

Master 1461

Chapter 1461 1461. Distracted

"Well, We all got a little rest at least. Walker felt that they had all gotten a decent nap throughout the night. It was good that Mis had managed to get the villagers resting in cycles.

"I feel like we could have slept here longer if you hadn't made them all angry. But, those old folks by the fire made us tea, so they might not be that angry." Gil had already handed the cups back to the elderly farmers. They had been the only ones awake so early in the morning.

"We should take the advantage and head out. It will be more beneficial to us since the longer stretch of travel will be today and tomorrow." Su had already borrowed the map from Walker. She was trying to get better at reading it while she traveled.

There was also the fact that she worried there were more incidents like the one that Alice encountered where fires or something changed the landscape. If the paths were messed up then it would take them longer to find a new way or a safer way through some of the wilderness. Not many people traveled down to the demon lands other than suppliers and soldiers. That made the paths more overgrown as it was.

"Brother, Alice says that the healers will stay here to help the villagers until the demons and soldiers are well enough to head to Genesis. More people should be here to help soon." Onyx had been the last to return with Alice. The pair had checked with every single healer to ensure that they were better prepared for the potential of more injured coming.

"Good, as long as they keep themselves paced in cycles too then they won't work themselves sick. The villagers and the healers." This made Walker happy because he wouldn't need to play the villain anymore.

"Then we are heading out! No more salve making I hope." Remey enjoyed alchemy, that wasn't a lie. However, she found the tedious mixing and scraping that came with salve making to be annoyingly boring. It drove her crazy.

While speaking, Walker noticed that some of the villagers came out of their homes to see them off. He didn't expect them to do so but it was a nice gesture. One that gave the entire party a little more energy. Unsurprisingly, when Midnight ran to meet them as they left, she had somehow acquired a

piece of roasted meat that she was finishing. The party didn't even question it. She was the ruler of sneaking.

"This is where Alice said she found the group of demons making a camp." Walker looked up to see Alice nod in approval. "That means we have a higher chance of encountering them here near the border wall. If there was a good place to cross the border then I expect we will be able to find multiple demon camps or soldiers escorting demons." Walker was sure they would find more demons and would have to help them with directions.

"If I have to I can lead them back to a path or the village itself." Onyx was willing to accept this since he knew that the rest of the party wanted to make it to the wall as soon as possible. He would gladly take the longer route to get there by backtracking with those in need.

"Onyx, you won't have to do that. With the number of people coming our way, I am sure that we will group up soon. There are healers, soldiers, and even adventurer groups coming this way. Some of the adventurers were closer to here than Genesis when they received a quest to help." Walker had been told this by Clara who had the party managers offer the quest to all their adventurers.

"There were even merchants that had volunteered to carry additional supplies down here. They should be moving pretty fast since they are used to higher transport speeds. They also have carriages." Remey was sure that some additional potions and foods would be sent this way. She wasn't foolish to believe that some of the Genesis storage wouldn't be brought to the walls.

A warning growl from Midnight alerted the group to the movement that they saw ahead of them once they looked up. All of them had gotten too in to their conversations and missed the clear movement ahead. Luckily, Midnight was much more attentive with her draconic senses.

"That looks like a boar. A demonic boar?" Walker was surprised. He had trained against them before with his friends from the tamer's guild. But this one was very different.

'Demonic boar alpha

This demonic boar has grown up in the wilds under constant threat of attack. Due to being the only surviving member of its pack, this boar had grown differently. There is a stronger physical ability causing

its fur to become a deep black. The horns are purposefully broken against trees to be able to cause more injuries. Alpha demonic boars are known to go berserk when at the end of their life.'

The all around appraisal skill gave all the warning that Walker needed. This was not the average demonic boar. It was very likely that this one had managed to cross the border where the walls were open for movement. In the process, the pack had been lost leaving the single demonic boar to grow alone.

"We need to work together. Don't let it get those horns near you. It is stronger than the other demonic boars we have seen." Walker's warning put everyone on the ready. It was just in time because the alpha boar was charging at them. Su only had a moment to use the earth dwelling shield to deflect the boar toward the side. She was still pushed back a few inches though. Everyone saw this as a bigger reason to remain nearby her for protection.

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Chapter 1462 1462. Charging Boar

Gil took the chance to make the distance between him and the demonic alpha boar. He knew that his arrows might not work as well as his main focus would be distractions. Su had to cover Alice and Remey since they were the closest to the boar. There was also that fact that Alice couldn't use her skills due to her voice needing to rest. If she used it now she would end up harming herself.

"Remey, you take the right and I will take the left." Walker watched the eternal orb change form in to a sword. He knew he could gather the wind around it to slash with more power. Combining a two pronged attack where Remey used her defense breaking palm, they would make huge damage.

"Focus on me you worthless pile of bacon!" Su taunted the boar while Gil managed to infuriate it by firing an arrow in to its side. The arrow barely pierced the dense skin but it was enough to cause pain.

Without the need for any further directions, Walker slashed downward with the eternal orb sword form. He was focused on making the wind in to a solid blade. Remey's attack hit at the same time causing a cracking sound.

Multiple ribs broke while Walker 's attack sliced through the skin on the opposite side. Yet, this was not enough to beat the demonic alpha boar. It became angrier. The color of its eyes became slightly red showing that it had activated the berserker skill it had.

