

## Master 1521

### Chapter 1521 1521. Finding Mana

"I got it!" Remey felt the fire elemental mana. It had been tricky. She was used to the alchemy fire and not regular fire elemental mana. She knew that Azar was still an alchemy fire spirit while also being the grand fire elemental spirit named by the world. It was something she could tell.

Fire was not just one kind of fire. It was all fire. The alchemy fire was just a specific kind of fire that she and her partner had focused on creating a unique fire spirit. Now that the status of her partner had risen, Remey was able to grasp more. Feel more.

The fire elemental man that came through the spirit mark burned at first. It was the spirit mark fully settling in on Remey's body. However, she felt that she was feeling the completed version of her skills.

For a few months now, Remey had the goal of focusing on the elemental knuckles for combat. That being said, when she started finding that the fire elemental knuckles and her partner worked better together, she focused on them. That led to the creation of flame wrapping skills paired with fire based physical attacks.

This was a major breakthrough for anyone. A physical attack that also dealt al damage even though Remey was not in any way a mage. She was a physical fighter that also used knowledge to follow alchemy. The world was opening up to her more and more as she focused her mind on bringing the fire elemental mana toward her.

Since Su was focusing more on the earth elemental mana, she was feeling the same. Yet, Su had already grasped the basics of earth. The toughness that could protect. Now she was seeing that she had a very narrow mind.

Su had seen Walker use his high earth sculpting skill before. It was a wonder that could create temporary structures that required careful attention. They were hard to use in a battle but worth it to use if he had time to prepare. Su had been unable to understand the intricacies of this skill.

Not only was earth the dirt beneath her feet. It was the stones, pebbles, gems, ores, everything below the softer soil that bred plant life. There was a lot of energy that was just waiting beneath her. Su was amazed by what she had been missing.

The defensive qualities of earth were much more than she had known. Earth had the training of pressure. Constant pressure from larger and larger amounts of earth on top of itself. This fact made Su realize that she needed to use the earth elemental mana to train herself.

What also crossed her mind was the loss of the earth dwelling shield. It had crumbled under the high intensity of mana that moved through it when Alvaro received his name. She wasn't sure if there would be sadness or if it was a necessary part of growing. A show of strength that one had outgrown the vessel they had before. These thoughts floated through Su's mind the more earth elemental man that came to her.

Since they were all trying to recover the elemental mana their partners needed, Gil was bringing in the wind elemental mana. However, he had a faster rate of doing so. He also could feel the Zephyr was already ready to roam about if she desired. But what she seemed to be telling him was that she would wait until the right moment to use all her strength.

This bond was a solid foundation for both Zephyr and Gi's strength. But Gil felt he was too weak still. He had seen the strength of more powerful soldiers, especially Scylla in the village takeover. He needed more.

The ideas that Remey had when talking about Su being able to fuse elemental manas too was where he thought he could find strength. Gil was not foolish enough to believe that he could develop affinities for all elemental mana somehow. That was something that his party members had through other means.

What Gil did think of though was simple. He had the ability to create elemental arrows of every elemental mana. What if he used the wind to increase flames or create sandstorms. He had not attempted to make a fused arrow with multiple arrow heads or storage points for different elemental manas. It was something that seemed too dangerous before. But why not try it with Walker as his safety? Someone that could manipulate all elemental mana to protect him in his experiments?

The feeling of mana around Walker made him realize that everyone had grasped their own elemental mana. Their focus had been achieved and if he didn't need to then he didn't need to keep pulling mana around them. Therefore, he gradually let up and started to focus on the natural mana he needed to provide to Fleur.

She had exhausted herself when she connected to the world and the natural mana flowing around them. Walker was not foolish. He could tell that he was sensing a minuscule amount of natural mana compared to what was actually around them. The ability to sense it had been rising but slowly.

This wasn't due to him being unable to train in it. But it came from the fact that natural mana was a fickle thing. It was everywhere within everything and connected to the core laws of the world. How could someone just understand something like that easily? It would be sheer luck to even have what Walker had now.

Fleur was different though, she was made of natural mana. She had a bond that held her to it no matter what. Through her, Walker could see the greater picture. The acceptance that he had a long way to go before he could say he was a real sage. Before he could say he and Fleur were in tune with the way of nature.

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#### Chapter 1522 1522. Meeting Point

"A lot seems to have happened on your end." The voice that came from the shadows before revealing the form of Mordant was curious. Since Mordant had been busy helping here and there with the new dangers in the demon villages, he had not had the chance to come meet Walker.

Coming out of his meditation, Walker looked at Mordant who seemed much happier to see the changes than he expected. "Why do you look so smug? You aren't going to make trouble for Ignus, Terron, and Ventus because my family has three grand elemental spirits with them?"

"I would never make trouble." Mordant laughed a little knowing that Walker had seen through him. "It is interesting. It seems you and your family are always a step away from something new. The mana here is the proof of that." The natural mana had drawn more than just the fire, earth, and wind elemental mana. It was pulling all elemental mana towards it. This would give away the army but that was too late.

The many groups that had caught up to the meeting point were easy to see by any scout. However, that was the worrying part, no scout had been sighted. This meant that the mages had a way to see them or there were no scouts. Both were equally worrying.

"You will be happy to know that Ventus has her children stationed at the three largest villages. They had multiple captions or powerful captains. The one you dealt with was technically weaker compared to the others we found. They had multiple of those potions to pass along to their soldiers." The disgust that Mordant had in his voice made Walker's mood sour as well. They both thought it despicable to fight like that.

"They were volcanic slime cores. I have figured out that the slime breeder is a title holding demon named Envy." This was what most of the communications had already said, but it was good to settle on how much of a threat this demon was.

"From their actions, they are a monster. Not a demon." Mordant was sure that this was a demon that had long crossed in to the realm of being a monster. If not in body, in soul. "Ignus is nearly here with Terron. They did not wish to stay where they had gone." Mordant also knew that having more fighters with them would be good, he was not unhappy about more royal dragons coming.

"I will guess that Ventus is here for that too then." Walker pointed in the sky where Ventus was already slowly descending. "Gil, Su, Remey, we need to get moving soon. Drink a mana potion or two then get ready." Walker's voice was only able to break them out of their own meditation because he pulled at the mana around them.

"I have a meditation skill now!" Su had heard that some defender type systems got meditation skills that would strengthen their defenses in battle. It was a unique skill that rarely showed. Yet, this was a meditation skill that helped bring mana toward her.

"Me too."

"I have one as well. But I wasn't just focusing on my mana. Weird." Gil was more confused than Remey because he had been creating arrow theories in his mind when he felt the different elemental manas.

"It's the same as mine. Or at least I am willing to bet it is. I pretty much guided all three of you to meditate exactly the way I do. You all have an attachment with a powerful elemental spirit. That should let you learn such a skill that brings the mana to you when focused." There was understanding on all their faces.

"I am going to work on a few arrows. If you hear any explosions by the elves just ignore them." Naturally, Gil did not bring calm to the situation but no one had time to worry about this. They had to prepare themselves as well.

"I will leave some high affinity potions here. They aren't really perfect and I don't have a guarantee for them. But we are about to get ready to attack right?" Remey dropped the potions she had. These were

the most powerful potions she had created for wind, fire, dark, and earth. The water one was already given to Current when she had met one of his dragonkin.

The affinity potions were still not something that the alchemy guild could mass produce. But because Remey had leaned on the strength of Tris and the old master alchemist, she had made them for this very moment. The strongest she could using whatever materials they had.

