skills with unexpected techniques, the more he started to wonder if he could change his own views about his own power.

"Ah, there you are. Thank you for keeping the seats around you empty for us." Walker heard Ibis behind him and found that he had the abyssal serpent hatchlings and the dragon hatchlings with him.

"You seemed to have your hands full today." It was a lot of work keeping track of all of them. But Ibis seemed to have been smart about it. The abyssal serpents listened to him well but the dragon hatchlings were attracted to the snacks he had brought with him.

"That's more of the horned rabbit spiced jerky. It's very good. I can understand why they have followed you." Mordant smelled it easily. If Walker hadn't already brought some as snacks for them to eat, he would have considered stealing it right then and there.

"Yes it is. Midnight seemed to battle with herself to hand it to me when she wanted me to watch the little ones. But they should be here to watch the battles. They can learn a lot and have fun." Just as Ibis explained this, Walker saw the hatchlings, dragons and not, focus on the al battles. Their eyes seemed to widen as they decided that they had found something amazing to watch.

"Well, if Midnight was willing to give up food then she must have been really excited to show up here and participate in something. She should be in the mix of and physical competition. I can't imagine her not using her fire breath to fight." Walker considered it and also knew that Midnight would not be able to use her skeletal armor skill if she were to fight in a physical battle only match.

"The physical battles will mostly be demi-humans from what I have grasped. I see plenty of young elves here testing their skills. Even the next age group has begun to fight and it is still mostly elves. I am interested in the fact that there are some humans able to rival the elves in battle using . That is very unexpected." Mordant had been watching the battles carefully. He had seen multiple humans use their skills to beat elves.

"The elves are very nature based with their . Humans aren't strict about following those guidelines. Therefore, they use riskier methods that would harm the environment. It's good and bad. That's why the elves are so important to Genesis, they will help keep nature as a main focus of growth."

"There's that and the training is different. Humans are not as close with their affinities compared to elves. That means we have to be more creative in how we use the weaker skills we have. It's easy to say that the more powerful spell will always win. But, humans will say that someone who practices the basics more will win."

"I understand, so it is the same way that a dragon will train the same elemental mana for a lifetime. It will be stronger yet we will be weak to our opposite." Mordant caught on easily which helped their growing debate.

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Chapter 1436 1436. Two Mages

"Who is that man?" Walker saw an unfamiliar figure covered in moss. He seemed to be moving without even taking a step. Just gliding along.

"I have no idea, a moss covered mage. Definitely no one that I ever heard of when I was the adventurers guild master." The thought that Ibis might have the answer fell to pieces while the three began to focus on the unknown mage.

"His opponent looks strange too. I have never seen a woman with that many...well whatever they are." Ibis was dumbfounded. He was looking at a tall woman with many strange pieces of metal in her hair and even wrapped around her.

"You three should start listening to the crowd around you. Alma and I heard everything just walking over here." Gil teased the three since he saw that they had totally missed their chance.

"Well little archer. What do you know that this ancient royal dragon does not?" Mordant was a little snippy as Gil had teased him. He had to show his strength to ensure that he would not be disrespected.

"What Gil was saying is simple. The crowd has been gossiping about the migrating mage and the steel mage. They are two wandering mages that many think of as bards stories and not real people." Alma jumped in at the perfect time.

"What can they do that is so amazing?" Ibis was not hesitating and decided just to ask outright.

"The migrating mage is just that. He wanders wherever the warmth is so plants can grow. He has some skills like me but he has much more experience. One of the few elves to leave the city and be praised for it. He can create a forest with his skills if he so desires." There was a very proud tone when Alma described the migrating mage to them.

"And the steel mage is one of the extremely rare cases where a dwarf is born with al system and skills. She has absolute control over metal and only metal. Specifically, she merges metals to create steel and attacks with them. It's basically a tougher earth mage. Some were saying that she wraps herself in metal so she looks thin and tall because she doesn't like her height." Gil finished the description Alma had started.