Su was able to hit it with a solid shield bash to push it back before it began to flail about trying to stab them in any way possible. Midnight took the chance to realize a large breath of flames right in front of it. Naturally, the boar didn't expect such an attack. Its reaction was to jump back and then charge ahead.

Walker took this as a signal to gather earth elemental mana around the eternal orb sword form. This allowed him to brace his stab with the earth. Just as the boar met him, the eternal orb sword pierced its neck causing instant defeat.

"That was...a lot." Remey was flexing her fingers. The defense breaking palm had done a lot of damage but left its mark on Remey's hand. She hadn't used any fist skills since she had been worried about the toughness of the boar. If she had she was sure that she would have broken her hand in some way.

"I don't think we are cutting this thing up at all. It's too tough. Well, the skin is just tough. The muscle looked easier to break." Gil was examining the fallen demonic alpha boar. He had broken down much prey but this was the toughest yet.

"No, we can wait until we get somewhere with better equipment. Walker can store it away." Su was checking the earth dwelling shield. She feared that the earth spirit had taken some damage from the attacks the boar used against them.

"That's fine. I don't think we will need to deal with a pack like this. It was mostly because this one grew alone for some time." Walker looked at the earth that he had brought up around the eternal orb sword form. There were many cracks that showed just how much power the boar had in its attack. Even though it had essentially beaten itself, Walker was sure if the boar survived it could have posed some threat to the eternal orbs' durability.

Midnight appeared to be slightly upset that they wouldn't be eating. She had done her best to use fire breath to deal damage and stop the boar in its tracks. She felt that she deserved a reward. Her slight growl of protest made Walker shake his head.

"The fire was a good idea but it could have charged through them. That was the same as risking major injury. And yes, before you argue with me, I know you can fly now. You can jump out of the way, but if you didn't?" Walker was acting like a mother which made Gil start to laugh slightly.

When the party turned around, they found that Onyx had wrapped himself around Alice to be a coiled shield for her. None of them had expected that he had been so quick to do this. It was an impressive use of his bind skill and larger size.

"Onyx, you will need to train with me more if you are going to act as a shield for others like that." Su felt that Onyx could use his larger body better the more he learned to defend with it. He was quickly growing in to the very same abyssal serpent ancestor that they had all seen on the walls of the ruins.

"If you need a partner I will do it. I want to learn more about my affinities though." Onyx had considered his role in the party. He preferred the fact that he could focus on al attacks and physical. He was a very decent hybrid warrior in that way. Unfortunately, that meant that he would need more time to learn these things.

"You can do both, have Su go to the mage tower with you. The floors are very large and the two of you can get acclimated to your affinities while also training some physical skills. It might actually be better for you to keep your size smaller while you train." Walker's idea was simple. When Onyx restricted his size he could manage his muscles better. That way he would have higher control when he was at his natural size.

"For now though, you should help us." Gil stopped the party again. They were looking at a temporary camp with soldiers guarding over fifty demons that had clearly been through a hard battle.

"I agree, Onyx, we need you to help where you can. Go and get those healers back at the farming village." Onyx didn't even question it. He knew that his larger size would be beneficial to the speed at which he returned to the farming village.

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Chapter 1463 1463. Selfless

The soldier made a defensive line when they saw people approaching. However, as soon as they recognized the plaques that the party wore, they relaxed. "You are Walker and his founding party? It's good to see some help. We were instructed to escort these refugees to Genesis but we have to stop often."

The soldiers looked ready to defend against anything that came their way. They had shields and swords at the ready. Yet, in drastic comparison, the demons seemed much worse off. They had small injuries or burns here and there. Some even had clear signs of starvation and dehydration.

"I think it's fine to drop some supplies here." Walker didn't even wait for anyone to react. He was already pulling food, bandages, and some healing potions out of his storage. He was sure that they would go a long way to help the demons who needed healing.

"Alice, I will tell him. I know what you want to say." Su had Alice gripping her arm as soon as the dried meats and vegetables left Walker's storage.

"What's wrong? Should I get something else?" Walker was less experienced with helping people who had been stuck in a starved state. Therefore, he needed more guidance to ensure that nothing bad happened.

"They have been starved and dehydrated. If they eat nutrient rich food at a density like we do they will go in to shock or get very sick. It will make things worse. We are going to make a very thin soup in large batches. Then you will freeze what is left after everyone has a single cup today. There will also be water but we won't let them drink it all at once. They need to sip it all slowly. That will help them better than just giving them what they want right away."

"I didn't know. Then we need to set up a fire and start. I will use my skills to create a massive earth pot. The harder I can shape it the better it will work." Walker didn't carry enough metal to somehow create a pot last minute.

"Can we pitch in our armor? What would work better as a pot right?" One of the soldiers didn't hesitate to offer such a thing. Walker and the rest of the party were stunned.

"That's a good idea. I heard you can forge things with some super rare skill right? Take my spare armor and put it to good use. I'm not on the border right now."

"Mine too!"

"You kids can use this right?"

The soldiers started tossing spare armor and even more in front of Walker who didn't have the words.

