

## Master 1441

### Chapter 1441 1441. Fist To Fist

"I have to admit, you look tough." Remey was looking at the demi-human with much more muscle than she would ever have. The gorilla traits made him slightly taller than the average man, therefore, the demi-human stood very tall over Remey.

"I must look as such to take my father's position as vice guard of the west gate. I have come here to expand my knowledge in combat and show that the best are not always within the blossoming city that everyone speaks of." There was pride in the demi-humans voice. He wasn't being arrogant but truly loved the city he was born.

"Then you picked a good match to start with. I know you saw me as the alchemist and one of the guild masters of the alchemy guild. But I'll tell you this, I hate the guild master title. I prefer the name the world gave me through my system; alchemical brawler." Remey slammed her fists together and alchemy fire blossomed on her gauntlets.

"No point in holding back their alchemical brawler. This elite guard will show you a thing or two." The gorilla treated demi-human took a hard stance to receive any attacks that Remey attempted to send his way. There was no arrogance between them. Just solid wills with anticipation.

"Now that is how a battle should look. Two real fighters waiting to see the best of the other." King Rorick wanted to brag about one of the younger up and coming guards, however, he was more spurred on by the sight of the two acting with perfect sportsmanship.

"I would have to agree with you. It makes my blood boil. I want to see them battle!" Clara didn't oppose them this time. She too found herself wanting to see what had changed since the last time she saw the party she managed fight. She had spent way too much time locked away within an office lately. It was too dull.

"Well, Remey has made a breath through in her alchemy fire control. She isn't even feeling what from that. Notice that she isn't relying on the runes she has on her gear." Walker could feel it from where he sat. He was sensing the control that Remey used to keep the alchemy fire from damaging her or the gear she wore. What was even more impressive was the fact that the alchemy fire spirit wasn't acting just yet. It was still reading within Remey's spirit mark.

"Weak flames!" The demi-human elite guard stepped forward and swung out a solid fist. He had no need for weapons. His body was his weapon. His skin was his armor. The gorilla traits he had didn't just increase his physical strength, it also improved his physical defenses.

The fist that flew toward Remey was not something she knew she could easily block without taking damage. But that wasn't what she had in mind. Remey arched her back and let the elite guard take a solid upwards kick to the jaw. "You didn't really think that I could only punch, did you?"

Remey had purposefully misled the elite guard so that he would go in to a frontal attack thinking she could only battle with her fists. The shock he was in gave her the chance to not only mock him a little but also to throw out a proper punch to his ribs.

The elite guard jumped back. He did not let Remey's words throw him off or the pain to show on his face. He could easily give in to his emotions and go wild. The gorilla traits he had wanted him to give in this way. Instead, he remained calm and watched Remey circle to the right. She suddenly sprinted forward and ducked under his left arm which was already moving to jab.

Since she saw a jab coming, Remey jabbed as well while moving to a higher stance. She made contact but saw that her opponent was going to put space between them to wind up for a harder hit. Her reaction to this was simple, the answer was alchemy flames.

The alchemy fire spirit emerged from the spirit mark. This caused the alchemy fire to surge around Remey with much more strength. So much so that the elite guard couldn't even consider attacking. He had to retreat from the sudden heat. "Now that's how you warm up."

The alchemy fire was wrapping around Remey in strange ways. It was as if it couldn't decide on a proper form to take. Remey didn't appear to be able to guide it further either. However, this was a massive leap forward since it was no longer able to burn her.

The push off of the ground had a slight burn mark left behind by Remey's feet. She was already pushing the elite guard toward the edge of the arena. In a last ditch effort to escape the loss, the gorilla trait elite guard tried to grapple Remey and throw her over his shoulder and out of the arena.

Unknown to him, this was a terrible idea. The moment his hands stretched out to grab her, she slammed her arm down to knock him off balance. In a simple spin, Remey's heel struck his ribs right where her

punch had before. With his balance thrown off and the additional pain, the elite guard was sent out of the arena on his butt.

"Next time you and I will use more of the attacks we have worked on." Remey immediately promised the alchemy fire spirit this. She didn't want to get all fired up for another easy battle. Yet, this didn't feel easy. She just felt that she had been able to better manipulate her opponent with her hard trained moveset. "That was a good match, come fight me again." Remey gave a nod before walking away.

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Chapter 1442 1442. Showy Appearance

"I can say that Su and Remey will be back in the arena some point soon." Waker was very impressed by his friend's improvements. They had shown off their tactics while also holding back so that they did not give away any of their best moves.

"I am more interested to see these next matches. There seems to be a decent commotion within the waiting room." The group looked down at the entrance to the participant waiting area. There were multiple people rushing out to make way for someone that was leaving behind them. The looks over their shoulders showed that it was going to be someone that they didn't want to fight.

"It's not surprising with the darkness elemental mana I can feel around that entrance. I would say that a powerful opponent is coming. Those leaving ahead of them should hope that they do not need to face whoever that is. Only a handful I have seen will be able to handle that degree of elemental control." For Mordant to compliment the mana he felt to such a degree meant a lot.

What burst from the tunnel to the waiting area was an armored serpent that Walker recognized. It was Onyx in his full size without anything held back. "That's what those crates were for!" Onyx had requested that the wandering blacksmith create armor for him. On top of that, the armor was carved with darkness elemental runes which enhanced the armor that Onyx could make using the shadows he controlled.