"So we are now watching some of the veteran mages that have come for a chance to enter your mage tower. They are fighting for a very valuable chance. I would say that migrating mage has water and earth skills while the steel mage has a very refined earth skill. It should be interesting." Mordant had become distracted. The migrating mage had begun to move.

The moss all over the migrating mage proved to be nothing like moss at all. Instead of moss, trees all over him were extremely small trees. The migrating mage had grown them to this size to be used in battle or to grow a forest around him. It was an ingenious and mana heavy way to battle.

Roots burst out beneath the steel mage's feet, but they were stopped by a piece of metal that bent off of her outfit. There was barely a look at the migrating mage before small spears of shiny silver steel flew at him.

The trees grew in a blink of an eye to catch the steel spears, however, this was not the last attack of the steel mage. She had created a very appropriate drill shaped spear that started to screw in to the wood created by the migrating mage. In just a few moments of pushing, the steel mage had broken through the migrating mage's defenses.

The reaction was a burst of water and earth elemental mana as the roots and trees began to grow and converge. "That's the living forest skill! He is using living forest skills!" The trees formed in to a deer made of wood and leafage. The shape was held together by massive amounts of mana that seemed to flow from the many, now visible, earth balls hanging on the migrating mage's waist.

"It's an amazing skill, but the migrating mage has a bad opponent. Steel can cut away a forest. Just like now." Ibis was impressed but saddened that he would not get to see more. All around the migrating mage, sharp steel spears started to rise.

They pointed at him and his deer creation. As they floated up they melded together to form a collar and binding chains. The steel mage had brought numerous pieces of steel with her so that she could control

the flow of battle. Her skills were not as highly learned as the migrating mages' were, but she had the practice to force her skills to change shape to counter someone not as tough as her.

"She chained the living forest so easily! I can't believe it. He should have...now, he didn't because he has to hold back here. If he used a mastery skill he would ruin the entire city in to a forest. He was outsmarted!" Alma was more impressed knowing that the steel mage had won using her wits. Alma had learned a weakness that came with her plant based skills as well.

"I would say that was a pretty amazing show though, look at the judges. Even Ignus seems to be on the edge of his seat after seeing that happen." Gil saw that Clara was diligently keeping Ignus and Rorick from starting a loud and angry debate about who had the better skills between the mages.

"These are great ideas. I have the flame doll and the lava puppet. I need to figure that one out too. If I can, it might be more sustainable and usable in battle." Walker was taking rapid mental notes while creating theories. He wanted to start training this potential as soon as he could. Yet, the battles weren't even over.

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Chapter 1437 1437. Claws

Hours passed them by while watching the battles. No one in the audience realized that the day had even been coming to an end. What was even more shocking, was that there were already battles of non al fights beginning. The way Scylla organized it made it so that there was absolutely no gap between the battles.

"I think I know how the demi-humans do their real tournaments." Walker caught himself falling asleep out of tiredness. He felt that he had been awake way too long.

"The demi-humans are known for sometimes having week long tournaments. Their longest ever done is over a month of battle to decide a general." Ibis had more knowledge on this topic which presented a new light to Walker.

"That sounds like a good event to have. Many battles that would bring morale much higher. There would be a constant reason to improve radically during that month." Mordant considered the same thing being done in his village for the single reason that he might be able to push his warriors to greater strengths.

"I want to see the battles where people can use both al and physical skills together. It should be more interesting since even Remey was joining git. The only reason I didn't is that I have other things I want to attend to." Gil didn't want to be dragged in to the battle against some of the enforcers. He felt that it was better to let them show their archery prowess instead of him. He also didn't feel like fighting it out against so many others in front of a very large crowd, but he wouldn't say that.

"If I were to join then I would be unable to use my skills properly. I would have to stop and treat everyone that I used my blue ivy on right away or they might suffer severe damage. It would be unfair to the others if I did such a thing. Using normal plants would just cause me to be defeated more easily. I believe I should speak with Remey about lants I might start to cultivate for my skills." Alma was in an internal struggle over this.