"Listen here, stop gawking. We all live in Genesis. We moved there as soon as we heard about it. Have you not noticed that we have demi-humans, humans, and even a few elves? We were all without homes or jobs when we heard about your little city. Hell, that kid over there is even engaged to one of the demons rescued when that Pride monster attacked his home. So, get to work and show us what we left it all behind to fight for. We were volunteers after the captain set the order to escort these people."

The soldier in charge pointed out members of his squad. They definitely looked mismatched but they all held the same values. None of the party had realized just how many people had moved in to Genesis only to leave and dedicate their time to saving others. It was hard to grasp in the moment. They were literally giving up their safety so that the demons could have a better meal.

"If you want it done, then it will be done." Walker couldn't go against them. Even if he didn't have the skills, he would learn them as he went. His system was made for something like this. He could do exactly what was needed.

The few steps that Walker took were enough for him to use the portable forge skill. The sudden appearance brought a lot of exclamations from the soldiers before Su pushed them back toward the demons. She was already handing out bandages and giving orders. Remey was right next to her with Alice showing her what to do to better soak bandages in healing potion.

Gil started to fill the forge furnace with some small sticks that Walker had pulled out. He was going to do what he could to supply Walker with the armor from the armor after he removed the pieces of leather and other non metal parts.

Midnight was the first to light the forge furnace. She was going to make sure that the fire burned brighter and brighter until Walker could use any forging skills he had. The demons that were in better shape watched as Walker fed armor in to the furnace slowly melting it. He was making a large scene while he began to fold the metal in to a single piece.

Using some of the nearby earth, Walker hardened it in to the shape of a massive pot. The shape would not be perfect but it would be ideal for forcing the metal in to a working cooking container. The hours passed them by as Walker hammered more and more. He was not used to the labor in such a way but that didn't matter. He continued with the encouragement from the soldiers.

By the time he had forced the metal in to shape, he was sweating puddles. But Midnight and Gil were still by his side to heft the newly forged pot on to a large bed of hot coals. Now he had the job of creating a thin soup from what he had taken from his storage already. It wouldn't even be worth doing unless he went all the way. Whatever he could do he was going to do. Even the soldiers were joining him with their survival skills to cut and clean vegetables.

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Chapter 1464 1464. Burnt Out

"He's pretty much done. I haven't seen him work this hard on something that wasn't training for a long time." Gil was pretty tired and dirty himself. He has taken as much of the work on as possible.

"I tried to tell him we could help after the soldiers had taken over the major healing effort. They bandaged and set everything up for when Onyx gets here with the healers. But Walker was in some sort of trance. He didn't talk, or even react." Remey hadn't been sure what to do with the situation and had just gone back to helping Su.

"That's just how he is. He saw a clear goal. Especially after what the soldiers said. It was a little much." Su smiled softly through her tiredness. She was looking at the still steaming pot of thin soup that had been made. Walker had used all of his mana to make everything perfect. She was sure he had gained some new skill somehow.

"Speaking of Onyx, I think I can see him." Gil had been taking careful lookout since Onyx had left. Even though he had given a lot of his effort to helping Walker, he had been able to keep his eyes open.

"I think Onyx did exactly what Walker did. Nonstop work until he was here. He didn't even let the healers that came keep their carriage. He has them on his back." Su nearly laughed while Alice blatantly let out a very stifled laugh so as not to hurt her voice more.

The healers on Onyx's back were slightly green from the brisk movements. Yet, they were clearly focused on the people they could see ahead of them. "I will go and tell them what's going on. You two make sure that Midnight and Walker rest properly instead of by the fire like that." Gil jogged over toward Onyx.

"If this wasn't the situation that it was, I would say we are slowing ourselves down. But this is more important." Remey was sure that they would come across people like this again. The odds were too high. If there was someone or something leading the demons that made them run about in madness, there was only more chances that other demons would flee for their lives.

"I agree, we need to get there sooner. These demons didn't get hurt crossing the borders due to soldiers attacking them. They were hurt by and rough tools. I would be willing to bet that not all of them were affected by whatever skill causes them to go mad. They aren't like demonic monsters that lose their sanity easily." The stress Su had seemed to be growing. She didn't want to get to the border and see losses.

They were on their way to prevent losses. If the party was delayed longer than the first batches of supplies would be delayed as well. Something that was absolutely important to the order's survival. Let alone all the demons like these ones here.

"Onyx says that the healers are coming behind us too. Another two groups and four adventurer parties joined together at the village since we left. They are like a line of help heading this way. The cathedral and Clara sent them in certain routes to cover more of the border evenly." Gil had managed to speak with Onyx who had been told this by the healers.

The farming village was being fortified by a few of the Genesis soldiers that could remain there. They partnered with healers so that the village could work as they should on their crops. It was a massive help since the pearl grape farm was appearing to be a highly traveled middle point in the current state of the war.

"Hmm?" Walker came to a little when Remey had nudged him. She was going to try and pick him up to lay him down on one of the bed rolls they set up nearby. However, he was not yet sleeping soundly. The same was with Midnight when Su and Gil tried to move her toward a place that was not the dirt ground.

"Onyx made it back with healers?" Walker saw the changes around him instantly. He had been waiting for it.