Enhancing this even further, Onyx used light elemental mana to keep it all held in balance. Instead of the shadows spreading as they would without anything forcing them in to place, the light elemental mana

traced lines. It held back the darkness elemental mana causing a shimmering light to reflect off the shiny metal portions.

Each and every section of armor was made so that Onyx could move flexibly. This was the ideal shape of an armor for him to add defenses and also keep mobility. To call it a master piece would be an understatement. The armor was perfect for Onyx. Perfect! "Onyx said that he had something for when he needed it but I didn't think that he had that. It's amazing."

"You are a little too starstruck to see Onyx with his new armor and using skills with it to enhance his strength. You're more like a father than an older brother." Ibis felt that he was witnessing an interesting side of Walker. A side that he had not seen because he had never really spent time with his adventurers after he was forced in to his office. It was pleasant.

"Ladies and gentlemen, before you, you see Onyx. the abyssal serpent we all have heard about. Those little ones that play tag in your shadows in the market are his students. Every single person who has wondered who the little brother of our heroes is, this is him. The abyssal serpent that will one day bring a nearly extinct race of monsters to the point of world wide recognition. With his entry in this tournament, the demi-human race voiced their support of the abyssal serpent's goals!"

Scylla had carefully waited for this moment. She had spoken with king Rorick with her intentions. They were already helping other monster races. They had even made important ties with the goblins and grey haired spiders even though the forest elves had already pledged to assist them first.

The crowd was in awe of the strength they saw. On top of that, they were filled with hope hearing that Genesis was already bringing other races together to uplift those who desire to be more. Those that had seen Onyx knew him as a much more mature being that could easily converse with anyone. Yet, they did not realize his true strength.

To demonstrate that he was actually a powerful monster, Onyx coiled up in the arena he had been directed to. His loud his echoed slightly before his head lowered to look at the man before him. "Facing our quick growing Onyx, we have a special volunteer. This man before you is a human general from the city of Diamond. He is Marshal Green Known as the unshakable shield of the border." Scylla had invited the general here after hearing that he was retiring. It was the perfect way for him to transition and find a home in Genesis to train soldiers.

The General Marshal was fairly well built and tall even though he had plenty of white hair due to his age. He carried a long spear and tower shield. His reputation was known to more than just one race. The

stories of how he had trained the toughest defensive formations had been sung about by minstrels in every city that allowed for travelers to come there.

"Well met Onyx. I hope that you can display your strength properly against me." General Marshal knew he would not have trouble against Onyx. he had fought many beings in his time at the border with greater strength. He just enjoyed that he would be able to help a promising young being show off the strength they would use to shape the future.

"I appreciate your journey here. Please come by our home later for dinner so that you can meet my family." The introduction said and done, they prepared to battle.

The first attack had to come from Onyx. he knew that the general was waiting for him so that he could block any attacks that came at him. Therefore, Onyx undid his coil and whipped his tail forward. The smash that followed shook the entire stadium. The stones were cracked but quickly repaired and reinforced by the earth mages.

"That armor also enhanced his skills. It has to be the darkness elemental runes allowing Onyx to add more mana to his attacks." Walker hadn't grasped the uniqueness of the runes he saw.

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#### Chapter 1443 1443. Strength In Age

The tail slam would have shown everyone the massive strength that came from the control that Onyx had trained. However, General Marshal was unaffected. He casually changed stance before slamming his tower shield forward. Onyx was pushed back slightly.

"I see, you are much heavier than you appear to be. Is it your body, or the armor?" The general was fairly impressed by the attack though. He had felt the attempt to stun him in to falling. If he had, he would have had a very hard time blocking a following attack.

Onyx brought his tail up again to slam it down toward the general, however, this time instead of a ground shaking slam there were small blades of shadow that formed beneath Onyx's tail. He had used his tail to create a longer shadow that hid his true intentions. It was a wise move that many had not expected.

"I do not believe that this is all you can do." General Marsha used impressive footwork while carrying his spear and tower shield to bring him around each blade. It was as if they hadn't been there in his way at all.

"You see much more than I realized. Good luck." Onyx wasn't holding back. He had trained his high darkness affinity and more recently the weaker light affinity he had grown in to. The same blades fell from above as condensed light elemental mana. This skill was one that Alice had specifically helped him with.

"Good!" General Marshal raised his shield and knocked them aside. His spear spun, slashing three light blades apart before they even got near him. "I will attack now and test your defense." General Marshal dashed forward much faster than someone of his age should have been able to move.

Since Onyx was a serpent type monster, he had better agility than most other monsters. Therefore, he was able to somewhat keep up with the general. As soon as he saw the glint of a spear tip heading toward him he moved.

The spear narrowly grazed the armor plates that Onyx wore on his body. Condensed shadows and light wrapped around strengthening the armor as the next attack came toward him. This continued for over three full minutes causing Onyx to really feel the pressure. "You can do more than that, where is your counter attack!?"

General Marshal knew just how to push his opponent to show off their real strength. Onyx knew well that this was what was happening and allowed himself to be baited. He was here to show strength and not just run from attacks.