"You can probably get a lot of the herbalists to help you out. Between some of the herbalists and farmers, you might be able to get some of the faster growing herbs crossbred for you to use." Walker thought that this was a wise choice since there were so many people fully focused on the growth of plants in Genesis after the alchemy competition.

"There is one of Ignus's warriors. One of his claw users." Mordant pointed out an agile red scaled dragonkin with impeccable claws. It appeared that the warrior was facing an armored opponent from the adventurer's guild.

"Claw users? What is different about him as a claw user and someone who uses metal claws attached to some sort of gauntlet?" This was a genuine question. Walker had not studied any of the close combat techniques that used claws because Remey handled the close combat hand to hand battles. It was her style and expertise.

"The dragon claw skills are hard to learn because it relies on strengthening the body. The dragonkin that works towards using those techniques eat a strict diet, train for many more hours than others, and must have incredible resistances. They have a special place above most warriors. They even can move to different villages to train against others with the same field of study. They are one of the dragonkin warrior prides. That warrior, in particular, is new to the arts and is about to learn a lot."

"So they are like the rare warriors that become much better through extremely hard work and pressure. Kind of like a diamond." Gil made the relation to the diamonds that the dwarves said were only created under great pressure of volcanoes and lava.

"That's a good way to look at it. However, they will hold a great deal of responsibility. They face the strongest foes in the wilds when out hunting for food or materials. They will fight the strongest warriors when villages need to come to an accord. However, they are rewarded for their work." Mordant watched the battle begin and silenced himself to watch one of Ignus's dragon claw warriors.

The warrior took a stance with their claws facing forward. Walker could clearly see that the claws were carefully filed to a point. But what surprised him was the fact that the claws seemed to extend when the dragonkin warrior flexed. It was a unique quality that they trained to become a dragon claw warrior and better use their system.

The movements seemed like they were ingrained within the dragonkin's muscles. The moment that the armored adventurer tried to swing his two handed ax at the dragonkin, an amazing event occurred. The dragonkin slashed at the ax causing deep scratches to appear. The entire crowd was silenced seeing that the dragonkin had easily sliced through some of the hardest iron.

The moves that the dragonkin used were not excessively fast so the armored adventurer was able to dodge. The places where the claws grazed him were very visible. "Stop fooling around and show them what you learned!" Ignus roared out since it appeared that Rorick was antagonizing him while they sat at the top of the coliseum watching the matches.

The change was like night and day. Sparring was off the table and the dragonkin became feisty like the hottest flames. He jumped forward and rolled around the adventurers slashing at the weak points of the armor. In mere minutes the shredded iron armor fell to the ground along with the two handed ax.

"That's why even the youngest of the dragon claw warriors are put at the front of a battle. They have keen eyes for weak points and will strike as if their lives depended on it. That adventurer is right to admit defeat." Mordant spoke calmly. He was proud to see such a sight.

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Chapter 1438 1438. Odd Traits

"Since we are talking about purely physical warriors, what about that enforcer? She isn't using a single al arrow or skill. It's all tough materials and skill." Gil pointed out one of the forest elf archers. He had met her a few times but she was less talkative and more focused on training.

"Well, I should have expected that you would point out someone using a bow and arrow." Walker teased a little but found that Mordant had taken the question more seriously. Bur Ibis was the one that beast Mordant to a reply.

"Very strong muscle control. She had more than just the basic skill set of an archer. I would say a master archer system at least. Or a variation of archery. The enforcer is just a position within the elven society, not a benchmark of her skills. I assume that she will proceed to your archery academy soon?"

"She is actually one of the assistants there. I will not allow her to join as a teacher until she has five more years of in the wild experience. She also has to continue her position as an enforcer." Alma was not letting one of the most talented archers get away from her position.

"This elf is that highly talented? I would say she is somewhat lacking. She had the training and precise control but not the spirit. I assume she has just gone along with her system her whole life?" Mordant seemed to be getting at more than just the skill level.