"Yes, he just got here. He will be in the same shape as you after his adrenaline wears off. He moved at his fastest speed the entire time to the village and back. There is a lot more help on the way that will be here halfway through the night." Gil didn't even cut corners. He gave it to Walker straight.

"Good, the more people we have here to get them moving the better. I think we can set up a secondary rest area in another half day of traveling." The idea was to make it easier for the refugees and soldiers to rest and heal. There were sure to be a lot more of them coming as soon as the armies gathered. There was also the benefit that they would be able to see the true colors of Genesis earlier to decide if they even wanted to live there.

"But you, Midnight, Onyx, and Gil are all resting. Su and I took out time to rest as we went. You four have ignored resting and burnt yourselves out." Remey looked ready to continue yelling at them if Su hadn't given her a harsh look. She did have a point.

"If you are saying it then I guess you're right." Walker felt it was comical that Remey was the one telling them to rest. She was more well known for locking herself in the alchemy lab for days at a time lately.

"Just go and rest so we can leave in four or five hours." Remey huffed a little and rushed off.

"I can not argue with that." Onyx slithered over and fell to sleep in an instant. No one hesitated to follow his lead.

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Chapter 1465 1465. Add On

When Walker woke up he was surprised to see that the soldiers were much more energetic. They had been incredibly stressed that the demons were hurt and not going to be able to survive their escape. Now that they had some food and had recovered, the demons were even starting to open up a little.

This new information was a massive insight in to the current state of the demon lands. "One of them was telling me that after some of the sin title holders had been sent out that things became very strict. Some people even refused to leave their homes unless it was life or death." The soldier in charge of this squad was sharing everything he had gathered.

"That's not a good sign. We need to start liberating the villages and make it in to the main demon capital city." Walker was not happy to hear that the problems were escalating.

"I feel the same, however, this may be harder than we believe. They have seen many demonic monsters controlled with being guided toward the border. It is not advisable to do anything without proper

support. We should be able to learn more about the other sin title holders. They are feared but the people do know of them." The soldier made the promise to speak with the demons more.

Any information about the corrupt demons that were forcing their will upon the people was helpful. Especially since taking them down would be more important than anything within the war. "I just hope that when those titles resurface that they are used for better things than what they are used for now." Walker couldn't believe that the sin demon title holders were forced by their title to do evil deeds. He had some hope that they could do good.

"I just finished checking with the healers. They said that they could stay here and make the trip back to the farming village in another few hours." Alice and Su came up to Walker. They were convinced that the situation here was well handled.

"That's good. We can get Remey and Gil to head out then. I'm not going to lie, Remey seems pretty popular with that group of demons." Walker could see that Remey had managed to get a few of the demon children talking. They were even starting to run around a little bit to the surprise and joy of the adults.

"I wouldn't be surprised if they are like her siblings. Most of the city knows that your party members are from every facet of Diamond. A well off family with illness, an orphan, a farmer boy, a guards' son, and two monsters that have proven to become an esteemed dragon race and an intelligent being waiting to bring back their race." The soldier left after saying this. From his tone, it was just common knowledge.

"I feel like I need to stop being surprised about these things. It's always weird to hear that people know us so well. But to be fair, they gossip a lot. We are idols to some people." Walker held back a little laughter. He was struggling to wrap his mind around all this.

"I don't mind them knowing about us, Brother. They have to know about the way that Genesis was founded and where everything started. It makes sense for people to realize that even they can be great." Onyx had fully woken up in time to hear what the soldier believed. He took great pride in the fact that every citizen, even those away from Genesis, knew who the party was.

"Well, let's go get Gil and Remey." Su went off to get Gil who was going over some of the monsters in the area that they had seen so far while Walker and Onyx went to get Remey. Midnight was still resting by the fire and would be leaving with them soon.

"Remey, I hate to stop you from your game. But we need to get moving. We are going to set up that resting spot for the next group of soldiers and refugees." From Remey's face, Walker saw that she didn't really want to leave. However, she toughened herself and turned to the group of demon children.

"Listen up, my little brothers and sisters are in Genesis. When you get there you should find a few. Some of you have some pretty good systems that they could use by their sides. And you three, you will find your systems pretty fast. I am willing to bet on it. Just don't run around too much." The children didn't seem unhappy seeing Remey go. They were too used to people leaving. But when she promised they would see her siblings they brightened up a little. They had started to trust Remey enough to believe her words.

"I hope Remey didn't cause you too much trouble. She didn't start any fights, right? Those knuckles she has are for-" Remey punched Walker in the shoulder causing a few small smiles.

"And that means we are leaving. Be good. Look for me when I get back. I will give you all a tour of the alchemy guild. If you want one when you get there go to the staff and ask for Trish. Tell her that guild master Remey said you are a special guest." The children watched Remey and Walker leave.

,m "You know you should open an orphanage too right? I know you have already talked to the high priest about adding it on to the cathedral. If you just start building one it would make the church and the alchemy guild better partners. Plus, it would be much better than anyone else that funded it." Walker knew that Remey understood why he was saying it. The high priest and she had experiences that would make them more passionate about such things.

"I'll think about it when we save some of their parents." Remey had a stern look of determination, she didn't want to let them down.