The sound of the dragons landing and changing forms was enough to make Remey decide to walk away. She wanted to find a place where she could get more familiar with the feeling of mana. She had never had such a feeling in her. She was wondering if this was how a mage or Walker felt at all times. She felt she could light her fists ablaze without the fire affinity knuckles now.

"You have the power of earth within your blood now. I can feel it. You got closer to me than you did to him." Terron did not hold back his feelings. As a royal earth dragon, he could feel the mana that a dragon would have. That an earth dragon would have.

"Yes, I have my partner Alvaro to thank for that. He is welcomed as a named grand earth spirit. I am still familiarizing myself with the situation. I look forward to any guidance you give." It would be rude for Su to ignore a perfect teacher in front of her. Both a dragon and a very powerful wielder of earth elemental mana.

"You can come to my village. I have one that never moves. It is ideal for my home. I find you interesting now." This was only extended to Su but it was enough for Terron to shock his fellow royal dragons. Terron had just offered something to a human.

With a glance at Walker, Su received a nod. He was not going to push her to do this nor was he going to discourage her. Even though the royal dragons lived a certain way, Walker knew that Su and all his family could make their own decisions. "I would be honored to visit you and see the earth dragon village. I would learn a great deal just by being there." This seemed to play right to Terron's ego.

"From what has been passed along to me, Current has met the leader of the water traveling force. His name was Leon, correct?" Ventus changed the subject. She had come here for a reason. She was no longer needed to make maps or help others scout. She wanted to speak about the information she had heard and patrol the air around them.

"Good, that means we only have a short while before they are here on the other side of the city." Walker pointed to the river in the distance. It was one with many streams splitting off before a large forest in the distance.

Knowing that the aquatic forces were nearby was very calming. They would have the reinforcements that had come through a different route and hopefully managed to clear out some smaller villages along the way.

"I wouldn't be too worried about them, Current should have sent his dragons further in to the demon lands to settle things. He is busy like that." Ignus huffed a little but did not admit that he had sent his dragons to do the same exact thing so that he would not look bad.

"It's about time we call the last meeting before we start this." Walker didn't hesitate. He knew that they were waiting for him to make the call. It was a sign of respect from fellow royal dragons. A sign that they had more than just accepted who he was and what he was trying to accomplish.

"You took your time. Midnight is over there trying to steal some of the food as energy before the battle." Alma had dragged Midnight and Onyx with her, metaphorically, she had the dried meat that Midnight wanted in her hands while Onyx had just gone along with it.

"It's a good way to prepare. I have meals before fights often." Scylla had no issues with this. But the king of the surface who had recently arrived also nodded in approval.

"Food aside, Leon will be here any moment. We need to start planning how we will invade and take the city." Walker placed down a large piece of parchment he had just received. When he unraveled it a fairly detailed map became clear. "This is the demon capital city. It's large, has many stone buildings and training areas that stand in odd places."

The map showed the winding roads that had no markets or open spaces to just rest. Everything was made for the growth of power. Everything was made harder for them to invade.

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Chapter 1523 1523. Take The Demon City!

The entire army, adventurers, dragons, and aquatic soldiers had arrived at their meeting place. The map was still placed with four marked points along the heavy stone walls. "You have all dealt with a lot, but

don't worry, we brought some fun things that we found in the river." Leon had arrived leaving the forces that came with him near the river. He had made a few discoveries.

"He is very right. When I arrived I found them harvesting something odd." Current seemed interested in whatever they had harvested too. "Freshwater squid."

"Freshwater squid?" Walker was a little lost, "How could that help?" He had heard of the small weak monster that was normally the size of a housecat.

"The ink sack is the only valuable part other than the meat. It reminds me of this kraken but without as much evil in them. But that's beside the point. The ink sacks can create a dark mist when they evaporate in the air. That means that we can use them as ambush tactics while we enter the walls." Leon had seen the immense value in these small monsters.

"They are very good. I was glad to help when I found the soldiers along the river capturing them. With a little control of the water, things came together quickly." Current was ready to see a battle. Walker had not expected that Current could become so forward and battle ready.

"Always showing off. This is why we should have watched them better. They have brought more chaos in to the battle." Mordant mocked Current a little but everyone knew that it was more of a compliment.

"Good, then Ventus, take the ink sacks and drop them at these four points. Onyx and you will be controlling everyone's communication." Both Walker and Scylla had agreed this was the best move.

"When that happens my golems will be breaking those walls with Royal dragon Terron." The king of the surface had his largest golems prepared to charge the walls and sacrifice themselves to break them in one move.

"A simple matter for me." Terron thought that breaking walls was too little.

"Ignus and Mordant can lead the frontal attack on this spot and this spot. That should make things easier. Scylla will lead here with my party. Leon will take here, with his soldiers. Alma, you and the elven mages need to be ready to prevent all attacks. The mages were pulled in for a reason." Walker was deadly serious. He had to ensure that everything went perfectly.

"Agreed." The entire group agreed to this. They all were ready to get this over with. They had marched on countless villages, been able to beat slimes that were still spreading through the demon lands, and stop terrible explosions in villages.

"Get in to positions." Walker felt the weight on his shoulders grow. He hated being the center of attention. However, he had accepted that this was his goal. He was one of the people that was standing in the center to drive this cause to the rightful end. To the best possible end for the mon people.

The movements of soldiers, adventurers, and dragonkin were fast. Very fast. They had taken rest and been uplifted by the liberation of villages. They had all heard the things discovered and the theories behind them. Now it was time to use their strength to free an entire race.

Ventus had her eyes focused on Walker as she started to take off in to the air with four bags of ink sacks in her claws. She knew that this was more serious than before. She felt that she had seen the true worth of Walker and Genesis. Their strength was much higher than she had expected from them. "If you need me, I will bring down a torrent of wind blades."

The promise made Walker feel he had made the right choice. He did not need to use the royal dragon that stood beside them. As long as he shared a mutual trust and respect for them, then they would always be beside him. The way that the dragon society worked was going to change. Become more accepting. But even more, it was going to have another royal nature dragon to bring them in to a new era.

"Midnight, I want you to stay close to me. We are going to use our attacks as much as we can to make sure that no one is hurt. Whether it is demon soldiers or not. We will make sure that we protect everyone here." Everyone knew their allies might get hurt or even die. This was war, not some adventure in the woods.

The walls that Walker looked at from his starting point were much higher than he had felt before. The entire force behind him and Scylla were organized to come right in line. They did not hide. This was not what they needed. If they tried to hide they would be the ones ambushed; they were expecting many mages.

"Brother, here we go." Onyx sent mental messages to everyone he could. Ventus had just dropped the four bags full of freshwater squid ink sacs.

"Three, two...one, Now!" Gil took the count to start the charge. The king of the surface had his golems charge forward while the earth mages and Terron prepared attacks to push through the walls with them.

Earth reached up and surrounded the running golems. They had brandished large metal battering rams that could easily smash any wall. Now with the additional weight and strength of earth, they seemed to cause small earthquakes with every step. Every soldier felt the vibrations on the ground as they moved.

The second the dark mist covered the walls, the loud cracking echoed through the lands. Everyone could feel the shattering stone from where they were along with seeing the growing dark mist. "We charge!"

Everyone let out roars, shouts, and battle cries. They were ready for this. They were going to rescue the trapped people, defeat the demons, and free the lands. These desires roared out of every single one of them.

'The world watches.'

This system message came through to everyone. They felt they had the very power of the world with them at every step.

"Prepare for attacks!" The calls from mages came first as they sensed the mana around the city becoming denser. It was being pulled toward the center. This caused many of the mages to begin casting their defensive elemental skills. Earth walls formed while the soldiers pushed forward to the main walls of the demon capital.

