

Master 1601

Chapter 1601 1601. Sneaky Assault

The sounds of insistent wings buzzing now and then became too prevalent for anyone to want to run forward anymore. There was a small hill that seemed to dip down again just before they would be able to see the source of all the sound. This led Walker to make a few hand motions for everyone to follow him, it was time to crawl.

There was part of Walker that never wanted to get to the top of the hill. It was the buzzing sound and the small skittering of legs that made him want to turn right back around. For whatever reason.

The sounds of insects was one that made most races shiver slightly. It might have been the fact that they hide away in the shadows and crevices. Or it was the fact that they could eat the most rotten and disgusting things. However, Walker knew it was because they could cause a lot of damage without being seen. Anyone would fear them a little.

Yet, when Walker's gaze was finally on the nest of the assassin jacket swarm, he could only take in a sharp breath before activating the all around appraisal skill.

'Assassin jacket massive swarm

This is a swarm that has fought multiple other assassin jacket swarms. In doing so, they have trapped the queens of other swarms to gain larger and larger forces. This expands their territory and ability to grow.

The original queen assassin jacket can control all the soldier assassin jackets with a single thought making them a very tough opponent. They will attack until they are defeated when asked by their queen.

The best way to deal with a large swarm like this is to poison their food or to burn their nest completely. The larvae will grow in the monsters, animals, or other foods they bring back to the nest. Then they will create hard cocoons similar in shape to a honey bee hive but with poisonous barbs to deter enemies.

Once they hatch it only takes three hours for them to be able to fly and gather food for the entire swarm. Due to the perfect conditions of this nest, they will most likely grow to five times this size. It has been known for the assassin jacket swarms to control entire river banks if they are not attacked by their natural predators.'

The huge amount of information made Walker worry even more. He could tell that their attack was just in time. If this massive swarm had grown five times larger it would be an all out war to defeat them. No one would want to handle such a task due to the incredible danger that came with multiple stings of their poisonous barbs.

The worst part was that they could continuously sting, unlike a honey bee that could only sting once before perishing. Adding in the fact that the queen assassin jacket had such a powerful hold over the soldier assassin jackets, it was dangerous. They would not hesitate to assault anything to their very death.

"Listen up, we need to use fire. It will damage the land around here a little bit. I will try to repair it with natural mana." Walker's whispered orders were enough for everyone to begin slow preparations. No one had given them away nor did the other groups. "When I stand, I will roar. At that time, you will all attack. I will also try and make a wave of flames. It might be a little rough, but it should protect us."

The idea to make a wave of flames was one Walker had seen in another book a long time ago. But he had not thought of a time he would ever need it. When it came to battle, he had the ability to fight close and ranged combat. On top of that, he was sure that he could escape most damage using his skills because he had a team behind him.

Now was different. Walker needed the fire elemental mana to not only protect his group, but also so that he could burn the wings of the assassin jackets. The idea he had was one that would not necessarily kill them on contact. It would burn their wings and force them in to a position where they could not battle properly using their stingers. Overall, it would save many lives in the long run.

Using the dragon's intimidation would make Midnight use it as well. The feeling that Walker had between himself and Midnight told him this. It would distract and stun the assassin jackets making him able to attack much more efficiently. It also gave the time for the mages to cast multiple spells.

"Is everyone ready?" The mages and the archers gave soft yeses. Their bodies were tensed to leap up and attack within a single breath. The archers knew that aiming was not the most important thing now, instead, they just had to aim for the largest group of assassin jackets to ensure that the swarm is culled.

For a moment, Walker was caught up thinking about the assassin jackets underneath the ground. They would be the most trouble. The only thing that stopped his worries was the fact that there would be many flames. It would cause the bodies of the assassin jackets to burn and cut off many of the assassin jackets that swarmed out from their underground nest.