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Chapter 1466 1466. Demon Land Dangers

"I think Midnight would have slept all day if I didn't promise her a part of my snack to get up." Gil was having the inner battle of giving away some of his beef jerky that the party was snacking on while they walked.

"I think you just have to accept that you gave in to Midnight's tricks." Remey was the first to teach Gil. Everyone knew it was true though, Midnight had managed to pull the wool over Gil's eyes easily.

"Whatever, I just wanted to get us moving sooner. That spot we want to set up as a resting area will be important, you know." Gil dashed forward to scout. He was not going to just sit and accept this from everyone.

"I figure I will leave a barrel of water, one crate of mixed potions, some healing supplies but not much since the healers will bring a lot, and maybe some wood for a fire. I don't want to leave a lot of food since it will attract monsters before others get there." Walker was sure he had everything covered.

"Leave our extra bed rolls there. It will help those that are worse off rest. You and I both know that there will be some major injuries." Su spoke up since she saw that Alice was about to try and say the same thing even though she wasn't supposed to speak.

When Alice backed Su up by pulling on Walker's arm he finally nodded a yes. He knew that they would have to sleep on the ground but it was worth the price. They weren't going to stop for long to rest until they reached the border.

"It's interesting how much things are changing. I know there is a desert past the mountains and south a dry and vast mix of grasslands, demonic forests, and even some strange lakes. But, it's hard to understand." Remey had looked at the map many times. She needed to know what herbs she should expect to find. The more she found the more she could make when at the border.

"The demon lands are a mix of many things. The swamp lands even meld in to the demon lands where the border walls couldn't be built. Not that anyone would ever go through that way. Even the refugees and powerful demons wouldn't risk that." From what Walker had read, he knew that the demon lands were challenging.

"I know that I read the same journals as you. The demon lands are going to be even tougher than any other place we have been to. The demons might have some very tough al skills, but they are still not the most powerful in the demon lands." Su remembered many of the important things she and Walker had read. She couldn't forget so easily.

"Even the trees can be tougher than the ones in the elven forest. The spiked sun trees grow without leaves and instead rely on bugs and other animals getting stuck to them for nutrients. That's terrifying." The tree that Su referenced was one that was considered dangerous but valuable. The deep red wood was considered very valuable.

"That's what gets you? I thought you wouldn't like the demonic beasts there that were capable of destroying a forest alone. I remember a passage about demonic titans. They aren't really titans in the mythical sense, but they are a large golem made of stone exposed to high amounts of earth mana and dark mana. It causes them to become territorial and hard to defeat because they had two cores. They will grow to the size of small hills." Walker definitely did not want to see such a monster. If he did he would avoid it at all costs.

"Well, if you see a white flower with a red center tell me. I want to get it to make a regeneration potion. It helps the body heal faster over time which is slightly different from a healing potion. The flowers are extinct in the northern lands but apparently, they exist in the demon lands. They are just hard to get to since they attract monsters with their scent." Remey said this as if it was just a casual thing.

"You want us to look for something that attracts monsters!? No way, we aren't doing anything like that." Walker immediately vetoed that thought. He was not going to risk such a thing.

"It sounds very useful though. Imagine if you had a serious injury and could not get to a healer soon. You could take a regeneration potion and begin to heal while you rush to the nearest whaler. It's perfect for the injured at the border." Su found the positive immediately. Remey was right here with her supporting the ideas.

"However...if it attracts monsters then it's risky. The demonic monsters have already proven to be tougher than we are. If we encountered more than one we might need to run for our lives." That was the end of Remey's mental cheering for Su.

"We can consider it if we see it in the distance. I won't risk anyone's safety. Let's just see what Gil found ahead." Walker saw Gil on his way back. He knew that something had made him turn around.

"A lot of nothing ahead of us. The path seems to be pretty empty if not just overgrown. I think we will be able to spend the next few hours without issues. I even feel it's too barren. I just wonder if there is a predator around keeping the basic animal population low. I didn't see any footprints though." Gil knew that this was a sign of a monster around. Yet, he didn't know which one was the cause.

"Then we stay on alert. Let's drink some water and focus up. We will keep conversation low in case we bring attention to ourselves. Midnight can hide in the nearby grass to ambush anything that tries to sneak up." The plan was set and the party pushed onwards.

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Chapter 1467 1467. Time To Fly?

There was a difference in not having any animals and monsters around because of seasonal changes, and finding that the entire area around them was silent without animals and monsters. Gil couldn't explain why there was nothing. From what he saw there were no tracks on the ground. No reason that monsters and animals would avoid this stretch of land.

"I don't see any poisonous herbs or plants in general. Nothing that could keep monsters away. If there were, we would find evidence." Remey was sure of this. She had read about herbs that attracted monsters with sweet scents but they poisoned the monsters. From there the monster would decay and become fertilizer for the herbs.

"If there aren't any tracks and nothing else to scare them away...doesn't that mean the monster might be in the air?" Su had the realization hit her. She had not been looking in the air for anything since it was rare for them to run in to situations like this.

"Midnight looked up and started to search. If there was an air battle it would be her first. It would be the perfect chance for her to learn aerial battle. Midnight had considered going to Elise and Stella. Unfortunately, things had become busy and she couldn't attempt that.