The shadows built up suddenly around Onyx making general Marshal think that he was about to face a tougher defense. Yet, when the armor on Onyx's body suddenly fell to the ground he was a little lost for words.

"Did you know, that abyssal serpents can hide in your shadow?" Onyx sprang from general Marshal's shadow and using his bind skill to wrap around him. His enlarging size again caused more and more pressure to hold the general completely trapped.

"Very good, but I am a little more experienced than you." The tower shield clicked showing off multiple spikes that had been made to retract and push out when activated by a small button. "I may lack all skills, but I made up for it in making my very own weapons."

Onyx felt the pricks of the tower shield spikes. He hissed slightly but began to pull the shadows around him. "I dropped my armor to speed up. I can take others in to the shadows with me you know." Onyx had recently comprehended this skill and began to sink in to the shadows beneath their feet. "What do you think will happen when we are both in a shadow without someone to cast it?"

"Now that is unwise little serpent. I will tell you both that you are at a perfect standstill. Try that trick again in another year of training. Maybe six months if you work hard enough." Mordant had used speed enough to cause a breeze around the entire arena to reach them. He forcefully brought them out of the shadows while shaking his head.

"The technique was wise. However, you do not want to delve in to the shadow elemental plane without the proper knowledge and experience. Even I can only manage that for a short time. There are many reasons that I do not pursue that goal currently. Even I do not deem myself fit as of yet."

The darkness elemental plane had many things. What Mordant had expressed was a specific part of it that held the world's shadows. That many creatures may be unknowingly connected to. He knew there was a danger of being trapped there. He would not allow for anyone to do so in front of him.

"Then I will thank you for your help. I will try to learn faster." Onyx reduced his size hiding it in the shadows while letting general Marchal free.

"Quite a surprise you had for me. I did not think you would risk losing the shadows completely. I underestimate you in my old age. Come and train with me another time. I wish to see you use that armor more. When you can move at the same speed with the armor on as you did just now without, you will stand above many."

"You see it here. Even the royal dragon Mordant was brought to the battle! Welcome the general to our city. Show your support to Onyx while he raises his students to shine just as brightly as he does!" Scylla made sure she closed the match properly. She was glad that this had worked out to help Onyx and bring in a promising new instructor. She planned to spar against the general herself at some point. It seemed to be only fitting to test each other's strengths.

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#### Chapter 1444 1444. Leon Shows Off

The crowd felt that they had been shown a battle they didn't expect. No one knew that the seemingly weak and kind abyssal serpent was actually a terrifying force. Specifically, that Onyx could take on adventures with greater strength without losing immediately.

It was true that General Marshal had not used his full strength. That was just hope he was asked to fight. Yet, he had been underestimating Onyx just enough to get tricked in to a rough situation. He had even expected that onyx would give up after being stuck with small spikes on his tower shield, but he had been wrong.

"That armor was what onyx was hiding from all of us. He's way sneakier than he should be. I need to teach him a lesson." Gil felt that Onyx shouldn't have hidden so much from them. It was mostly his own desire to train against him though. Onyx was much tougher now than he had been the last time Gil had a match against him.

"I think Onyx was smart to hide it. He was waiting to use it when he knew what he was doing. He also gave a very good example for some very excited abyssal serpent hatchlings." Ibis points out the abyssal serpent hatchlings who tracked Onyx with their eyes all the way back to the tunnel to the resting area. They had become much more driven to get stronger after witnessing the way Onyx fought.

"I'm more surprised that Mordant went to stop the battle. He is taking a much more forward role in everything than I thought. Not that I was going to let things go poorly either." Walker had also been prepared to manipulate the shadows and hold Onyx solidly. He had felt something off in their bond when Onyx had tried to pull the general down.

"That would have been the correct choice. You are bound to him and he to you. He knew that he was doing something risky and took a gamble. That is good and bad. Gambles were required for me to get to a better understanding. Every royal dragon had to risk full commitment to their elemental affinity. But that was a dangerous gamble I could not allow. There is danger in it." Mordant returned and sat calmly beside Walker.

"Well, by any means, Thank you for stepping in and educating my little brother. You have a much better understanding of darkness elemental mana. You could be a pretty important teacher here in Genesis." Mordant nearly laughed at Walker when he heard this. He was a royal dragon, not a teacher.



"You all thought that our special guest fights were over, but you are wrong!" Scylla shouted out again while another arena was cleared. "We have our one and only heroic dragon Midnight!"

Midnight burst from the tunnel Onyx had just left out of. She was already using her skeletal armor skill while jumping in the air to fly to the arena. "We asked her to come and show her metal against a new figure in the Genesis city council. Leon of the Merfolk has volunteered to show off his miraculous spearmanship skills today!"

Since Leon was calmly walking out on the arena, the crowd reacted less than they did with Midnight. However, Walker understood why this was done, Leon had not been as public when it came to the Genesis city council. He and the merfolk had been too busy building their riverside homes. The battle with Midnight was the perfect way to get him more attention for the future of Genesis.

"Thank you again Midnight, I was worried I would have to join and fight my way through all the battles to get to the top. It's better to fight you this way and show off a little more." Midnight huffed in response. She was more than happy to join in battle with Leon. he had been nice enough to offer her some special fish deliveries from near his city. Leon was smart enough to know how to win her over.