The addition of Remey's improved explosive potions would also help defeat the entire swarm at once. If the assassin jackets were not trapped underground, then they would be blown up by the complicated potions. From there, it would be a retreat to the ship so that they could attack the remnants that managed to escape the flames or the explosions.

There was no more waiting. Walker took his deep breath before jumping up. He had made himself the center of attention as he released the dragon's intimidation skill. His dragon roar echoed along the rover and the assassin jackets were suddenly shocked.

Before a single set of wings could begin to flap, spells rained down. There was another roar from nearby. Midnight had followed the signal and stood tall with her group. The mages had gathered around her to manipulate her dragon flames that she released. It was the perfect plan for them while the archers fired arrows in to the swarm.

Surprisingly, Su responded with her own, smaller, but still powerful roar. She had not gotten to the level that Walker and Midnight were at when it came to roaring but she had let her newfound instincts guide her. It was an impressive triple shock to the assassin jackets which had barely begun to react before the first spells and arrows hit them.

"Don't let up!" Walker's order was drowned out by sudden explosions. He shouted it three times over before focusing fully on the fire elemental mana. He had to generate enough of it to create a true wall of flames to push toward the swarm.

As the first to draw attention, the assassin jackets were moving toward Walker. The few that had not been hit by the first wave of arrows and spells knew that there was a target perfectly announced before them. This hastened Walker's gathering of mana.

Since Walker had begun to understand mana more and more, he was better able to grasp the fire elemental mana in the air. The sunlight carried small traces and the flames he could create and guide

from the other's attacks were also at his fingertips. These things combined assisted in the sudden creation of flames.

A curtain of red fire burned as Walker opened his arms to the sides. The archers and mages were unfazed. They trusted their safety to Walker and he trusted his to them. The assassin jackets that got close were shot down by or arrows before Walker thrust his arms out.

The result was a large moving wave of flames twice Walker's height and four times his arm's length. This wall of flames pushed directly in to the assassin jackets that had attempted to fly toward them. It also gave them the perfect amount of space to begin a retreat.

The only issue was that the earth had begun to crumble under Remey's improved explosive potions. The entire underground portion of the assassin jacket nest had been exposed much faster. It had let out the assassin jackets much sooner. They were also much angrier after being uncovered and some of them were partially buried in the earth.

Everyone sensed the danger in the air before they saw it. Then they heard it. The buzz of four wings that were larger and tougher than all the other assassin jackets. The buzz of the queen assassin jacket's wings. It was angry...very angry.

Chapter 1602 1602. Dragon Fire!!!

'Assassin jacket queen- enraged

The assassin jacket queen has been able to subjugate multiple other queens. This had allowed her to establish a constant supply of food to her and multiple sources of assassin jacket soldiers. Due to this, it has been able to grow stronger and stronger.

The shell of the assassin jacket queen is unique, having gained additional strength. It is ideal light armor material for those that rely on speed. The poison that the assassin jacket queen has within its body is also unique. It can be used for very unique medicinal potions.

The weakness to fire has been overcome by the constant growth of the assassin jacket queen. Its wings can resist flames much better than the soldiers therefore it is unable to be easily forced to the ground. The best way to defeat it is with a powerful blunt force.'

The all around appraisal had given Walker some great insight about the assassin jacket queen. He had already called for a retreat. The mages and archers were moving backwards slowly while still sending attacks at the assassin jackets trying to fly from under the soil.

It was a panic for the assassin jacket swarm. Their entire nest had collapsed leaving them much weaker. The food stores and the young larvae were completely gone. It was understandable that they would be angry. Yet, the queen was also influencing them to cause chaos. To kill and destroy the intruders.

This caused a madness to spread through the living assassin jacket soldiers. They began to crawl even if their wings and legs were burned. It caused the mages and archers to become even more stressed. This kind of pressure was hard to face, especially when there were so many assassin jackets that had lived. So many more than initially intended.