"In the distance, there is a flock of some flying monsters." Gil was able to find them in a few moments now that he had opened his eyes to the possibility that there were things in the sky preying on other monsters around here.

"I am going to try and appraise them. I don't know if it will work..." Walker knew that the distance was very far and he might not be able to use his all around appraisal on a single monster.

'Flock of arrow sparrow

These monsters flock in large groups. They prefer to prey on singular targets by diving and impeding their long sharp beaks in their prey. They will flock and take over a large territory. The flock will not attack monsters that can kill multiple of them at once. They are cowardly monsters.'

"It's not much information but I know how they act as a flock. That's a flock of arrow sparrows. I feel like it's a strange name but it makes sense. We should just keep moving. If we have them attack us Midnight and I will use fire to scare them away." Walker was sure that they could scare the arrow sparrows away.

"If they are just a large flock of them, then doesn't that mean there should be something hunting them too?" Remey thought it was unusual that there was nothing hunting the arrow sparrows.

"They are a large flock. I am sure that some of them get picked off by multiple monsters when they try to attack them. Or they are left behind by their fellow flock members." Since it was clear that the sparrows attack singular monsters, she thought it would be normal that they would not try to keep the weaker of their flock alive. It also came to mind that they would potentially attack their weakened flock members.

"Midnight, don't look so disappointed. We all know you want to fight them while breathing fire in an epic battle for the skies. But that's for another time. We need to stay in a group so they don't come over here." Walker saw what Midnight was thinking clearly. He wasn't going to allow her to run off in to trouble. "Neither will you Onyx, I see you trying to encourage her to take you with her."

"Brother, I was thinking no such thing. I would never want to be brought in to the sky to cover sisters' back and beat multiple opponents with my tail." As smart as Onyx had gotten, he was still too obvious with his desires.

"Since we are thinking about fighting in the air, shouldn't we remember that Walker can literally walk through it?" Gil had a point. He was sure that Walker would also jump in to the battle if the flock even looked at them.

"I can but it's not the same as flying. I do wonder, will you be able to do something similar as I can? You are literally the avatar of wind elemental mana under Zephyr." This was something that Gil had yet to consider.

"I'm not sure. Everything I do when it comes to my affinity becomes archery based. I have some hunting skills but they are also tied to archery. I wouldn't expect to be able to just fly one day." Gil thought for another moment, "But it would make sense that I will be able to step in to the air. I would have a better vantage point for firing from long distances."

"Then you should train more with the wind and see what you can do. If even a little, you might be able to change the speed at which you move. I know that some of the forest elves have skills that let them increase their agility by manipulating the wind." Su was sure this was a potential skill for Gil since he also used the dagger techniques.

"What about Remey? She can use those wind elemental knuckles to do things too. Why don't you all ask her if she will start sending flying punches?" The spotlight on Gil had put him in a strange mood so he had to change the topic.

"As much as I want to focus on flying punches, I have more concerns with alchemy fire. My skills need refining. I haven't even shown off my new skills." There were a few things that Remey had worked on that she was waiting to show off. Unfortunately, it was another thing that had been interrupted when she had to withdraw from the tournament.

"Don't look now, but that is a small group of soldiers." Walker stopped everyone. Alice had waved to show them the small group approaching them.

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Chapter 1468 1468. Good Spot

"Hello there!" The soldier leading the four moved closer and gave a wave. "Our scouts saw you around and thought you were some adventurers sent to sure up the border. We came to give an escort."

It was easy to see that the soldiers were happy to see more people coming. They also had wider smiles realizing just who the adventurers were in front of them. The party didn't do anything to hide the plaques they had.

"We did come to help out. The border is a little over a day from here. I assume you are all sent to check these lands between the border walls and the nearest villages?" Walker knew that this was a regular patron to ensure that groups of demonic monsters had not found homes. The demonic monsters were too destructive.

"You have it exactly right. Should we show you the trail we have carved out? From there you can access any route to a border wall tower." The towers along the border walls were the small headquarters of each main captain. They had them to spot incoming monsters and demon soldiers. It was a main defense for the border.

"We need to set up a waypoint for soldiers and refugees to rest. There are a lot coming through this area and toward Genesis. By the time we finish the set up we expect healers and a few adventurers to catch up to us." Walker didn't hide what their intentions were. It appeared that the soldiers were glad to hear it.

"In that case, I will make your map with the main junctions where multiple trails intersect. You have a better chance to set up at one of them. It's about ten minutes that way. The flying monsters won't bother you past there. They are afraid of the shiny armor we have." The soldiers laughed at their discovery of such a fact.

"That's good to know. We will hand a few shiny pieces of metal to keep them at bay. We don't want anyone's healing to be interrupted." This valuable information was going to help the waypoint be even better protected. Especially if the arrow sparrows would end up protecting it from other monsters since they attacked anything in their territory.

"Glad to help. Now, we have fifteen more routes to check before we circle back around. Stay alert and keep it up." The soldiers were off on foot again. Their duty could not be ignored to remain with the party if the party didn't want an escort.

"I feel like we should have said yes to the escort. It's getting pretty hot out here today." Gil felt a little bad watching them head off.

"Then who would check their trails? Would you? They need to do their job to maintain the safety of this area." Su made a good point and Gil felt that it would bring them more guilt if they were escorted.