Without any hesitation, The referee announced the start of their battle. Midnight was too energetic and sucked in a deep breath right away. Before Leon knew what was happening, a large red flame was heading towards him.

"Too fast!" Leon spun his spear causing water to pull from around him. The spinning shape of the spear made a round wall of water which evaporated with the flames. He had been quick to block as a result of his hard training. If his muscles had not been ingrained with his skills he would have been too slow. "Now I need to repay you for that one."

Most merfolk suffered on land. They were faster and more flexible in the water. Yet, Leon had purposely trained more and more on land to make up for this. Therefore, his speed was astounding when it came to the comparison to a merfolk.

He dashed forward while droplets of water pooled around his spear tip. The quick jab trying to pierce Midnight's side was quickly dodged by Midnight flapping her wings and flying up slightly. The attack still managed to land though. The water at the end of the spear had juttred forward to hit Midnight and push her back in the air.

"I never said that I was only attacking with a physical spear. You wouldn't notice these attacks underwater but here they are visible." Leon wanted to show his strengths and was not going to just let Midnight play with him. He was a tough warrior that had trained for many hours. Yes he was weaker on land, but that was nothing he had not overcome.

Midnight's response was a soft growl of challenge. She liked that Leon was not going to just let her win. She needed to fight stronger opponents like Leon so that she could keep growing faster.

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#### Chapter 1445 1445. Terrain Victory

The next large breath that Midnight took was not the same as the first. She knew that Leon was expecting flames so she waited until she saw him move to spin the spear. However, the frost that left her mouth was enough to freeze the water that became his shield.

This attack was enough to freeze the spear in to Leon's hand. He had decent resistances to the cold because he had lived in some very deep water. Most merfolk had a very high cold resistance. Yet, the unexpected change in moves gave Midnight the chance to jump forward and breathe flames on to her claws. The heat caused the ice to crack and Leon to be knocked away.

To follow up, Midnight was already spinning her tail toward Leon. If he had not rolled back he would have been in a position to lose the fight immediately. "I forgot you had more than just fire to use against people." Leon smiled. This fight was interesting., it was changing from second to second making it extremely fun.

"I had this specially made for a new fighting style." Leon dropped the spear he was so used to using on the ground. It was unbalanced because of the ice on it so he knew it would slow his ability to fight. What he pulled off of his back were a pair of short spears that fit perfectly in each of his hands.

The stance that Leon took made it clear that he could both attack and defend at the same time. It also showed that he was able to switch fighting styles in the middle of a battle. Something that many would struggle with due to their mindsets.

The change brought many in the audience to their feet. They weren't sure how this change had occurred but they liked it. One spear that Leon wielded pierced forward while the other arced towards Midnight's side. It was a double pronged attack that would have taken many warriors down in a blink of an eye.

"Midnight on the other hand was not an average warrior. She had her skeletal armor skill and her claws. One spear was stopped by a single slash of her claws sending Leon's piercing attack toward the ground. The other spear hit the tough bone that formed around her scales. Barely even a scratch was left behind.

"I think it's time for me to get a little more serious then." Leon used his skill to pull the water elemental mana around the two spears. The next moment brought multiple piercing water attacks towards Midnight. The rate seemed to keep increasing and increasing without any room for Midnight to defend.

The attacks were causing small scratches to build up on the bone armor she had summoned around her. It wasn't looking good for her until an energy within her began to rise. She felt that this was wrong. She was a dragon. A champion of her species. She was able to fight monsters much stronger than her, so how could she lose to someone that wasn't even in the best shape?

The growl that Midnight started with became an echoing roar. Her wings flapped out and her head arched up. The roar was so powerful that many could feel their seats shake. It was the single loudest roar that Walker had ever heard from Midnight. Even his dragon's intimidation skill did not get so loud.

"I see your champion is finally using her roar properly. There must have been enough pressure to reach that level." Mordant seemed glad to witness the moment that Midnight had finally accepted her role as a dragon champion above all others. Her roar of domination made everyone shake. The other arenas were paused in their battles because of it. No barrier would hold back such a sound.

Golden flames spilled from Midnight's mouth with every breath. She was letting her unique golden flame heart act as the center of her strength. The result was an arena slowly heating up against Leon. He attempted to pull at the water in the air only to find that it was remaining in an evaporated state. He was at a complete disadvantage in such a terrain.

"This is why my people have never traveled near volcanoes or lava. I will have to give this victory to you. A wise move." Leon saw that they would be in danger. There was only so much heat a merfolk body could take without water nearby to replenish what they were losing.

Upon hearing that Leon had given up, Midnight stopped immediately and changed elemental dragon breaths. The cool frost breath was much more controlled so that it would only cool Leon down without causing him any harm.

"Now there is your show of strength from two of our unique warriors in Genesis. Who said that a merfolk could not stand toe to toe with another warrior on land?! Who was it that said Midnight was too young to stand up and fight!? Not a soul can speak these words. They are powerful central figures to every single citizen!"

Scylla spoke up again seeing that Leon was in a bad situation and the match was over. However, she didn't seem done. There were many of the first round fights coming to an end. She turned her eyes toward the crowd.

"Speaking of powerful central figures, we have two that are avoiding battles here today. Two that I have been waiting to see fight it out in our brand new arena. What does the crowd say to seeing two more people join the competition as special guest battles!?" The roar of the crowd's cheering was too intense.