"Su! Come this way and meet my team!" Walker needed Su to defend him. She would be able to block the attacks of the assassin jacket queen while he prepared the elemental two handed hammer to attack the assassin jacket queen. The second Walker had seen that the weakness the queen had was blunt force, he had thought about the hammer he rarely used in battle.

"Understood!" Su had no other words. She heard Walker's shout and directed the mages and archers behind her to help cut a path to him. Midnight heard this as well and began to direct her flames toward the swarm with even more fury. The mages knew that Midnight was trying to help the other groups retreat properly. They used their mana and fire manipulation to copy the wave of flames that Walker had made.

Manipulating dragon fire was something that some of the mages could only imagine doing in a fantasy. In dreams, they would have the power to call down the dragon flames from the heavens, yet now? They were doing it. They were right next to a dragon facing an enemy that threatened the things they had decided to stand for in life. It was a literal dream come true.

This desire was not missed by the world. Out of all the mages that had been split in to groups, the fire mages had been sent with Midnight for the reason that they may be able to work with her. However, none had known that many fire mages had the dream of controlling dragon fire. It was just something common and childish. Something most people ignored and forgot.

The sudden increase in Midnight's fire was like a scream for attention. The assassin jackets saw the threat and attacked. But the world had already given the title, dragon fire mage, to them. A title that allowed them to work in tandem with dragons to help them fight. To allow them access to the skill, dragon fire manipulation.

No one knew it, but this was the beginning of something very large. A way for the other races to bond with the dragon race. A way for the fire dragons to integrate themselves with mages. The first step in creating the Dragonfire mage academy within Genesis... to achieve the dreams of the fire mages that had always idolized dragon fire.

The flames that Midnight had breathed should have died off when she closed her move and made a move to get to Walker and Su who had just united to face the incoming assassin jacket queen. But when Midnight glanced behind her, she only saw that the flames had grown bigger in to a draconic head.

The manipulation of the five fire mages together had brought their ideology of dragon fire to life. It continued the flames using their mana to burn up a greatest number of assassin jackets. The archers could only rush to them and catch them as their mana was exhausted and the mages collapsed leaving behind a majorly burned piece of land with many smoldering assassin jackets.

Seeing this, Midnight roared out. The roar was a battle cry. But it was also her encouragement to completely eradicate the assassin jackets before her. She had trusted the mages to follow her and she was finally seeing the unity that Genesis had been growing standing with her. It was where she placed her pride.

Pride as a dragon? That was small. Pride as a guardian of Genesis? That was much greater. Genesis stood for much more than just the dragons now. A pride for just herself and race was small. Now she could show her pride for all that Genesis was and would be. That Was why she roared. She had to proclaim her desires.

Instead of going to meet Walker and Su as she had intended, Midnight changed directions to charge at the assassin jacket queen. With a single leap and heavy flap of her wings, Midnight had pounced on the unsuspecting assassin jacket queen. Her teeth pierced through the wings and tore them from their joints.

The assassin jacket queen lost its flying ability crashing in to the ground where Su was already in motion. Her shield was charging toward the head of the assassin jacket queen to stun it. The ringing of her twin

shields bashing in to the assassin jacket queen was the signal that Walker needed. While it was stunned he could step in to the air and wind up with the elemental hammer in his hands.

The fire mana around from the dragon fire mages was too perfect. It had set the stage for the elemental hammer to gain a coat of flames. They spiraled from it as the air around seem to twist because of the heat. Gil had been watching and fired two wind elemental wither spike arrows toward them to fuel the fires even more. He and Remey were already grouping up with the others to retreat properly. They saw the work that Walker was doing and knew it to be more important for them to retreat the injured or mana exhausted.

By the time Walker's elemental hammer slammed down upon the body of the assassin jacket queen, it had felt that it was losing its life. The remaining few assassin jackets had gone berserk but were too injured to meet their queen. The death of the assassin jacket queen was instant, the flames that encompassed her left only some of her body behind for Walker to collect.