"There are multiple warriors down there. You can see the ones that just want fame and a comfortable potion. Those are the ones losing. Your archer is the same. She hasn't found a driving force to get stronger yet. Those five years might need to be ten or twenty to find that. Even royal dragons like myself were that way when we hatched. I decided to carry the weight of every darkness dragon in my shadow. I am the most powerful of all the darkness dragons because of that." The shadows seemed to stretch slightly when Mordant showed off his determination.

"Not to stop the conversation...but who is that?" a demi-human had arrived in one of the arenas. It seemed that they had absolutely no discerning features other than longer hair. "I can't even tell what kind of demi-human trait that is." Walker couldn't get the best view either since the battle between him and a grey haired spider had started.

"Is it really fair that he is up against a grey haired spider though? They are definitely more agile being a monster race. Although, demi-humans have a lot more body control because of their trait..." Gil tried to make sense of the battle. It came to everyone's realization that they had not considered some of the monster races participating in these battles.

"I thought most of the goblins and grey haired spiders were busy building their own homes? If some are here then they must have set up permanent residences within Genesis. I don't think they would stay here." Alma had heard that most of the grey haired spiders had left because they did not desire to make homes here first. There were a few left, of course.

"Whatever the reason, I think the control over the spider silk between its legs is amazing. It's using it like a whip and like a snare. That's a very good way not to use their innate abilities to control spider thread. Everyone is watching them too, so they don't use those skills in this kind of battle that only has a physical moves rule." Mordant found himself impressed with the ingenuity he was seeing.

"I know those traits. That is a soft haired porcupine traited demi-human. They live in the grass lands and are exceedingly rare monsters. To have traits that align with them make that demi-human a force to be reckoned with." Just as Ibis recalled this information, the long hairs on the demi-human's body shot out. Because they were part of his body, he could control each and every single one by flexing.

"They have absolutely zero control of any elemental mana or . That trait seems to be true for the demi-human fighting. Yet, they can control their body with absolute control from the day they are born. That means they can do that." The grey haired spider's threads were cut in to tiny pieces.

The advantage they had thought the grey haired spider had was a complete falsehood. It was only there to show that the demi-human had not begun to try yet. "That demi-human will get very far because of their innate skill. But they also planned out the best way to make themselves appear to be an underdog. I doubt the judges saw that but the crowd did." Walker knew part of this tournament was attracting the crowds' adoration.

"Spell blades!" The first of the and physical mixed skills battles had started. Alma saw the familiar attacks of a water elemental spell blade forest elf and jumped up in excitement. She had wanted to see them specifically. She wanted to see how many had come and improved since they arrived in Genesis Is a few weeks ago.

"The spell blades just got here from the forest elf city. They came just for this competition to train and then report back to the Queen. The queen apparently wanted to come but has been busy preparing to send more soldiers to the borders. A few rumors have started about everyone sending more." Gil wanted the forest elf queen to have come too but there were good reasons not to.

"If they have been training here and no one has been gossiping then I assume they have locked themselves away to keep hidden. That's a very sneaky way to come to a battle." Mordant found the spell blades interesting. Five had just taken the stage, one that used darkness elemental mana had already grabbed his attention.

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Chapter 1439 1439. Waiting Room

"I see that you are ready." Remey had managed to find Su. She wasn't surprised that Midnight was next to her as well.

"Of course. I need to train against people I don't know. The adventurers guild has opponents but they look at me like I will be a teacher and not someone to fight seriously." Su had the right idea. Because there was fame, who she and the rest of the party were, she knew that she would not be taken as seriously all the time.

"I agree. I train mostly against dummies or you guys. Even the dragonkin hold back a little since they think they might offend a royal dragon." The slight crack of Remey's knuckles broke the air since she was wearing her gauntlets.

"Did I hear that you were worried about a real match?" An unfamiliar voice came from behind them in the large waiting room for participants. They had waited a while already because the matches took so long and there were so many people participating in the battles.