"Why is it that we can't escape these things?" Gil felt his peace had run away from him.

"I knew it would happen but I had hoped that we would have more time to enjoy the matches first. I really like seeing the mages..." Walker sighed as Scylla moved toward them.

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Chapter 1446 1446. Join The Battle!

Walker and Gil had already stood up to start moving toward the side of the seating area. Scylla barely had to even move over toward them which made her happy. If they had attempted to resist she would have jumped over the stone railing to drag them in to battles as well.

"Welcome the honorary elf, The arcane archer Gil!" Gil wasn't super excited to be battling. He had not wanted to get in to things since he wanted to maintain his energy. Zephyr was still resting so he knew that he shouldn't draw on too much mana that could be going to her instead.

"Then we have our royal dragon, master of none, Walker!" Scylla took pride in dragging these two in to a battle. She didn't want the first ever tournament to go poorly so she had to. If Barry had returned even for a second to Genesis she would have found a way to pull him in to a battle.

"We have a very unique battle for you today. Two kings have offered to challenge our two heroes here!" Without a single thought, the crowd became wild hearing this. They had never seen a king fight and those that had wanted to see it again. The demi-humans in particular were more excited than one could imagine since they already saw a glint in king Roricks' eyes they knew well.

"The first battle will be a classic story, the king of the idle. The representative of the dwarven people has come specifically to show his skill!" The marching of soldiers was matched by the awes of the crowd. Multiple elite dwarven guards came out of the resting area tunnel in perfectly polished armors. They welcomed their king in to the arena.

The king of the middle was standing tall. He had decided to come so that he could bring better news to the people of his city about what crafting endeavors the competitions brought to light. He had secretly watched and taken his own personal notes so that he could use some of the techniques with the crafters that remained home.

Now he saw the chance to take a little more fame. The lack of the king of the deep caves was felt very widely in the dwarven kingdom. It had been more or less solidified that he would be remaining in Genesis for some years to build the underground trade roads. It even seemed that he was becoming more and more popular by the day. The king of the middle was understandably a little jealous.

"I spent weeks debating who was going to fight one of our most outstanding forces for growth here in Genesis. Since Walker has given only his best to the people of Genesis with his unique outlook on life, I only have the best for him to show his skills in front of. Welcome the king of my homeland, King Rorick!"

With a single jump, king Rorick no longer sat on the balcony beside Ignus and Clara. He was instead brandishing the very same sword that Walker had brought him upon their first meeting. It was clear that he was looking for more than just a small battle. He was after every single trick that Walker had.

"You do understand that I need to show off a lot. I have two fellow royal dragons here." Walker was sure that if he did not show appropriate power that he would be risking a lot. He had just won the acceptance of Ignus and Mordant fully. He could not go back on this.

"Then I expect you to show me your most powerful skill. Allow me to face your best in the first hit. Show me everything you can!" King Rorick appeared to have been waiting for this too long. He didn't even want a battle anymore. He just wanted to see the strength that Walker had. The power that Walker could boast which was able to push people to create an entirely new city.

"If that's what you want, then prepare yourself. When we take the arena, you will be in for a lot of hardship." Walker knew what he was going to be doing. He would use a lot of his mana and pull on the natural mana around him. He would have to rely on something he was not ready to use yet but would show all of Genesis just how strong he was. Just who he was growing to be.

"An archer recognized by the elves against me. Boy, I am here to introduce myself to your people of Genesis. Allow me to demonstrate why the three kings of the dwarf kingdom are the pillars any society should kneel to." The king of the middle was not being arrogant. He truly believed that the dwarves were worth the respect. They had done much for the world in the ways of building and creating.

"I didn't even want to fight today. I won't lie, this is a little unexpected. But I still have a bow here and some arrows." Gil wished he had noticed the guaranteed signs that he would be battling. He had left his bow and arrows behind to avoid battle yet somehow an attendant was handing them to him right now. It was too well planned. He glanced at Alma who was sheepishly pretending not to be looking at him.

"We shall start with the king of the dwarf people and our very own arcane archer. They seem ready to show you just how powerful they can be. The secrets of their training will be open to all!" Scylla was clearly struggling to hold back her energy. The other participants felt that they were a little neglected. While others were glad that the focus was not on them while they fought for a proper position in the next day of battles.

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Chapter 1447 1447. Wind Against Earth

"Are you going to hide behind your arrows, or will you have a real fight with me?" The king of the middle was wielding two close combat axes. He was not one to fight from a distance. Nor was it normal for dwarves to fight from long distances anyways. The only ones that would, are normally the crossbowman who had broken the accepted norm.

"I am an arcane archer. I can deal with you before you get here." Gil couldn't help but try and mess with the king of the middle. He didn't like that the dwarves still were all for up close and personal battles. He had a special place for the crossbowmen that had helped him when he visited the city.

The referee didn't even need to say that the battle had started. Gil had quickly pulled an earth elemental arrow from his quiver and sent it flying at the feet of the king of the middle. The reaction was a large rumbling beneath the ground followed by a large earth spike jutting out of the ground.

The king of the middle scoffed at it and stepped back to slash it in half with his two one handed axes. The earth pieces fell to the ground while the king of the middle looked at Gil unimpressed. "If you wish to fight with earth, I recommend you understand the kind of weapons I wield."