"Full retreat! The remainders can be cleaned by the other soldiers!" Walker's orders echoed out as Su took position again to protect their retreat. Walker only had time to store away the queen's body and a few assassin jacket bodies while they left. Midnight was growling constantly to deter any remaining assassin jackets. The only thing that kept them from attacking was the fact that they now feared the flames to their very core.

Seeing the ship in the distance and the call of those on the boats was what spurred them to return even faster. The ship had nearly gotten to the area the nest patrolled by the time they had dealt with the swarm.

Arrows flew high above as the elven snipers defeated additional assassin jackets. The dragonkin soldiers with them took to the land as the group stepped aboard the small boats and returned to the ship. Scylla was already smiling when Walker placed a foot on the ship. She seemed to know the results without words.

"I could see some new flames from here. I wish to know everything when everyone is treated. I expect our songstress friend to heal everyone quickly!" Scylla didn't have to order Alice to begin singing, she had already made it a point. But hearing that she had been deemed a friend by Scylla brought a strange happiness to her. Someone so powerful had respected her healing, something that made Alice very proud. It also expanded the bonds they had.

All that was left was for Walker to gather the groups after healing. The retreat had been swift once the main attack on the assassin jacket queen had been dealt. Walker felt strange having attacked with so much perfect cooperation. But looking at everyone around him, he understood that it was the bonds they had formed. Not just some small plan.

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Chapter 1603 1603. Dragon Fire Mage

Scylla was watching every second of healing and mana recovery. She had heard a lot about Alice but had yet to truly interact. She believed what her soldiers had told her though. They were proof that the great things were more than true. Especially now that Scylla was yet again under the influence of Alice's skills.

"You did a lot of good work when getting us to the merfolk waters. Now, you are surpassing that." The simple comment after Alice had finished her song was enough to shock Alice. Scylla was speaking with her again which was unusual. Scylla was very well known for always being focused on battle, not Beijing focused on healing.

"I would appreciate bringing you in to any battle. Especially a battle against the greatest enemy our new alliance has. I trust my soldiers will be able to survive the best with your healing." This was what Scylla believed. Out of all the healers, even if the high priest was younger, she would choose Alice.

"Thank you. I will get even better." The promise that Alice made was not small. She believed that she could continuously improve. How could she not? She wanted to stand beside those she cared for. If she did not, the party would get too far ahead of her. They would radically improve leaving her too far behind to do a single thing.

"I heard that, with Alice and My potions, we have everyone awake and functional again." Remey didn't hesitate to jump in with Alice. This was mostly because she wanted Scylla to join her and Su by distributing more potions. However, Walker had other plans.

"Wait, there are a group of mages that want to speak with us and Midnight. They were the ones that made the flames you saw." Scylla was instantly interested. Remey didn't hesitate either. She was curious since she had her partner to rely on when flames came to the conversation. It was impossible for her not to want to understand those that had controlled Midnight's flames.

"Brother, they want to speak with us." Midnight pulled Walker back over. She had changed to her dragonkin form because she was able to rest now on the ship. It was also the form she wanted to practice in the most while resting. It was easy for her to revert to her dragon form anyways.

"The five of you did great work that even I could see from the ship. Not many can work together like that. When your group was organized it was simply because a dragon and fire mages seemed to make sense. Midnight is strong enough to resist your flames. But you did more than that I assume?" While taking the lead, Scylla saw that the mages' eyes were shimmering. Their excitement was clear.

"General, we may be mentally exhausted from our newfound abilities, but we are able to tell you for certainty, putting us together was a blessing. We have titles. Titles we never imagined and could only dream of. We have the title of dragon fire mage. We can manipulate dragon fire when it is used around us now. Thanks to you, miss. Midnight, and the desires we followed to be here...we have achieved something unique."

Immeasurable pride burned in the mage's eyes while they said this. It was clear that the mana potions and minor healing from small burns was all they kept them going. Mentally they had taken a big hit on their energy. Something like using a new title and skill was intense, the entire party knew this.