"Less sitting around and more moving. Their path is easy to follow. We can set up at the nearest cross section." Remey was pushing ahead with Midnight and Onyx right next to her. She wanted to ensure that her potions had a safe place to rest and were labeled for anyone to use when they set up a camp.

The party fell behind Remey and made it to the junction of walking routes in only half an hour. They had been able to see the heavily walked routes that the soldiers were required to walk. They managed to spot a few scouts moving quickly along routes in the distance. It was clear that some of the scouts were covering a lot by themselves, meaning that it was a sure thing that some refugees would make it past them. That also meant monsters would as well.

"I am going to flatten this entire spot." Walker followed the map and knew that the spot they had stopped was ideal for a way point. It was not too far from the border walls but just far enough that supplies would need to be topped up.

The party moved away. They knew that Walker was going to use his grand elemental manipulation to focus on the ground beneath their feet.

Just as they made it a safe distance. The ground started to tremble. Walker rifts broke up the ground causing the grass around to be dug up. Any rocks were also broken up and mixed in to the soil. In a large pulse of earth elemental mana, Walker flattened it all in to an ideal working surface.

A few drops of sweat fell off Walker's brow as he looked around at the large space. "The fire can be in the center so that cooking and warming can be easily accessible." Walker made an indent in the earth before pulling out a few logs to place there. He moved away and made a separate pile of small kindling and logs after that. The other started to cut down some of the grass at the edges of what Walker had cleared. It would help for visibility and to make a place for people to lay down.

"Midnight, Can you help me here?" Walker had a barrel of water that wasn't staying in place. It had an uneven bottom which wasn't an issue in Walker's storage but needed adjustment now. With a quick slash of Midnight's claws, the barrel had a few splinters of wood broken making it rest flat once again. "Perfect. Now for the bed rolls and water proof sheets."

The party worked hard to slowly build the resting area. With the guidance of Alice and Su, a place for the injured was made. They had to make do with what they had but it was enough to have three separate resting areas. It wasn't a perfect home but a good spot for outdoor rest.

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Chapter 1469 1469. Caught Up

"Friendly! We are Friendly!" Later in the night, Gil and Midnight had taken up the watch. They knew that the adventurers and healers might arrive at any time but were more worried about potential demonic monsters.

Midnight's growls that had woken the rest of the party next to Gil's arrow in the face of the adventurer was enough to make him shout in a panic that he wasn't there to fight.

"Sorry about that. It's a little dark and we have to remain ready for the worst." With an outstretched hand, Gil welcomed the adventurer. After a few more minutes a larger group came in to sight.

"Sorry to wake all of you. This spot looks like it took some work to make. My party and these healers met up at the farming village and were told you would be the next we ran in to." The adventurer was a fairly older man with a heavy looking sword on his back. He was definitely a veteran adventurer.

"That's right. We moved ahead to set a waypoint here. There is about a day or more until the border but we needed to ensure that the refugees fleeing the demon lands had a place to stop. The healers might be better off staying here since they will be needed to help those leaving." Walker was going to say more but the adventurers had all started to nod along. They perfectly understood the intention.

"That means we are lucky enough to be the new guards of this area. I will let our party manager know so that the quest can be altered. We just received one to escort the healers from the farming village to the border wall. But this is better." Walker was not used to working with other adventurer parties. This seemed to be a very nice arrangement.

"As you can see, this will be the healing area for the worst injured. This will be for all of you, and there will be for the uninjured. Ideally, there will be more supplies brought here but for now, Remey has left supplies for healing. Alice ensured that everything was organized in the most efficient way." Su took the healers to show them what they needed to know. The healers were blown away seeing the perfection that had been left for them to use.

"A very good set up. I appreciate the thought you put in to it." The leader of the party that joined them gave a wave and his party started to unpack their bags. Walker saw that they traveled very light with barely any supplies.

"It's pretty normal for us to rely on the land for what we need. This here is luxury. The last escort quest we had was a three month long merchant caravan from the demi-human city to seven villages to purchase seeds." The difference in quests was amazing. Not many people would take such long term jobs.

"That must have been a lot of walking..." Walker felt that these adventurers must have insane stamina compared to the average person.

"Just a little. It's more annoying when we run in to monsters here and there. Speaking of monsters, how did you like the arrow sparrows? Cute little devils. I swear, if they didn't like to stab you they would almost be adorable." The party laughed at their leaders' joke.

"We didn't have to worry about them. If they had tried to attack us we would have used fire to scare them off. Although, the soldier said that shiny armor scares them away." sharing this with the new party seemed to be a good idea.

p "That's a nice trick. We usually just light a torch during the night and make a lot of noise during the day. They are cowardly little things. A good loud noise and they are gone." The adventures were starting to relax a little. It was easy to see that they were able to fall asleep anywhere by now. "We will rest a little. I will have my scout take the night watch with you for a while. Goodnight."

A person with a scout system as an adventurer was rare. The woman that the party leader spoke to was fairly thin and wore very close fitting clothing. The cloak was even set up in a way that it pulled close to her when she moved. It appeared that everything she wore was made so that she could better sneak here and there.

"Nice to meet the little stars of the adventurers guild. If there's anything you see, give a shout. If I find anything I will do the same." The woman gave a simple greeting before walking in to the grass and disappearing.