What shook everyone was that the mana seemed to be drawn toward the center of the demon capital. It was not coming toward them. "Break their trap and rush in!" The cry from commanders, captains, and even Walker reverberated through those pushing through the shattered walls. The stones beneath their feet being moved away by the stone elf mages.

The sudden stoppage of moving mana around the demon city made every soldier halt in their tracks. They had never been in a place where there was no moving mana. It felt unnatural. Strange. And made them shiver.

Fleur was trying her best to pull the natural mana closer but it had been pulled away from around them. Walker could feel the discomfort from all those with the ability to sense mana. "Don't stop! We can fix it!"

The party took the lead charging in to the city. They saw the partially made forges and broken open resting quarters of demon soldiers. However, the spaces near the walls had absolutely nothing. There were no soldiers. No demons to be seen at all.

"Brother, there is movement deeper." Onyx received this information from Ventus who was acting as the eyes in the sky.

"Gil, take the high ground and follow us. Midnight, hide in the shadows." Walker knew that Scylla had already split off with her own soldiers along a secondary route toward the center. He was sure she didn't know what was going on with the demons. There was no ambush here!

"It looks like they just abandoned everything." Su and Remey had been watching the doors of buildings while the group moved through the winding paths.

"I know. There is something wrong here." The mana was still stagnant around them making Walker more and more on edge.

"We have someone here!" the first call came from a dragonkin nearby. They had found a collapsed demon on the ground near a small training courtyard.

"Alice, see to them." Walker took up a defensive position while Alice checked the demon.

"Mana deficiency." This was something that was incredibly rare. Something that many people did not need to deal with because their bodies could keep up with the mana they were using. They could recover.

"No, the mana had been forcefully drawn out of them." Walker placed a hand on the demon man's head. He could feel the slight tug if the man's mana was being stolen from his body. "The city might

already have taken all the mana to the center." Onyx relayed the constant findings of fallen demon mages, peoples, and craftsmen. The entire city so far was at a loss for mana.

#### Chapter 1524 1524. Abandonment

"There has to be something very VERY wrong here." Su was feeling more and more stressed as they pushed in to the demon city. The closer they got to the center, the more soldiers, mages, and demons they found collapsed and unconscious struggling to stay alive.

"All of their mana has been taken. And I think I know where it is." Gil was at the highest point. He had been traveling the rooftops and could see the central castle. This was where he was able to see that there was a lot of light inside. The windows were nearly glowing which told him that a lot of mana was being used.

"I don't know what they're doing but it's clear that they crippled their army to make it happen. We need to push in." Walker didn't hold back. He let his emotions spur him forward.

"Now that's what I am talking about! Let's go and beat that mana out of them!" Remey pushed forward while switching her elemental knuckles to fire. She wanted to be ready to switch in to her most powerful skills with Azar at any moment.

"Midnight, sneak in to the shadows and watch our backs. I know that everyone thinks we are safe, but the worst could still be hiding in the dark." Midnight huffed softly as she used the shadow wrapping skill. She would be sure to be right near Walker to keep him safe.

"The clearing is up ahead. Then we enter the castle!" Gil had been directing them. The small training squares and winding paths through the forges were hard to navigate. The city had truly only been made to create soldiers. It was not a place to raise a child. It was a place that surely caused pain and suffering to those without the strength to stand on their own.

"The castle that soon revealed itself was larger than expected. It was made from a black stone that had been roughly cut and stacked. The demons had all abilities to make most things. Therefore, when Walker saw this was handmade, it proved that the demon lord had built a home out of others' sufferings.

"This place..."

"I know, I can feel it too. But we need to press on." Su felt the same heartbreak seeing this. It was as if the mana around the castle was also in pain. As if it was crying out to return to where it belonged.

"Well, you are here too?" Scylla had arrived right behind them from another street. She looked more on edge than the party. She had not found a single battle with any slider or mage. Just unconscious and hurt demon people.

"Yes, we are about to push in to the castle. There will be at least three more sin title holders." Walker knew that Gluttony, Envy, and Sloth were the last three. The last three that would fight them before the demon lord would. The demon king. The demon that was responsible for an entire race's pain.

"Three more to take down before we imprison the one responsible for it all. Let's go." Scylla radiated anger while she stepped ahead of the party toward the open gate. Behind them, more soldiers and the royal dragons arrived. Alma made her own appearance but walked in to the castle as well. The party knew that they would need to clear the entire thing of whatever was within.

"This is, slime core?" Remey looked at the slime cores on the ground.

"So they did have ambushes." Gil knew that if the slimes were still here in the large front entrance, that they would have been the toughest ambush they could face.

Using his all around appraisal, Walker found that all of the slime cores of multiple types were mana deficient. "They are in hibernation because they lack mana. They had their mana taken too." This was another point of stress that Walker added to his shoulders. How could they do this to even their own creations?

"There are larger cores there. You called them lord slimes?" Scylla pointed out and had Su confirm that. They were not happy to see that the main hall they were walking down was littered with lord slime cores.

"They must have been working on these slimes for years before they started sending them out to attack others." Remey had the most knowledge about slimes and their growth. This was because of the alchemical uses that slimes had. They could be grown as a material but Remey knew that a breeder must have worked for years to achieve even a few large slimes, let alone lord slimes.

"The slimes aren't a problem then. We can just push inside more." Walker looked at the walls while they moved. They were decorated with red and black tapestries depicting the crushing of villages. The rising of demon soldiers. And the eventual defeat of what Walker believed they believed, the other races. It inspired anger in everyone that looked at them. They felt that the demons were more than looking down at them.

"This would be the main hall." Gil looked at the large doors inlaid with precious gems and gold trim. It was much too extravagant to just be another door. "Ready?" Gil was standing waiting for everyone to give him the approval.

"Do it." Alice chimed in first. No one noticed that her face had become more and more twisted in anger. She had seen the damage caused to the demon people. As a healer, she had seen them scream in pain from the injuries when fleeing. She had felt their pain.

Being a healer was always hard. Most people never knew what it was like to be there for every moment of someone else's pain. To watch them give up hope and pray to just stop feeling. Alice had, she had grown up in it and she never wanted to see those that caused such things to go unpunished.

"Do it." Walker echoed Alice while everyone else did as well. The others were pushing through the castle. Scylla was the only one with them right now. It was the party, Scylla, and Alma all ready to see the one who caused this all.

"Ah, our guests are here. Too bad you have failed again. So sad." The same mocking voice the party had heard in the dwarven kingdom caves echoed on the stone walls of the large hall in front of them.

'Slime breeder!' Rmeey yelled in rage when she heard it.

"Oh, calm down. Just call me Envy. If you ever see me again." There was a flash of mana that caused them all to realize what was going on.

"Envy is correct. His slimes and all those weaklings gave me just enough mana to send them all away." The raspy vice that followed Envy's laughter drew the party's gaze. They laid eyes on a large mass of what could only be described as fat.

"I consumed all the mana to create this wonderful thing. Aren't you impressed? And then my lord even told me I could have you as snacks after he left. I can even eat this castle. This entire land!" The spiral horns that came off the bloated demonic face made Walker want to vomit.

"You would be gluttony then." Su figured out the name of the one demon that was left in the middle of the large hall. There was no sloth, they had seen Envy disappear, and the demon lord was nowhere to be seen.

"Smart little appetizer! Yes, I am the sin title holder Gluttony, and you will be my food!" The mana burst around the room and was starting to be drawn out. The large circle that patterned the ground glowed brighter and brighter as well.