"Then you should use it well. When the ships reach the mouth of the river to join up, you will meet with Ignus." Walker had to be sure that the dragons would accept this. Ignus was the biggest test since he was the royal fire dragon.

"I agree, it will be paramount to your strength in the future. You should bond well with the fire dragons to be able to stand with them in battle. Especially against wyverns. Until then, I will ask Midnight to allow you to train on the deck of the ship." Scylla turned around hiding her smile. She was glad to see more powerful soldiers. To see a new way to fight arrive. This was what she had expected by going with the party on the first ship.

"Hmm, able to manipulate dragon flames? Ignus will have some trouble with that one." Mordant nearly scared them out of their skin but showing up from the shadows behind them. But even more surprising was that Rise had also lowered herself to the deck of the ship. They had both listened in without giving themselves away.

"You believe that Ignus would allow another to manipulate his flames? He will eat them before the day is up if he could be here to see this." Rise was more certain that Ignus would want these mages gone.

They had a fearful control of his flames. Something no other could ever do from what the dragons understood.

"Have there never been any dragonkin that can manipulate dragon fire? I thought some of the draconic guardians can breathe flames?" Walker saw Su nod out of the corner of his eye. She would attest to this as much as she could if he was told otherwise. She was living proof.

"That is different. They are already under us. Their strength is our strength." Rise was already pushing the idea away that others could learn these skills even though she had witnessed it.

"As often as Rise and I do not see eye to eye, she is correct. Having our innate skills used against us is a potential we wish to avoid. How can these five promise they will not turn Ignus's flames against him?" Mordant let out a little threat at this. His eyes said that he was unafraid of harming the five mages if they even dared to say they would do such a thing.

"Then it's even more important that the dragons guide them. Do you think I would turn the arrows on the elves that I have made with their guidance? They have properly guided me in a system that humans never get. I am indebted and considered one of them. It took some time but earning respect and sharing things will create a bond that can not be broken. Until then, create a contract. There should be a contract that will prevent animosity."

From the way that Gil spoke, he had many more thoughts on this subject. He could only relate this to the way that the elves offered him ways to grow. He had taken them and been proud of it. He had even taught them things with his outside the box way of thinking when it came to arrows. Therefore, their missions were his. His missions were theirs.

"Well said but we shall see it in practice later." Rise accepted what Gil said and returned to the air well above the ship. She was not concerned with the assassin jackets being attacked on the river banks as they traveled. They were too small in her eyes. The only interest she had had was the dragon fire that had grown in battle.

"Hmm, I will let Ignus see this himself. For now, Midnight is in charge. It should be good for her. She can grow faster." Mordant relaxed a lot when Rise surprisingly agreed to this for now. He had imagined more pushback from her to end these mages right away.

On the other hand, the mages were very happy. So happy that they could not contain themselves. They had stepped above what they had been and were traveling a new path of fire mage mastery. Who would be unhappy? Even with the danger they believed they had created history.

"I guess that is that then. Pretty interesting though." Remey was at a loss now that the energy had died down. She just wanted to return to make more antidote potions using the assassin jackets as ingredients.

"I am pleasantly surprised. Can I see how you make antidotes this time? I wonder if they can be made in to pills for the soldiers to carry instead of bottles." Su seemed to say enough for Remey to become excited all over again. Before Walker could even give the assassin jackets to Remey, the pair was off toward the alchemy lab.

"If they are going to the alchemy lab, that means I should rest and work on more arrows. I have the poison that I need for those yellow tearing falcon feathers." Gil's grin told Walker that he would have plenty of work to do.

"You five should rest. Midnight will let you know when you can train. For today, it is better for you to organize your thoughts." Walker left the mages alone with these thoughts. They had a lot to decide amongst themselves.