The king of the middle slammed the axes in to the ground. The entire arena shook, throwing Gil off balance. That was when he noticed the many earth elemental runes and multiple earth crystals embedded within the handles of the two axes. These were perfectly made to deal with the ground. Gil wanted to slap himself for being so foolish. The dwarves were a race that literally lived under the ground. They would actually be close with the earth.

"A little hard to walk, hm?" The king of the middle moved with speed that one would not believe he had. If Gil could not also move quickly using his own skills, he would have been caught up to. The distance he had over the king of the middle was major. Therefore, he had to maintain it.

The next arrow that Gil pulled was much more than the earth. He had chosen a wind arrow since he had some wither spike arrows with mana already within them. This would keep from interrupting Zephyr while also allowing Gil to use the elemental mana he was most accustomed to due to his own wind elemental affinity.

The wind arrow became much more energetic than Gil had seen it. He had trained using his skills and new wind elemental affinity. Yet, he had not used the arrows he had made long ago. It was simply because he did not believe that there would be a difference. However, there was a difference. The wind elemental mana greeted him as if it was returning to its home. This caused the wind to naturally envelop the arrow as if he was using the bow's skill to create an arrow out of wind alone.

The change made the king of the deep cave focus much more. This was something that could pierce his armor. He knew it. The danger he felt from his instincts screamed at him to defend against this attack. It was a feeling he rarely had since he was a king of the people. In reality, the king of the surface and the king of the deep caves had more real battle experience than a king of the people would.

Once the wind arrow had been unleashed, Gil lost his balance completely. The shaking of the arena had still not let up even though the king of the middle was moving with axes in hand. The arrow flew at a faster speed than anyone watching expected. They had not imagined that an arcane archer had such

power. Only the elves were able to see that Gil had reached a higher level of training than they had. It put them even further in admiration for him.

"One arrow will not break me!" The king of the deep slashed down with his axes again. This time they met the arrow in the air causing earth to fly about in a storm. The wind caused slashes to arrive on the exposed portion of the king of the middle. However, he was a dwarf. Dwarves were tough and could charge through stone if needed. Mountains would crumble to their strength.

The charging figure in front of Gil as he stood up proved that he couldn't escape close combat this time. He had no choice but to let the bow fall around his shoulder and pull his daggers in a swift motion. Gil had trained this motion over and over for situations just like this. He would never be caught and defeated without fighting with every ounce of strength he possessed.

The swing of the axes were easily dodged since Gil could predict where they were coming from. The king of the deep cave's battle style was predictable yet too powerful to just counter. This left Gil with the only thing he could think of. He had to use more wind elemental mana and his affinity.

"Zephyr, I am sorry about this. Please keep resting." The wind pulled around Gil as he used the steps he had learned from the elemental dagger techniques of the elves. He was far from rebuilding them but he was sure that he could use the wind with his dagger. The result was a flurry of small slashes sending wind blades out at the king of the middle.

They were able to perfectly counter the sudden closeness. He had thought that Gil was a purely long range fighter. Having a close combat battle against wind elemental was tougher than expected. But still easily countered. "That last move was impressive. I will allow you to walk away from here." The king of the middle let his axes fall in to holsters on his hips before walking away. Gil was at a loss. The battle was over as soon as he had earned the respect of the king of the middle. That was what it had all been about.

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Chapter 1448 1448. A Bit Rusty

"That is all she wrote! That was the king of the deep caves test! The warrior known for all archery has proved that they are not just some useless archers. The dwarves value up close and personal combat just as the demi-humans do. We are similar but earning the respect if an opponent is supposed to be up



close and personal. Not only have you see the bonds of our races strengthen today, but we have seen a king offer his aid to another as a warrior."

Scyla seemed to know more of what the hidden intentions had been to this battle than Gil had grasped. Not only was this used to show off skills, but it had been used to bring the elves and dwarves closer. It said that the dwarves would not deny the elves because of their differences. It showed that they would accept them if they came face to face with blunt honesty.

The king of the middle had left without another wave or word. He entered a private waiting room where the crowd's loud cheers were unheard. "So, you seem to have come back in rougher shape. When was the last time you tested someone like that? When was the last time you took damage like that?"

The king of the deep caves had been waiting. He watched carefully from the unseen shadows of the tunnel. He wanted to see just what his fellow king had planned. "I hate to say it. I am rusty. I have let myself go weak while sitting in those meetings. On that throne. Someone so young was able to surprise me and I even underestimated him."

This had been a serious wake up call for the king of the middle. However, he would not allow any to see it.

"Then come down for a few weeks with me. We have run through some cave systems while carving the underground trade route. I would not mind the help clearing them. It will allow me to feed my little pet." The king of the deep caves knew that he could focus on his own strength and values if he dropped the work on the king of the middle. This turned in to a long argument between the two but one that showed just how much they actually cared about each other as fellow kings.

"List carefully. Listen closely. We have my very own King Rorick entering the arena. He has trained for countless years. Mastered the art of the sword. Defeated every general within his army. He is the demi-human king who united and protected multiple monster races and soon to be monster races recognized by the world!"