"No you don't!" Gil fired an arrow but watched as the mana faded from it. The arrow landed on Gluttony causing little to no damage.

"Awwwee, that tickled. Maybe a thousand more of those and I will feel a little more full." The mocking of Gluttony made everyone more on edge. However, the circle was glowing brighter and brighter. Even moving to wrap Gluttony's body in the rune patterns.

"We need to retreat." Scylla had a sixth sense of danger in battle. It wasn't Gluttony that was telling her to retreat. She felt that something was incredibly wrong right now. "That circle isn't normal."

"You are right with that! We found it in that forsaken library beneath the earth. We found the secrets of teleportation and where those juicy researchers went. We found where real power lies!" the circle grew again but this was the changing point. Gluttony had just boasted out loud but suddenly began to cough and shake violently.

"No, my mana! My food. Where are you, Nooooooooo" the entire castle started to become engulfed by the runes of the circle. The mana that was fueling it coming from Gluttony was pulling everything from him. Before the party's eyes, Gluttony was shrinking. Losing the rolls of fat. Becoming emaciated. "I was going to...eat it ...all."

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Chapter 1525 1525. Chase The Enemy

Scylla pushed everyone back out the door while the circle grew to take over the entire room. Just as she slammed the doors shut and braced them, the mana seemed to disappear from the room. Gluttony's voice was gone and an incredible stillness overtook the entire castle.

The sports that Scylla had braced fell inward, they had started to break down from the opposite side. "I might need...a moment." The pale face that Scylla had showed that she had lost a significant amount of her mana through whatever had just happened.

"Drink this!" Remey rushed to hand a mana potion to her ignoring everything else that might be happening. Alice was the very same and started to look for any visible injuries.

"It's just my hands." The look of Scylla's hands were pruny like someone had just let her sit in the water for too long. However, Walker could sense the lack of personal mana from Scylla.

"Just stay here and heal. You got us out of there before the worst happened." Thankful was just a small part of what Walker felt for Scylla's quick decision and instincts. He was sure that something worse would have happened if they were still in the room.

Yet, he had to go back in to the room. The room that had destroyed itself. The rugs had become dust on the ground while anything hanging had crumbled away. The chairs and throne that had once been there were just ruins of what they once were. Even scarier was the appearance of Gluttony, or what had been Gluttony.

"He's just bones and dried skin now. They did this to one of their main title holders. One of their strongest soldiers..." As much as Walker knew that Gluttony would have killed them, he also felt pity. Gluttony had been abandoned at the last step. Left to perish to whatever ancient they had found in this ancient library.

"Fleur, stay put, I know this is wrong but it will come back to balance soon." Walker felt the sudden tug of Fleur trying to pull mana toward them. The lack of mana in the air was making her feel stir crazy. It was only natural though. Losing connection with mana was torture for any elemental spirit.

"So they lost someone to go somewhere else. That thing called Gluttony stole mana from every mage, citizen, soldier, and even the air to send them somewhere else. That was their plan. They abandoned this land for somewhere else." Gil recalled the words said before this all happened.

"And we need to find out where. They said there was an ancient library. Then we go there to find out where. They went somewhere and they will just get worse if we leave them." Su was also dedicated to stopping whatever this plan was. The demon lord and his remaining two title holders had been able to sacrifice an entire land just to go somewhere.

"That was teleportation. Wasn't it?" Alma finally had the courage to speak up after processing what she had just seen. She and Midnight had been stunned by the event and weren't sure where the hard battle they expected had gone.

"I think so. They went somewhere else." Walker sighed. He felt the stress on his shoulders grow heavier.

"There was no mana that came back from it. Instead, it pulled mana with it. That rune circle wasn't finished. It was a one way thing. But if it was to an elemental plane we would have felt it. That much I know." Alma was very uninformed about teleportation. Most people were since it was such a rare thing. Even the party had only seen such a thing because the world had reacted to the call for a hero skill that Onyx had used.

"Then maybe they are somewhere else in the world. We need everyone on high warning. There might be powerful demons that have invaded cities!" Gil was already expecting the worst.

"No, we would have felt that much mana appeared anywhere on this continent. That's for sure. Can't you tell how much mana was in that skill? How much mana was within Gluttony? The release of so much mana would cause waves that we already would have felt here." Walker could tell this was the case. His connection with natural mana told him so.

"Then they...they are on another continent." Su realized that this could be much worse than they knew.

"That wyvern problem. Just a curious question, but you said we might have to deal with that soon. We might have to deal with two issues on another continent at once." Scylla had caught her breath. Her hands still appeared rough but with Alice and Remey healing her with potions and singing, she was able to place the theory out there.

"That's...not good at all. If the demons knew that the wyverns were coming from another continent and were causing trouble for the dragons, the most powerful race on the continent..." Walker trailed off. This was a massive problem.

"The power they gained from somehow taking the wyverns as their own would be much greater than what they had. Enough for them to throw all of this away." Gil finished the thought that Walker couldn't say out loud. That none of them wanted to consider.

"We will meet with everyone later. Just stop here for now. We need to finish saving the people of this city. The people of this land." Su snapped everyone out of their dreadful thoughts. She saw that they had a perfect chance to reclaim the demon race's freedom and they had to take it or else.

"You're right. I was too focused on the problems. Not the benefits. With this, the demon race is freed from their years of oppression. It wasn't how we wanted it but it is the way it ended up." Walker moved to the door. "Let's go and find those that need our help."

In a matter of a few hours, Walker's potion supply was gone. The potions Remey had worked so hard on proved to still be too little. The mana in the air had begun to properly return which aided the healing of so many demons found within the city. These two things paired together was enough for the party to work themselves to the bone.

The demons that awoke and fought were promptly detained. Those that were fearfully and showed that they were ready to hide away once again from the evil that reigned over them were reassured. It brought them untold joy to hear that they had been rescued. That they had no reason to live in hiding or fear anymore.

"You are saying they ran!?" Ignus and Terron were both enraged by the fact that the enemy they had united to catch was missing.

"They fled to find greater power. They fled to find our enemies. I do not like that." Ventus was more open with how she felt. She was rarely angered but this made her truly mad.

"I agree that we need to hunt them down. If they have the time to find powerful foes on another continent then we will have a much larger war. A war that we may not be able to survive." Current wanted to leave immediately.

"Stop this. We have achieved one goal and can plan for another. They left for now and will come again. What we should worry about is that they have ancient to do something like that. They have ancient that even we do not have and they have gone somewhere that also has ancient ruins. Possibly descendants of those that created such ." Mordant was the first to see this potential.

"And we will go after them. The library is somewhere under this city. Once we find it we can deal with it properly. Find the information they used. Find them. Take them down." Walker felt his own anger flare up but managed to calm himself with a deep breath.

"You said you would stand with us to deal with the wyverns. You also have the theory that these three demons are going to find a way to claim them as their own power. So, will you stay with us and bring your united races?" Ventus spoke calmly. However, Walker felt the test within those words. The test that she proposed to ensure that Walker was truly the royal dragon he should be.

"Yes. I said I would and I will bring all those that I can. It will be hard. We will need to learn a lot. Prepare a lot. I believe we can do it. The first time that our continent and races will interact with another continent. You could say, the future is now."

There was an agreement between them causing the dragons to separate for the time being. Now was the time to clean things up. No more talking.

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#### Chapter 1526 1526. Taken City

The word that the demons had been freed traveled to the kingdoms faster than anyone had expected. What was heard was that the demons had been defeated and the capital taken. Unfortunately, this was not the purest form of truth. There was too much left to the imagination. Too much unsaid.