"I can't say we've seen you around anywhere. Have you been hiding out so that you can't battle? Or did you just get here from the forests?" Su recognized the elf as a forest elf immediately. The clothing and stature made it clear.

"My squad of spell blades was sent to examine Genesis and partake in this battle to prove the strength of the combined efforts of multiple races." It was no use hiding anything. The slim elven woman stood tall with pride for her mission handed down by the queen herself.

"So you came to get your butts kicked. That will be easy enough. Just hope you don't have to deal with us." Remey knocked her fists together with a metallic clang. She was not going to give away any of the skills she had been working on.

Midnight responded with a growl as well. "Sister says that she will also show you how weak one race is compared to the united races." Onyx slithered up after searching for the others since he had gotten there.

"Onyx, glad you made it to the front. They are about to send us to the next open arenas. They are taking notes and scoring competitors to go to final rounds in the next two days. These are all preliminaries." Su shared what she knew much to the displeasure of the ignored spell blade.

"Arrogance. I have seen only that in these waiting rooms. Bring proof when you face my blade." The forest elf scoffed at them as a guard came to bring more of the participants forward.

As much as Su could have been surprised, she was not. She found herself facing the very same female spell blade that had just been trying to talk up her strength over others. It helped that everyone but Gil and Walker had not worn anything identifying. Their medals, plaques, and other things had been left behind so they could be less conspicuous. Of course, that was not a perfect plan since so many people recognized Remey. However, the spell blade did not recognize Su.

"Now I can show you just how strong Genesis is. Just try and hold yourself together in front of the next forest elf queen. She is over there watching." Su started with taunts immediately. It was insanely effective since Su had managed to spot Alma sitting with the others right away. She even heard Walker cheer for her from the stands.

"Battle!" Each arena had its own referee so that they could manage some of the dangers. Most of them had come from the demi-human kingdom due to their extensive knowledge of coliseum battles. It was one thing that Scylla had already been complimented on in her planning.

Su didn't hesitate and kept herself ready to take on any hit that came her way. Naturally, her first move was to use the two shields. They had the greatest area to cover her from most sides. That was a good thing because she quickly found out that the spell blade she was facing had darkness elemental affinity.

A single darkness elemental blade flew through the air in an arc. It was enough to force Su to brace herself. What is unexpected though, was that the blade barely pushed her back. Even her shadow under her feet wasn't affected by it. "That's all?" She looked at the also stunned spell blade.

Su had been expecting the hit to push her back or make her trapped by her own shadow. She had been much more cautious. Yet, what Su had not taken in to account was her al defense having risen along with the toughness of her armor's al defenses. She had become a much stronger person than she had been when she first saw the spell blades in the forest elf city.

"Come on! Try and actually hit me!" The taunt was incredibly sarcastic causing the spell blade to fall for it without any reservations. Four more blades of shadow flew through the air while Su waltzed forward laughing at the spell blade. This was not the normal Su battle style but one that completely relied on taunting.

The strategies Su had were not very numerous. However, she had developed one that would mess with an opponent's mind the best. Constant taunts would cause them to get angry or frustrated. That being said, Su gained a massive advantage as the only calm indeed one in battle. It was perfect for battling against someone with more emotional battle styles. Or someone arrogant like the spell blade in front of her.

"Care to test something out for me? I have been training this with Midnight for the last few nights where no one could see." Su hadn't let a single person see this. She had prepared the move and skill specifically for the tournament so that she could show off her own strength.

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Chapter 1440 1440. Taunting Victory

"So your guardian has exceeded the attacks of another. That should make you feel proud." Mordant didn't hesitate to mention this to Walker. He thought that it was a little rough since he knew that Mordant had wanted the darkness affinity spell blade to win. It was the same affinity he prided. However, Su was using interesting tactics.