Scylla could not help but raise the crowd's excitement with her introduction of king Rorick. She had idolized him in battle and also been protected by him before. She held him too high for showing her the home she could build within the demi-human society. Without him and his guidance she would never be in the place she was today.

"Look here, this is the heroic party leader. The one and only, Walker. He has claimed multiple titles. Gained access to every elemental mana. He has even stood as a pillar of what someone with unique thinking can achieve even though their strength may be lower than others! Show him your appreciation and marvel in his power!" the crowd roared. Walker felt that he would have a harder time wandering the streets now.

"It has been a while since we last spoke properly. I hope to see what you have to offer here." Rorick was more than happy to be the one that tested Walker's skills.

'I already told you I would go all out. I can only use this skill for a very short time. But here in front of everyone and against you? I will. There are others with even higher expectations of me." Walker knew he would regret the after effects of using this skill. He already knew he was not ready to do so just yet.

As if they were receiving a hidden message, Su and Midnight appeared from one of the tunnels looking at Walker. They could sense the mana gathering around him. Even more, Fleur left the spirit mark and entered the floating eternal ob. In a burst of natural mana, the stored mana seemed to condense around Walker.

"There is no need to hold back today. The two will battle and show you their skills to a higher degree than even you know. The battle you witness may be short. It may seem small. But this battle can shake the foundations of this entire city. Now let them hear your excitement to start!" Scylla's words brought a roar that made Walker feel he was deaf.

With The mana in turmoil around them, Rorick dashed forward to put pressure on Walker. However, he didn't expect to feel the push of wind against him. What he saw forming behind Walker made him step to the side.

The elemental wings forming dense. The broken pieces of the arena started to float up around them. None had even noticed the cracks form. Flames were pulled from the now altered torches which shouldn't have allowed their fire to be taken away. Even the shadows and the light started to condense around Walker. Finally, water started to condensate and attack together the earth that formed around Walker.

"I can only use the elemental dragon aspect for a few moments. Be ready!" Walker ended in a massive roar that caused the elemental mana to react even more violently. It was a force of nature being unleashed as a large dragon head rose from where Walker stood. The wings that arched out behind him

cast shadows to block the sun. The tail that rested on the ground was enough to slap away large enemies. The crowd was in silence.

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Chapter 1449 1449. Elemental Disarray

"He is able to half way use that skill...interesting." Mordant and Ignus ended up saying the same things even though they were not next to each other.

The elemental dragon aspect was a skill that Walker had almost no control over when it came to duration. It used too much mana to form the dragon body from elements. It seemed impressive and powerful but until he could devote more and more mana to it, it was limited.

In all essence, Walker wasn't even sure what he was able to do with it because he had been unable to practice using it in any form. The one time he had managed to use it he had been drained of mana and unable to maintain it for long. It was too stunning of an experience to be able to train with it to any real degree.

Yet, as Rorick approached him with a sword drawn, Walker did not feel any worries or fear. He was only excited. The energy within his body was like lightning. It was the same as the drastic reactions that started to form when the elemental he had made the dragon body around him came in to contact with each other.

The places where the water and fire collided created steam. The places where they collided with the torrent of wind from the wings became sparks of lightning. The spots where earth and fire touched became molten and fluid. These reactions were constant, making Walker amazed at what he was able to create by smashing all the elemental mana together without properly balancing it.

"It's unfinished..." Walker realized this. He shouldn't be using such a skill in a way. It didn't make sense. This was not a nature dragon skill or form. However, he could only start in on this thought for a second.

"Let me test this for you." King Rorick slashed out with an elegant and smooth sword movement. Walker could tell it was a testing blade but not one he could take lightly. There was profound skill within the way that Rorick moved. It was almost as if he was moving through the world in a way that no other could match.

The slash would have hit the wing made of wind on Walker's neck. Yet, it didn't even make it close. Walker's body moved on his own while he began to grin unknowingly. Walker's sense for mana had increased to a much more sensitive level while being in contact with such high density elemental mana. Along with this, he felt that he was seeing the world in a slower form.

His eyes easily followed Roricks' near perfect steps toward him. It was like watching someone go through the motions of a perfectly performed dance instead of an opponent. Without even thinking, Walker took a deep breath and roared again. The dragon's intimidation seemed to hold more and more weight causing the entire crowd to feel heavier. The pressure was not all that was felt.

There was a burst of wind causing the fire elemental mana sparked more causing the wind to become flames. It appears that the roar had changed in to a burning hot dragon's breath trying to overtake the entire arena that Rorick and Walker battled on.

The flames were still unfocused, however, making it easier for Rorick to slash them apart. The heat in the air was real though. He could feel that there was a serious chance of becoming burned if he did not act faster. Yet, he was there to see the strength that Walker had grown in to, he would not be using everything he had. His goal was to bring out more skills and more power.

The upcoming slash made Walker jump in to the air. The wind condensed wings pulled him higher as the water elemental mana around began to condense. Walker wanted to speak but couldn't process everything properly. He knew that the mana was going to catch up to him. He was using too much.

Yet, his instincts told him he could do more. Push harder. Use more energy! They screamed at him that he needed to win and stand above everyone. It was the connection to the dragons that had taken within himself through his bond with Midnight. Walker could not allow any to look down on him.