"Brother, should we really be planning to leave already?" Onyx didn't want to leave the demon capital. He felt that there was too much to do here.

"We aren't leaving. We are just moving to a camp outside the city. If we stay inside then we will interrupt the mages doing a full sweep of things. There may be traps." Onyx had somehow been convinced that the entire party was leaving to go back to genesis already.

"We need to find those ancient ruins beneath the city too. That ancient library will hold everything we might need." Su was right there to back up Walker. She wanted the answers as to where the demon lord had gone with Sloth and Envy.

"I just want to crush that slime breeder. He caused so much trouble and we might never get rid of all the slime she sent all over the demon lands!" Remey's opinion was a little rougher but had the same ideals.

"The dwarves are also moving in. They have some heavy interest in the forges. They use flames that are similar to using fire elemental crystals as fuel. However, the runes are clearly related to origin runes." Gil had overheard this while the dwarves began to investigate.

"I bet there are a few demon blacksmiths that will hand over everything they know. They were chained up in some of the forges." Walker was trying to look at the bright side but felt a twinge of pain remembering the sight of the demons forced to work endlessly.

"You should already know, we have found a massive pool of resources in every forge and home. They were literally taking everything that could be used to create weapons, armors, and items from every village. We even discovered a few mana crystal mines nearby. That is where Terron and Mordant went just a few moments ago."

Alma was very tired. She had used a lot of her energy running around to direct the elven soldiers to help where needed. They had a lot of healing skills that could be used due to the relationship with nature and healing in elven society. Even some of the fire mages possessed a basic healing skill, even if it was nearly useless, it was useful for the demons who had their mana forcefully taken by Gluttony.

"How about you eat something and sit with us. We are just going outside the walls before the mages and Terron's dragonkin finish opening them up." Gil knew the walls would be rebuilt along with most of the demon city. However, for now, Alma just needed to sit and rest which was all that he had in his mind.

"Please do not worry. I have enough of that from the enforcers behind me. Even the stone and dark elves have been worrying. I just need to make progress." Alma wanted to see this through.

"I know I am guilty of overwork, but how about you rest here before you follow my lead and pass out?" Walker knew that Alma would have to listen to him a little more than the others. He had made the mistake of using his mana too often. It never went well.

"And on the topic of resources, I think they will all be used to rebuild the demon's homes. Forging with them is not that important." Walker mostly said this because he knew it to be true. It was better to think of a rebuilt demon society than a broken one.

"Don't make us go get Alice. She had been reprimanded every healer that even gets close to exhausting their mana. She's been a major player in healing everyone efficiently." Gil's threat won over Alma as well.

Since Alice was one of the highest ranked healers and most respected as the daughter of the high priest, she had a lot of say. With this in mind, she had pushed herself to go from healer group to healer group ensuring that they were rating, drinking mana potions, and treating their own smaller wounds. The rumors about how great she was were growing much more today.

Upon reaching the camp that was being converted from healing station to a soldiers' camp, the party settled in to rest for the first time in a while. They were surprised to find that Leon was there as well.

"Weird way this all came together, hm?" He was still a little stunned how he had managed to take the water currents all the way there while steering monsters. Even the river had been a smooth trip to get through.

"no one expected that they were just leaving it all behind. The ideology that power is everything makes me sick." Walker wasn't holding back. Every time he thought about throwing it all away to get a little stronger his stomach did flips.

"I've always believed my father as king of the merfolk to be a strict man. Now? Not at all. This is much worse. Cruel and strict to an extreme that throws even the most trusted generals to the side."

"Leon. I couldn't agree with you more. That demon lord and his two last sin title holders need to be taught a lesson." Unsurprisingly, Remey and Leon proceeded to get in to an all out rant about this. No one had the strength to stop them.

"Oh, so we just go and sit down after not fighting. Wish I could have done that." Barry walked out of a nearby tent looking much better than he had before at the border walls. The color had returned to his face while most of the bruising had healed.

"We need to set up a camp and eat before we go in. The mages are searching for traps and the dwarves are doing the same."

"Walker, I know. I couldn't help but joke a little with the younger adventurers. I can't always be the tough berserker Barry. There are only so many monsters to defeat." Barry's rolling laughter was surprisingly uplifting.

"Hey! The dwarves told us how dangerous the forged left unattended are. There could be explosions if we don't let them handle it." The defense that Gil used just added to Barry's laughter.

"You should know that Clara is on the way. She has a group of archeologists, rune related system users, and librarians. She used her position to take them from the mage tower to come here. One is more pressing than the other."

Hearing that Clara had prioritized this made many who heard this news relax. It would have taken longer to go back to Genesis and send official groups here. Clara had helped cut out the middle and sped the process up.

"Good. Another group will help get further. We have yet to hear of-"

"Sir! The library has been found beneath the demon lord's castle. Would you like me to guide you?" The Demi-human soldier that ran up was sweating a lot. He had rushed to find those that needed to know this.

"Of course!" Even Midnight had a small roar that matched the entire party and Leon. Barry was the only one that held back because he knew he would be a hindrance until he was fully healed.

"Take this water first." Walker handed the soldier water as they left the small camp they had set up next to the larger camp for soldiers. The Demi-human soldier seemed happier than anything to have ally chilled water to drink.

"Can you tell us more?" Su was expecting as much information as possible so that they could get to work exploring right away.

"Of course!" The soldier walked in time with their words giving the best he could. " The stairway behind what was once a throne led to a broken wall. It is theorized that the wall was somehow broken exposing an old rune seal. That was the entrance to an ancient library."

" so they have known about it for some time and most likely couldn't unseal it until fairly recently." Alma's theory sounded spot on.

"We found bones and other things left from a trap associated with the seal. Now the ancient library is open. Only part of it is easy to explore. It was made in a strange way. It's hard to explain unless you see it." Now the entire group was lost as to what would make it so hard to describe.

The closer they got back to the castle, the more they noticed the mana had returned. Many demonic runes were showing their relationship to origin runes. The demons had used what they found more than anyone thought.

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#### Chapter 1527 1527. Restricted Library

The entrance to the library was somewhat guarded. The demons had clearly made some stone blockades in case of any attacks. Unfortunately. They proved useless when there were no demons to guard them.

The soldiers that had found the entrance were sitting near it waiting. They had refused to go deeper in to it due to the dangers. "This is where I will leave you. I am not the right person to explore this place." The demon soldier that had guided them left the group there.

"I thought we would get a little bit of a tour." Leon felt that he might want to reconsider following the group. However, he felt that this was part of what he had to do as a member of Genesis. He had to help where he could even in a small way.

"It is unsettling." Su had to agree with this. "But we will see what we can do."

Moving through the entrance, Walker spotted the bones of demons left behind. There were multiple rune patterns and circles that had been broken. "This was left fairly well defended before someone found this place. If the ancient race wanted to protect it so much, it makes me wonder why."

The knowledge of the ancient ruins was already proving to be a major boon for every race, especially Genesis because of the mage tower. It was providing a major increase in rune knowledge along with plenty more bonuses to the research of the world itself.

"There are no pictures on the walls or anything. Are we sure this is the race's ruins we have found before?' Gil noticed that the usual pictures they had seen on the walls of the ruins were no where to be seen.

"These are the same. Look, the demons scraped away the paints to look at the runes." Remey found a small corner next to a pillar that was still covered in paint. The rune carvings also had small boots of paint in them that had degraded long ago.

"That was the last doorway. There were seven seals that had stopped the demons from coming here. That's more than a few." Walker was not very comfortable with what they were about to look in to. Onyx had already taken a position on his shoulder. Midnight was sticking close to him because she could feel his worry.