"I haven't seen Su use a tactic that forces her opponent to use all of their mana. She is literally taunting them in to losing without attacking." Walker wanted to see Su use this against him. He felt that it would be the perfect mental training for anyone to get to the right level to face a tough opponent. Especially an opponent with illusion or other mind related skills.

"Remind me not to make Su angry. I think she can block some of my elemental arrows without a scratch now." The thought had occurred to Gil after he saw her block four darkness thrown blade attacks in a row.

"I would not get too excited just yet. That spell blade, she is not using both of her swords. She is a dual elemental spell blade you know." Alma realized that she had a few more pieces of knowledge than the others. It helped that she had met all of the spell blades participating before they had even come to Genesis. Yet, in the busyness of the weeks she had been unable to introduce them to even Gil.

"Oh, a second affinity. I was wondering why a singular affinity warrior seemed to have such a weakness to their main affinity. I completely missed the other elemental mana around their body." Mordant had become very distracted it was unlike him to be that way.

Meanwhile in the arena...

"I'm done playing with this! I was going to hold back and beat you so I can defeat the real opponents. But I was given an annoying brat!" The spell sword had lost her patience. This was it for her mental strength. The second sword was pulled out from her waist and she became a lot more serious about the battle.

When the second sword was pulled out, Su knew exactly what elemental affinity the spell blade was going to use. She changed the shields dropping the twin shields and pulling her earth dwelling shield from her back. "I doubt that you will make any difference with that saber in your hand. Not that you were doing damage in the first place."

The taunt added to the spell blade's anger. She rushed forward in a flurry of slashes that Su just blocked and redirected with ease. "Come on, use your earth affinity too. Or is it too slow?" Su felt the earth blade form and come at her from the spell blade's swords.

"My partner and I can use that earth elemental mana too." Su felt the earth spirit within the earth dwelling shield react. The earth thrown blade that hit the shield became nothing to her even before it touched it. The only thing that made any impact was the residual mana from the spell blade herself. That was because there was her personal mana within the earth elemental mana gathered. Otherwise, Su had allowed the earth spirit to take the mana for itself.

"How!" "That's not how it should be!" The spell blade reacted with a nice dramatic surprise allowing Su to use her first shield bash. The impact was held back because Su wasn't sure what she would be able to do. She had already found that she was better defensively than she expected. The call was the right move though.

The shield bash made contact with the stunned spell blade knocking her back and way out of the arena on to the floor. Su just stood watching the spell blade push herself up and look at her. "Sorry about the taunting. It was just a way to throw you off your game." Su tried to apologize but the crowd was already being too loud and drawing out her voice.

"I don't think I will be training against Su anytime soon." Alma thought that Su would easily stand and be able to walk through any attacks she could muster with her blue ivy.

"You're telling me. I know that I would have to use some serious al skills to deal with her defenses now. I didn't realize that she had gotten so much stronger lately." There was a small spark in Walker's eyes. He was getting more and more excited to see what Su had coming. He knew she had held back her skills. It was too easy too easy to see that she had stopped herself from using a skill that she hadn't shown yet.

"She is acclimating to the blood of dragons as a draconic guardian. The effects are much more dramatic because she is a human and not a dragonkin. I thought she would take on more traits of a dragonkin after the bond increased...Yet here she is without scales and tougher skin instead. Her eyes are different though." Mordant thought that this was an amazing occurrence.

"She has some ideas of what skills she can use. I find myself wondering if she might sprout wings or make them out of elemental mana like me." Walker dropped this on Mordant. He had not really shown these skills in depth yet. Just small doses.

"I think we should refocus ourselves. Remey is about to start her fight against a demi-human with gorilla traits. I would be willing to place a bet that it is a child of the demi-human guards." Ibis felt that he was the only one staying focused on the battles taking place still. Everyone was getting in to debates about skills and how the future may take shape.

"Gil, on three?" Walker nodded three times

"Let's go Remey!" The cheer was loud enough for many to hear. Su had even joined in seeing that Gil and Walker were preparing to shout.

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