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Chapter 1604 1604. Return To The Nest

"Why are you sneaking back there? The dragonkin and archers are still trying to handle the remaining assassin jackets. And it will take you some time to catch back up." Walker had left the rest of the group to let Scylla know his intentions.

"The entire area that the swarm was nesting in is burned up and damaged by positions. I have to return with Fleur to let the natural mana heal the land a little bit. It's just what I have to do." Walker had said he would do this and recognized that he would have to put in some extra effort to get back to the ship.

"I know you can step through the air like I can, but it will have a high mana cost. And you will be alone, take someone with you." Walker already pointed over at Midnight. He had thought of the other people that could fly and leave where they were easily. The dragon fire mages didn't need midnight right away.

"Then that's fine. I won't stop you. I understand that you have a unique relationship with nature. There are also those soldiers out there cleaning the area up. The other ship should be along shortly if you can't catch up." Scylla had decided to trust Walker with this. She knew that he and the dragons had the ability to go between the ships if they so desired.

"If anything goes wrong I will send a signal high in the sky. It's pretty clear that everyone can see the flames from the look out towers." Knowing this was also what the archers had used to create their own warning systems if they found something too dangerous to handle outside the ship.

There was a nod from Scylla before she returned to the group of demi-humans she was sending to replace the merfolk that were swimming alongside the ship underwater. They were taking longer shifts because the water was more natural to them than being on the ship. Some of the merfolk and demi-humans wouldn't even leave the water the entire trip because they could rest underwater while holding the ship.

Without any hesitation, Walker and Midnight moved to the railing of the ship. One high leap was all it needed for Midnight to catch the air and start to glide toward where they had been. Walker followed by jumping in to the air and taking stride right next to her with the wind ripple skill. He had decided to use the elemental wings in wind form to return since he could use a little less mana that way and have more speed.

A few of the archers gave calls as they left because they were going to be keeping an eye on them as long as possible. It was very heartwarming since Walker knew that a few of the archers had refused to take a break. Instead, they had gone right to the look out towers to ensure that the assassin jackets would be called out if they fled toward the ship.

The reason Walker didn't feel he could wait any longer to repair the land that they had attacked and that the swarm of assassin jackets had eaten away at was simple. The sky still had smoke coming from there. It meant that the dragon fire, mage fire, and potions had caused something to keep smoldering.

This would not be a problem because the river was right there. The water would deter the fire from spreading. Unfortunately, that couldn't be said of the grass, bushes, and sparse trees leading away from the river bank. It was the perfect fuel for a fire that would take an army to deal with.

Only a few minutes of flying over the ground did Walker and Midnight get the sounds of battle. They looked down just in time to see three dragonkin taking down a slightly larger assassin jacket that was trying to find its swarm again.

The assassin jacket had clearly sensed that the queen had fallen. This caused it to act erratically. But that was for the better when it came to battle. The dragonkin had impeccable instincts. Every move that they or the assassin jackets made was mirrored. This left the dragonkin at a major advantage.

They slashed the assassin jacket's wings off and then moved in from three sides to defeat it. Before Walker had the chance to wave, they had begun breaking the body down to return to the ship with it. The hunting efficiency was definitely better than most.

"So you are more of Mordant's dragonkin warriors. Good work." Walker lowered himself down just enough to say this. He was sure that the praise would go a long way. "Midnight and I are speeding toward the nest again. we will clean up some of the smolderings that may cause a fire. After that, we are heading right back to the ship. If you can keep up, I might need a few more guards."

Walker wasn't really sure that he would need the guards. The dragon fire mage's attacks had proved to be the true end to the entire swarm. The attacks had gone above what any of the assassin jackets could survive or remain in the area for. That was why the archers on the ship were sniping the fleeing assassin jackets that were no longer in their right mind.

"Understood. We will let our lord know of your praise." One of the three dark affinity dragonkin was the leader. He was already stepping away from the assassin jacket parts to allow Walker to store it away. He trusted that Walker also came down for this.