The main entrance was finally revealed to be a large stone structure. Each brick added had runes on it that were making the mana solidify in to a more solid barrier. The door was non existent. The demons had clearly pulled it off its hinges to make access easier. Or there had been a seal that the group didn't realize.

"I see why this place is dangerous." Walker looked out in to the library. It had many altering levels. The entire place was not some small library. It was a massive underground chamber with twisting and turning bookcases.

"It's some library maze or labyrinth." Gil thought he could almost see the far wall but was proven wrong when he used his skill to look out further.

"No, that's not it. There's moving earth elemental mana all under our feet. This library-" the ground trembled slightly as the shelves lowered and raised. Some books were hidden away while others became visible. Notably, some of the shelves moved to close off pathways or create others.

"So this is why they don't want to come here. It's dangerous because you could get stuck for a long time." Walker knew that this would take a massive amount of time to map out. Add in the fact that each map was only possible for one setting of the library, then it would multiply by how many different forms the library had. No matter what, this was years of work.

"Onyx, Midnight. Go and get the people that have the best chance to map this out. I want to be sure that we can begin work before the reinforcements that Clara sent are here. If we have a base of knowledge for them we can help even more." Walker thought it better to get a higher point of view and attempted to step in to the air. The moment his feet left the ground a large amount of mana built up in the air.

The torrent of winds hit him and knocked him to the ground. Gil narrowly managed to catch him. "I take it you won't be doing that again. I couldn't even feel that coming. Whatever runes they used have a faster speed than my feeling of wind elemental mana do. I'm sure that Zephyr could do something but she would use a lot of mana to stop that."

"I won't don't worry." Walker stood up and dusted himself off. "I think we will be taking a walk. But what book to look at?" Walker felt that it would be impossible to know if the books that had the right information were still here or not. If the demons took them with them when they left, then there was no hope.

"Do you remember how the mage tower has weird bookshelves?" Remey pointed this out and motioned toward the closest bookshelf at the entrance. The slight glow of mana was all over it and the books.

"It's the same. They have runes to protect the books. And there are books that can't leave certain floors of the mage tower." Walker moved and grabbed a book. He slowly stepped back until the book was wrenched from his grip by an unseen force. The book floated back to the spot on the shelf while runes glowed in the air.

"Then we have our answers. We need to research this place. Find the thing that controls the movement of the library before the researchers get here. If we can do that we can change things when we need it." Su placed the goals they had clearly. Everyone agreed.

"Here is what I have for supplies." Walker had backpacks in his storage in case the party ever needed them. Now was the lucky time for their use. "I can hand out water and food for us if we get stuck. I will throw a few mana crystals in too since we might need to supply mana to open certain books. The mage tower has a few like that."

Alma and Gil tried to stay together but under the watchful eye of Walker, they each had a backpack on their backs before they could claim that they only needed one. "We can split up and explore. Onyx should be able to communicate with us to a degree when he gets back with Midnight. I sent them because they can move faster to get everyone."

"So what do I do when I find something? I won't play games here, I punch things and light them on fire. I don't do the whole control things thing." Remey knew that she was in the same boat as others. She could not use skills to control a moving earth maze.

"She has a point. I could see Alma controlling things with her pants but I have a spear and some water elemental skills." Leon felt a little useless in this expedition.

"That's why we will need Onyx. he can help communicate when he is here and we can meet back up. In theory, we will be able to reach the same place even if it takes some time." Walker knew they could be down here for a longer time than he desired. The camp they set up was going to collect dust without them there. It was unfortunate but necessary.

"I keep wondering, why do we find so much trouble underground? The ancient ruins where the undead were, the deep caves, the recent ruins where we found the monster eggs, and now this. I feel like we keep ending up underground." A small breeze moved around Gil while he complained but no one argued his claim. They just had to accept that they had this kind of luck.

"Watch out for when things change. There are restrictions here and that must be to hide the knowledge or some other things. Just be careful and respectful. If the worst happens do your best to get back here and leave." Walker would not tell any of them to stay behind if they got yurt. Fleeing was not a bad thing.

"We won't get separated right away. We can try to stay together." Su knew this would be futile in a way. Yet, it made her feel better seeing the nods of agreement.

"It's been a constant surprise since I met you. When I first thought that I was being sent for negotiations, I was annoyed but glad to make a name for myself. To be king of the merfolk one day. I never would have thought I would be doing more work now." Leon laughed a little before taking the first step in to the maze of bookshelves.

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Chapter 1528 1528. Separate Ways

"These books are strange." Gil had tried to take a book from the shelves just now to see what they might contain. Unfortunately, he had found the first two he tried stuck to the shelves. The runes glowing in the air stopping him completely.

"There are requirements. I think this should be called a restricted library. Not just anyone can take a book. Like this one." Remey was the one to speak up which was surprising.

She touched a single book with red flames on the spine. It came free in an instant causing some fire elemental mana to leak from it. "I could feel this one. My partner knew." She smiled softly while looking at the first page.

"The restricted library? From the fairytale about the princess and dragon trapped inside a library castle? They couldn't do anything but clean books until they stopped the fight between their kingdoms?" Su recognized the children's story and felt that this might be a good name for this ancient library.

"Exactly the book. Umm, Walker, I'm going to read this one." Walker was curious what would make Remey stop. However, he was not going to make her tell him everything.

"Whatever it is, do it. You said you and Azar felt that book was important. I trust you." If Walker forced Remey to move on he knew she would be distracted. Knowledge that could help her and a grand elemental spirit was important in its own right.

"Mhm..." Remey was already consumed by the book. The fire elemental mana moving around her proved that Walker was right to let her be.

"So one person has already been stolen by the library." Leon felt that this could be harder than expected. Especially if the books here were calling out to them.

"This place is mysterious to us but had a purpose once upon a time. The engine trace that created this did so for a reason." Su still had a hand on one of her twin shields. She worried that there was danger around the corner.

"Agreed. This place feels like a forest at night. Full of hidden knowledge waiting for the right person to look." Alma also felt a little at home. This was similar to the feeling the archives that the elves have.

"Oh, it does feel like that. But less menacing. More like it has been waiting for all of us and is going to see where we let it take us. I feel like, well, I feel like it wants us to find what we need?"

Describing his feelings made Gil feel slightly embarrassed. However, everyone could feel this as well. The feeling that this place was made to learn over anything else as long as they followed the rules.

The floor rumbled again making everyone take a battle ready position. "Alright. Everyone has supplies we might get separated." Walker had everyone group up as the bookshelves near them rose and fell.

The floor tiles moved causing all of them to unintentionally spread out. "Wait, no!" Gil was pulled back by a role moving faster to the side while the others got pulled in the opposite direction. He felt that the library had done this just because he had tried to remain together with the others.

"Gil, just stay focused! Onyx and Midnight should be back soon. They will help!" Walker did his best to calm Gil. It was all they could do as a bookshelf rose up.

What Walker didn't notice was that Alma and Leon had also been separated. The only one left by his side was Su, who had grabbed Walker's shirt holding them together.

"Sorry...I didn't want to be alone in here." There was a look of worry on Su's face that said she was worried about being alone more than she was about any dangers.

"You have been even more quiet than usual all morning. What's wrong?" Walker knew there was more to the way that Su was acting. She would not act weaker than she was out of nothing. She must have a reason.

"It's...it's everything that happened. We made so much work just to have to chase the danger down again." There was a mountain of stress on Walker's shoulders. He knew this and was feeling the effects. However, Su was feeling it too.