The skill voracious mana consumption activated for the first time since the forest elf city when Walker had gained the skill. He was in a battle frenzy against Rorick who was giving him pressure no matter his situation. The mana became disturbed around the coliseum and even all of Genesis. Walker felt the sudden surge and knew he could do what he had been feeling.

The ice dragon's domain skill burst out around him freezing everything. The water elemental mana he had gathered grew denser while he added more mana to it than necessary due to his increased mana absorption.

The ice became dense and colder than before. Rorick was caught off guard by this radical change. He could only force himself to continue to move to avoid the sudden spikes of ice that formed around him. His breath nearly froze in to a snowy mist as soon as it left his body.

This did not stop him from Dodging Walker. Two large claws of ice had formed to add on to the elemental dragon aspect that Walker had used. The form seemed to become more defined as well. The lack of mana was being bypassed which caused the true form of the skill to slowly become revealed. Walker's body was becoming harder to see due to the elemental dragon aspect slowly covering him up.

This proved that Walker could use it as an armor as well as a means to attack. His grand elemental manipulation skill paired with his sensitivity to element mana allowed him to move and control everything without need to see perfectly.

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Chapter 1450 1450. Complete Respect

"This is the best!" Rorick felt that he could use even more of his strength. He was facing someone weaker than him in close combat. Yet, he was facing Walker using his most powerful skills at the right time and right combination. Walker was the perfect opponent to allow Rorick to loosen up.

The slashes that Rorick created using his sword were much more elegant while he pushed to use more of his strength. The multiple sword techniques he had learned were able to be flawlessly combined in battle. The skills came together to appear as a perfectly practiced dance allowing Rorick to slice off pieces of earth, fire, and ice from Walker's elemental dragon aspect.

Meanwhile, Walker was letting his body move on instinct. The voracious mana consumption gave him the power to fight more and more as long as his mental strength could withstand it. That meant he could fuse elemental mana more than he had before. He could make an attack he had not trained because he was waiting to have better control over his mana. He had that now.

The fire, water, and wind elemental mana started to condense the same way that a dragon would bring their mana together to breathe flames. The air became charged and Rorick felt the hair on his body stand up. He knew he had to dodge the next attack because it would cause him harm.

The roar that started was drowned out by a flash of yellow light. The arena floor was shattered by a massive lightning bolt. The resounding bang that echoes through the entirety of Genesis made the

entire city silent. Walker had caused some damage to the elemental dragon aspect which was being repaired. The attack had been too powerful,

Even though Rorick had dodged the attack in time, parts of the arena had flown at him causing small scratches and bruises to form on his body. His teeth showed in a violent but joyous smile. He had not expected such strength to be demonstrated. He had never been attacked with lightning like that.

The tail now made of mostly earth slammed down at Rorick who unleashed a flurry of slashes. Each causing the tail to break in to smaller and smaller pieces. He was using his skills at an incredibly high level to keep up with Walker. This made all who watched wonder just how two beings could do such things. They were barely even able to keep up when Rorick moved.

The pull of mana was perfect for Fleur. She could manipulate some of it since she had moved in to the eternal orb. She was the central part of the elemental dragon aspect. This meant that she was storing all elemental mana within the orb and the spirit mark on Walker's back. It was easily forming in to condensed natural mana with her will. She loved it but knew that a limit would be reached soon.

"One more attack." Walker managed to growl out while he felt his mind becoming foggy. He could also sense that the others around him were struggling. The mages had been reinforced by other arena mages so that the attacks would not break out during this battle. Some of the cold had already managed to seep away outside the arena.

"Do it! Attack again and show me something new! Show me your power!" Rorick screamed in challenge. He couldn't get enough of this battle. He was fighting someone that represented dragons. Someone who was more and more amazing by the moment.

Walker could only look down from the air and agree. He would be doing just that. The elemental mana gathered again in condensed form. He forced it all in to a single breath. A single attack that would surpass the lightning that was so hard to combine before.

Since Walker had managed to balance the elemental mana in to natural mana before, smooshing it together in to a rough attack was no issue at all. The mana that fought with itself in front of Walker was guided by Fleur as well. Their two wills held it back until a sudden calmness radiated from them. They did not create natural mana but it was a step away.

This was when they released it all.

The mana exploded out in a blast of singular and multiple elemental fusions. It was not an attack that the system was naming as a skill due to the fact that it was nothing finished. The pure elemental power showed that with enough mana, people could more than surpass a limit.

Rorick raised his sword losing his smile. He blinked and slashed down. A heavy energy consumed the attack in front of him. No one was able to see the hundred slashes created in a breath. It was one of his most powerful attacks that Scylla had only witnessed once. Rorick only ever used it against someone he respected as a real challenger.

The attack Walker had sent was slashed up and dissipated within the air. The elemental dragon aspect was falling apart as well while the voracious mana consumption had ended. Walker was left with a single mana point when he touched the ground. His body screaming for rest. His head throbbing.

He knew that he had an image to upkeep so he did not allow himself to stumble and fall no matter how tired he felt. He forced his head high and breathed through clenched teeth. His eyes finally met Roricks. "Was that what you were after?" The words dripped with challenge and strength.

"You have more than my respect. I wish that you will fight along side me at the next battlefield we are brought to in life." Rorick looked at the sword which was now chipped and scratched. The drawback of using such a powerful skill. "You are more than worthy of all my respect.

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