"No need for you to waste energy to carry that. You have good ideas. On the ship, we will make some new armor from the assassin jackets too. It's light and can be made tougher. Sounds like a good test for the dragonkin that had yet to do much work with unique materials?" The three dragonkin seemed gladdened by this.

From what they had heard of the assassin jackets before they were sent to patrol, the materials were good for light armor, arrows, and making antidote potions. All things that would help the ship and their lord in his endeavors. Being told that it would also help teach their fellow dragonkin made them even more determined to return to the nest for the materials needed.

"Midnight, we are picking up the pace." Walker and Midnight began to move much faster. Midnight was able to flap her wings with more air behind it. Her time around Ventus had shown her that she didn't

just fly. She let the wind elemental mana spread around her wings and push her forward too. The small revelation had allowed Midnight to slightly grasp the concept and begin to use it herself.

Walker, on the other hand, moved step by step increasing his speed while also watching the three dragonkin track them from the ground. The distance may have been short to the burned swarm, but Walker was impressed that the dragonkin had such agility to remain right with them.

Here and there, Walker was reminded that they were Mordant's dragonkin. They could dash around the through shadows slightly increasing the speed that they traveled. They also trained a unique movement skill that would allow them to become faster when they found shadows. It was something that Walker had the desire to learn, therefore, watching only helped Walker in this small goal for later.

Smoke became a little thicker once they reached the area they had crouched to crawl the first time. This was because there was a large smoldering hole where the swarm had been. Every now and then, there would be an attempted buzz from broken assassin jacket wings. They were already defeated though. It was just their bodies losing the last of the energy they had in life.

The defeated assassin jackets that could be taken as materials were very few. Most had been burned or broken by the explosive potions. Walker was still impressed by the fact that Remey had managed to improve them with Trish before they came on the ship.

"If you three want to begin to gather up the usable assassin jackets I can store them. Midnight is going to snake around beating the living assassin jackets, if there are any. I will start to bring the natural mana together." The goal that Walker had would be easy as long as he and Fleur worked together.

The sensing of the natural mana in the area was already a little tough because of the unbalanced mana . fire mana was very prevalent at the moment due to the fire attacks. But Walker easily could deal with this. All he needed to do first was call on the water elemental mana around to put out any smoldering parts of the nest.

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Chapter 1605 1605. Shape The Land

Pulling the water from the air was a simple task. Walker had done it many times at this point in his life. Especially when he had gone to form ice for his skills. It was just a simple thing that any water mage

needed to learn. However, this time he was not making ice. He had to extinguish the smoldering parts of the assassin jacket nest.

"Fleur, if we can pull the water in to a cloud just above the nest, we can make a fake rain." The idea was to replicate nature and make it rain, literally. Fleur was still within the spirit mark, but she was very much paying attention.

Since Walker had mentioned that he would need her help, Fleur had focused solely on making the natural mana denser in the spirit mark and around them. This was her strength and she was not going to abandon Walker. Especially because she also wanted to return the land that had the nest on it to what it should be if nothing had eaten away at it.

The earth and the water were the two first steps. While Walker imagined the water being gathered in the sky right above the nest, he could tell that it was actually easier to manipulate the water in the air this way. He had used much more mana to condense it directly in to water then freezing it compared to now. This alone made him feel slightly disappointed in himself for not following the natural flow of mana in the first place.

The mist that formed first was a sign that Walker had succeeded. The cloud that became denser and denser as he used his mana to poke and prod the mist together was closer to the ground than he imagined. However, it was already forcing the smoldering land to return to damp soil. The smoke was caught which coincidentally added to the moisture. The water in the smoke had become a perfect addition to the cloud.

,m "And now...rain." The sudden burst of Walker's mana caused the water to begin to fall lightly. It was not a strong rain but a drizzle that fell all at once. The cloud he had created was gone in just a few seconds but the water had done its job. "Hmm, I will need to try that again another day. I thought I could do that better." The slight failure of actually copying real rain weight on Walker a little because it made him feel that he had been neglecting real water for too long.