"My partner and I have made great leaps strength. We are the best but we were still too slow and weak to stop those villains from leaving. They did too much wrong here. And they just got to walk away?" Su began a rant that Walker felt she had needed to get out for some time but had been keeping herself together for looks. Too many soldiers had been around. Too many people that needed to see her as the pillar of defense she was.

"What about all the training we've done? I can channel more earth elemental mana. My body isn't even just human anymore! Look at me, I have rougher skin, stronger muscles, and I can even breathe flames if I want!" there was a heat in the air that made Walker stumble.

When he looked at Su closer he saw that he was speaking the truth. He knew that the dragon blood within her had changed her body and that she had possessed this skill. Yet, he had not believed it to develop so far. To be to a level that it was actually able to be done.

"Su, I know it's a lot. It's more than any other human normally goes through. More than they can imagine. But you and I are both not just human anymore. Even if we weren't physically human, we accepted every race on this world. Every single race. The way I see it, we are part of every single race now. Even Gil who is so close to the elves isn't just human or elf."

From Su's perspective, Walker was right to a degree. They stood for the unified races. Many would intermingle through the generations eventually leading to a radically changed people. Accepting that now would change things.

"You are still Su. compassionate and kind to the point of throwing yourself in front of the world's greatest danger to protect someone. So stop thinking that you are the only one. You aren't, you can be protected too. What do you think your family is for? We aren't here for just show."

The words were not overly complicated. Walker spoke calmly but made sure that Su felt the mana rolling off of him. With the skills he had and his bond with dragons, abyssal serpents, and a nature spirit his body was filled with bonds and mana that were not his. He was still human but he knew that there was something different, something changing in his soul. Not just his body. He showed this openly.

"Also, with the whole dragon blood thing and spirits being bonded with us, we have a long LONG life to live. Do you think you will ever really be alone?" Some people wouldn't feel better thinking of this. Some people would feel the fear of seeing those they loved die. Yet, Su felt warmer. She knew that her family was also affected by the adventures. Remey was bound to find some alchemical immortality. Gil would somehow manage to live as long as the wind. Onyx and Midnight were monster races that could exist for generations. So many family members would remain by their side.

"You can get sickly sweet sometimes...you know?" Su's voice was a whisper before she stepped in front of Walker. She had taken the lead down the next row of books that bent toward the center of the massive library. Walker wasn't sure if what he had said was right but Su seemed to be accepting it for now.

"The mana is moving again." Su felt the ground start to move before Walker. Her connection with Alvaro proving to be the key in preparing for the maze of shelves to change.

"We were heading toward the center so we should try and stay where we are or on this path." Walker saw the tickles shifting while a shelf began to rumble up ahead of them changing their direction.

The two attempted to jump over it but found the runes in the air stopping them with a soft wind. It was a warning that they had to maintain the path given to them. The rumbling stopped and Walker found that stairs had formed in front of him. Instead of just a path the library could make stairs to the smaller risen shelves in front of them.

"This place is stranger and stranger," Su mumbled while Walker and her stepped up. The books showing golden painted spines. Many languages and runes they couldn't recognize. Even some that they believed would never be pronounced in a human tongue.

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Chapter 1529 1529. Outside The Flow

Walker and Su found themselves standing above some parts of the library. The pillars that were created by the tallest of the shelves that moved up were able to see the larger picture. What Walker realized was that patterns the library took were not simple and random.

"They are in the shapes of runes. Of elemental runes." Walker was stunned at this realization. The library seemed to move completely randomly from the ground floor. Yet now, he could see the careful organization and changes.

"If that is the case, then maybe the knowledge revealed is related to that." Su's theory made a lot of sense.

If the library was changing to reflect special runes, then those runes could be a signal that the knowledge for that particular rune was shown. "It's a wind rune now. That means that there should be novels that relate to wind available." Walker could see other places where pillars would arise. However, when he looked out across the distance, there was one extra.

"Do you see that area? It stands outside of the circle of wind, fire, water, earth, light, and darkness." This meant that there was another rune or knowledge that was not related to other runes.

"Nature. For natural mana?" The clear thought was that the rune would be for natural mana. Su and Walker both thought this before they looked and realized that every rune should be displayed in some way for nature.

"If it's for natural mana then it should be in the center there. And from the looks of it, there is a single circular book case that doesn't have stairs. So maybe it's something else." As much as Walker wanted to believe that it was something he knew, he felt that it was more believable to be an outlying rune.

"So that could be the teleportation circle. That could be the runes that they used to do that. Not everyone knows mana. We have met that guy who gave us the teleportation scrolls. There is more to the world than what fits in a perfect little box." There was a lot of confidence brimming from Su. she was thriving off the feeling of figuring out this mystery.

"We need to get there to prove it. But I have a bad feeling about that...." Walker wasn't sure how he would maintain a path there. He would need to stay on track and reach outside the flow of the flow of the elemental runes.

"Outside? But we can't just leave the way it goes. The patterns all make you go certain directions and block off others." Su was thinking about the origin runes they had found so far coming together. If they

were overlapped the runes naturally would block certain paths. Elemental mana did this naturally, some were weak or strong against the others.

"What I don't get is why this library is here? We already know that the mage tower was the last place that the race was. Why is this library so far from the deserts up north?" Both Su and Walker were torn by the question Walker had raised.

"It feels like every time we figure out a small piece of a puzzle we have a larger question. Even the runes here are the same. The origin runes. But what about the demons? They clearly adapted the runes to their own uses. So much so that they figured out a rune circle outside of the natural elemental flow..." Su looked like she had just been slapped by an idea. An idea that took her full concentration to understand.

"Wait, Su, the stairs!" Walker dragged Su back down the stairs that had been made by the book cases. He had noticed them start to sink which would trap them on the platform they were just on top of. They had no idea how long it would take for them to return to this position.

Su was shrill stuck in thought but followed Walker's pulling. She managed to get to the floor just in time to see that the path that had just been open to them had disappeared again. Now they had another bending path of bookshelves to follow. They lead toward the next area where a pillar could rise.

"If we have to follow the flow the entire way, and there was a mage tower dedicated to just that flow. Then what if some of the race didn't believe in just the elements? What if there were others that left? What if someone said there was more?" Su had grabbed Walker's shoulders while saying this. The world already knew this fact.

"Your storage ability. You already use a skillet that doesn't fit. Tell me, what mana do you use for it?" There were so many answers that Walker wanted to have about all of this. Yet he had been using a spatial skill for a long time. They had even met a spacial mage. They had met people with skills that were considered abnormal to the rest of the world.

"We already have the answers but we didn't research it. How could we if they are so rare? Death, life, space, time, or even more. None of it is understandable. None of it makes sense." Walker knew that staging in the floe of mana would create a never ending cycle. It would be the way it was meant to be. But there were people with the ability to change their mana in to other forces. A topic that people within the flow struggled with.

"Everything aside, that's what the demons did. They got out of the flow. Whatever happened to the ancient race, they split and went their own ways. Some went somewhere else while others built this then went somewhere else. Who cares? They were able to do it and the answers are all on the shelves of that extra pillar." Su felt that she had found some untouched law. Some unexplored dungeon filled with unimaginable treasures.

"Alright! Alright alright alright." Walker was trying to keep his state of mind solid. This was a lot to take in since he had been blinding himself to something he had been interacting with constantly.

"Let's say that is the case. It means we will keep following these curving paths to each elemental mana. We can even somehow get to the center and find things out about the combining of manas and natural mana. But to leave the turning paths, should we try and escape while things are changing?"