"Huh, that was cool. I would bet that she had some affinity with darkness and wind. Able to stop noise and blend in at night." The higher level of experience was too obvious for the party to see. They would one day be able to use their basic skills in the same way that these adventurers did.

"I'm going to follow her and see what I can learn while keeping a lookout." Gil felt that he had very good scouting skills since he had to be able to sneak around. Yet, seeing how differently someone with a specific sneaking and scouting system moved, Gil felt he was just a novice.

"Midnight, you can go too. I see you want to try out your shadow wrapping more." Walker didn't let Midnight be held back. She would learn a lot from someone with a scouting system. "We will leave early in the morning. Let's finish resting now." Walker went back to the spot they had been sleeping and quickly fell asleep.

The sounds that woke him up were another group of healers and adventurers that had received the same escort quest as the previous. This time Gil had spotted them before they had gotten close and they arrived quietly to rest as well. However, it was the perfect time for Walker to take over the watch.

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Chapter 1470 1470. Nesting

By the time the party was ready to leave, three carriages had arrived. There were healers and some adventurer parties that had grouped up when they saw each other. They were the first wave of people to help the border due to how close they had been and how fast they could prepare for travel.

"Since we all compared maps, it looks like we are all heading toward different parts of the walls. My party is going to head toward the hardest hit in the last reports before we leave. Everyone be safe and remember to avoid the flock of arrow sparrows." The other adventuring parties were heading toward places in the wall known for demons to pass by often. It would help more refugees that way without having to send soldiers out.

"How was the watch last night? You never woke anyone up." Walker met up with Gil who looked a little tired but nothing enough to stop their travel.

"It was interesting. The skills that a scout has, are made to blend in and see further while discerning sounds from each other. I was surprised that she could tell what the wagon wheels sounded like in comparison to shuffling feet. And I mean, from over fifteen minutes of travel away. She also can only use a dagger and throwing dagger so she is very limited in combat." The insight about what a scout could do was interesting.

"Does that mean they have skills that help them camouflage as well?" Su found the differences in what Gil could do compared to a scout interesting. She had never met a scout who was also using a scout system.

"Yes! When I asked she told me that there were times she scouted days ahead to make sure there weren't certain monsters in an area when traveling. I feel like that party has so much more experience than us just based on traveling alone.

"So, in comparison to us, they are more versed travelers. We are more versed in relationships between kingdoms." Remey found that it made sense. The party was always spending more time within a kingdom than traveling. They had to learn and adapt to what other cultures did.

p "Escort specific. They are the best escorts who can deal with a wide variety of common monsters and employers for a longer time. We are the best kind of representatives. We represent the place we come from and help the people." Walker felt this was a rough comparison to what they did against what the party did.

"Brother, we are wandering in to an interesting area," Onyx spoke up to get Walker's attention. The party had managed to separate from the main trail slightly to a route that was less traveled. The reason behind was speed. They wanted to push and get to the border walls by sunset.

"Onyx is right, we went the wrong way and need to move." Gil became more serious and started to carefully walk off the trail. It only took everyone a few moments to understand why.

There were multiple nests with sleeping arrow sparrows. The thin brown bodies with yellow beaks showed off why they had been named the arrow sparrow and could dive to pierce enemies made sense. They all knew that they could scare the arrow sparrows away if they attempted to attack them. Unfortunately, the odds of scaring them away from their own nests was too low.

"This route must be left alone because of this. We should just sneak through as quickly as we can." Walker started to creep through the area following Gil. Midnight took up the rear as they all followed a line. Alice remained as close to Du to be safer. If the party woke up the flock they would have a tough fight on their hands.

What seemed to be lucky for them, was the fact that the flock of arrow sparrows were heavy sleepers. Walker could understand that this had to be because they were used to the constant noise of the entire flock at once. It was like living in a crowd that never stopped talking. Eventually, someone would ignore the sound.

Gil held a hand up for them to stop. A single arrow sparrow was awake. It was hopping around here and there. The age was definitely younger than all the others and Gil could tell that it couldn't fly yet. This made him more comfortable pushing through since it most likely wouldn't know that the party was not supposed to be there. It had yet to learn about humans at all.

The slow steps they took were only over the same places that Gil had walked. Leaving the hatchling sparrow behind, the party saw the edge of the nests in the grasses. It was not the largest nesting area they could have passed through but it was definitely a dangerous one.

The entire time they moved, Midnight had kept her nose in the air to smell anything risky nearby. But what she didn't expect was the sudden breeze full of dust to blow by when she was leaving the edge of the nests. Her large sneeze that followed was louder and unusual for the area.

The response from the arrow sparrows was intense. Chirping began to overtake the sounds around the party while some of the arrow sparrows darted in to the air. "Move!" Gil called for them to move in their group. He knew that they only had one chance to run before they might need to hide under Su's shield.

"Why aren't they chasing us?" Walker looked back and saw the arrow sparrows were focused on something else. Something the party couldn't see.

"It looks like they have zeroed in on something else." Gil wanted to say it was just a monster, but he knew that the arrow sparrows had cleared the area of monsters. "We should head over there." The entire party felt it was risky but if people were being attacked they had to go.