The idea was dangerous. While the bookshelves and floor tiles moved, the danger of being harmed and caught somewhere wrong was too clear. However, if they managed it, then they could be outside the path. Outside the flow to find knowledge that had been gathered by an ancient race.

"I will tell you when things start to change. I will feel it first. If I need to, I can push you outside the path." Su wanted answers too. She was willing to help Walker get there even if it left her stuck too.

The pair moved through the maze following the rounding shelves because they knew that this was the closest to the edge they could be. "This should mean that everyone would find something interesting. Right? Remey was drawn to a book that resonated with flames. If the runes on the books call out, then they may have done that with the demons?" Walker was worried about this being the cause.

"It's knowledge. Knowledge can be used by anyone. It doesn't have to be some fate or good reason. It could have just shown itself to someone with an affinity." Since Su had thought about this as well, she had a better answer already. She had worried once that certain people shouldn't be allowed to know things but the world would stop them.

Unfortunately, anyone could learn anything. Fate, the world, goodness, none of that guided what people were and were not allowed to know. There was a right to knowledge and a being could do whatever they wished with it.

"I'm not sure how we will get out of here after. Onyx should have gotten back by now. I will do my best." Walker saw Su stop and look at the walls of books next to them. Walker wanted to promise that he would do everything he could as soon as he get the knowledge they needed.

"I trust you, now trust me." Su saw the shelves start to change. The tickles pulled them toward the next path but in a single shield bash, she sent Walker flying. He was pushed over the nearby bookcase as it rushed up from the ground. He only saw Su smiling slightly before the rumbling ceased again.

The mana around him seemed to become disorganized. Both he and Fleur felt that this was not the proper way the library had been made. It was not the way he was used to. "Let's find those answers.

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Chapter 1530 1530. Lost Notes

Being outside the shifting bookshelves, Walker could see that they were all double sided. There were different books on each side. The section that he was walking around was no different. However, the topics were vastly different.

Some of the book spines had writing on them. There was a great amount of knowledge related to the experimentation of . Walker wondered how he could read these. What really stunned him was that when he touched a book he found that there were runes on the paper as well.

They took his mana and the ink in the book became like liquid. It ran and changed forms. These books were more than just books. They translated themselves. The race that had created this had done the same as their counterparts that made the mage tower. They made it possible to be easily passed on.

"Why is this like this? How could they have such in depth runes?" Walker felt this question became more and more complicated the more he looked. The books were so numerous that the knowledge felt endless.

The path he was on was still straight compared to the other paths that curved around. This made Walker sure that he was going the right way. However, it also brought the question if the underground library would have some al consciousness left by the ancient race.

From what Walker could see, this was not the case. There were just complicated runes used to cause things to happen. More like a watch that ticked on endlessly. The mana for the floor was clearly

gathered from the earth and slowly stored to be used to move the shelving and floors. The runes were powered by similar mana gathered from the city above.

"This could be another city! Some of the buildings up there had demonic runes. They could have just been altered origin runes. That means this is the same as the desert elf city!" Walker felt strange exclaiming this out loud. His pride had pushed him to say it all.

Luckily, Fleur chose this time to show herself and acted fairly excited floating in the air. "I'm glad you are here to celebrate with me. Let's go check that shelf ahead." Walker smiled a little while Fleur took the lead. They saw the rounded central book shelf that they knew was their goal.

Fleur had felt the fluctuations of mana but was not confused. She had not really felt anything that interfered with the natural mana in the way that it was here. The books were giving off mana that reminded her of Walker's personal mana. The mana that everyone had from the depths of their soul. The mana that Walker used when he was using skills with great determination.

"Don't be so confused just yet. It will get more and more like this as we investigate. See?" Walker used his storage skill and pulled out a light crystal to give off a soft glow. The point of this was to make the spatial skill he had resonated slightly with the outside forces on the books.

Surprisingly, this worked perfectly. Ten of the books seemed to glow with runes that Walker had never seen. The patterns were all very different as well. Some were jagged, others turning on themselves rapidly, and even more that seemed to be moving while Walker looked at them.

"These are runes that don't directly tie to the flow of natural mana. That means they are both parts of nature and also outside forces. It's pretty crazy..." Walker laughed to himself as he reached out to touch a book.

As his hand made contact the ground rumbled again. The shelves behind him changed but Walker found that the shelves he was reached to were the same. The only difference was that rune patterns showed all the books and even created floating words in the air.

'The one that desires space'

'The one that desires life'

'The one that desires time'

'The one that desires death.'

'The one that desires the void'

'The one that desires existence'

'The one that desires the other.'

"So the runes will show me the research categories for the books." This was stunning. The runes were smart. They were made with incredible complexity that Walker had absolutely no idea what to do with them. He couldn't comprehend them. Even his skills affecting memory did not make the runes' shapes easier to recall.

The curiosity he had made Walker want to read everything. However, he could not do so. Some of the books were clearly research notes. In depth tests to see what the skills they found would do. Even the section that said other was a single book worth of knowledge.

We need to look at the books for space!" Walker focused himself and found that Fleur had been drawn to the books under the life and death category. He realized that these two were present in nature more than the other theories. This would mean that they were both in and outside of natural mana flow. But for some reason, Walker felt that death and life revolved more toward the soul. More about the existence and non existence of a being's consciousness.

Since this wasn't the topic that Walker wanted to focus on, he decided to drop the train of thought. He knew if he investigated even one of these topics that he would be lost for lifetimes.

There was one book with glowing spatial runes that seemed to be standing out. As Walker reached for it he realized there were papers crapped inside it. Notes from someone translate the runes. "This has to be it!" The book could not leave the library but papers could be left. Research papers could be left!

It was easy to follow the process that was used in the notes. Not to mention the fact that there were more papers folded in to the other pages. There was even a diagram of the al circle used.

"If I follow this right, it will take too much mana to use. It literally could kill people." Walker looked at Fleur who could feel his sadness growing. The research for such a thing was ridiculous. But it wasn't over.

"There's more here too. Ways to make smaller al circles. Whoever was researching this was-" Walker looked to his left while in amazement of all he was reading. What had stopped him was the dried body of a demon on the ground. One that had pens and ink on the floor next to them. One that had clearly discovered these things then been left after they were not needed.

The atmosphere felt crushing. Walker knew that the demon that had worked hard to learn this was a genius. Once that may not have deserved to be treated like this. "I don't know if you were part of the problem or could have been innocent. But I will get you buried." Walker felt that the researchers would have the same respect for the demon that had investigated these matters. When the researchers made it he could ask them to set up a distinguished funeral.

Keeping the translated research papers, Walker got Fleur's attention. "I promise I will come back and investigate more later. For now, we have to go. These notes are enough to get us what we need. We won't use this method to get anywhere but someone should be able to discern where it puts us when used."

There were many great researchers that would better be able to decipher these notes. All Walker needed was to get out of the library. Naturally, this was easier said than done. "Let's just check things out here first. There might be some control spot or orb like the mage tower." Walker knew that moving this place would be all but impossible. However, there was great amount of earth elemental mana. Making some path or other way here might be possible.

The investigation of the rounded bookshelf brought more questions than answers. The way it was made seemed to have gaps where books could fall through to the hollow cent. If that was the case, then why? There were runes that drew the books back in place. How could some fall?

"Wait, Fleur!" Walker tried to stop Fleur from investigating. She moved through a gap in the shelf and was in the back where Walker lost sight of her. His hand moved to reach for her and found that he had grabbed something solid. Something with a handle.

Upon pulling the handle the ground rumbled again. This time everything moved. Every floor tile. Every single shelf. It was the entire library reorganizing itself in to a new shape. In to a new form that was not in the natural flow of things.