"Midnight, come closer, I am going to smooth out the earth here with my high earth sculpting skill. If I do it like this though, there will be some assassin jackets that might still be alive underneath." The worry was not unfounded. Walker was sure that there were a few of the assassin jackets that could hold their breath for some time. That was also why the three dragonkin were currently defeating one of two that they harvested and piled up near Walker. They were not all suffocated when the nest collapsed.

The way that the earth looked where the nest had been was sloppy, to say the least. The ground had fallen in to a large hole that the assassin jackets had dug out. This left the ground to be nearly impossible to walk on because there were still air pockets that could collapse. Walker could sense these just by sending his mana in to the ground.

Furthermore, the explosive potions had created small craters that would make travel even more challenging here. The small stones that were broken up had sharp edges as well. Overall, this area would be tough for horses, walking, or monsters to travel.

Since Walker had more experience manipulating the earth due to his previous battles, he felt that the ground here was easier to change. Just by digging his hands in to the water softened soil, he felt it already start to bend to his will.

The air pockets were easy to handle underground. All he had to do was use his mana to make the ground shake a little. This caused the three dragonkin to retreat toward hui and watch the earth fall back in to place. Midnight growled a little and the sound of her claws tearing at an assassin jacket made Walker know that he had freed one as he thought he would. But Midnight would not let a single one approach them. She was too good for that.

As Walker began to flatten the land with his skill, a few other sounds of things breaking the ground were heard. The rain had softened the soil causing the few living assassin jackets to be able to escape easily. This was why the three dragonkin needed to act as well.

The first assassin jacket to break free was wingless. It had been hit by the wall of flame and fallen in to the nest. Now it was able to attempt revenge, or it would have been if it had not tried to run right at Walker. Right where the dragonkin holding a large sword was waiting to defend the person that was one of the dragon royals they were to protect.

Just as the sword slashed the assassin jacket's head off, three more had broken the soil's surface. But Midnight had already teamed up with the other two dragonkin. They had their own swords and Midnight had her claws.

Instead of being able to wreath her claws in flames, Midnight had to do something else. She knew that the fire would be weakened by the water that had fallen along with causing more parts of the nest to smolder again. She didn't want to undo the work that Walker had already done.

Taking past inspiration from Walker, Midnight took a deep breath and changed the mana she focused on. Instead of fire, she imagined the ice she had seen Walker make forming from her breath. She had seen a dragon breathe ice and also water, how could she not do it when she had trained it before?

The single small breath of ice was enough to freeze some of the water on to her claws. The result was Midnight's second form of elemental wreathed claws, the very sharp and pointed frost claw. She stumbled ever so slightly because of the change in her claws. However, Midnight just used her wings to hold herself up. She had copied Walker and used a skill she had thought of in battle, now she had to actually use it.

The assassin jacket that became her target was one that had not gained any visible damage other than the soil covering it. This had been one that was in the nest when they had attacked. It had been covered and unable to escape. The freedom it had was also met with rage since it knew its queen had fallen. This was why it did not hesitate to attempt to use its wings.

The assassin jacket flapped its wings to be able to gain space to sting Midnight as she approached. But it was not fast enough. Midnight had already used her wings to push herself forward. The assassin jacket was like a sitting target to her. She just had to slash with her icy claws.

The wounds that the assassin jacket received were enough for anyone to cringe. The slashes that appeared on the exoskeleton of the assassin jacket froze solid causing ice to splinter it even worse. The assassin jacket had barely lifted itself off the ground before falling right back on the ground next to the two other assassin jackets that the dragonkin had defeated.

"And now to bring the natural mana in to the ground here." The four had been worried about the assassin jackets but Walker had already been changing the earth. He had begun to mumble his steps in a hyper focused state.

The natural mana that he and Fleur had pulled together was seeping in to the ground. The dormant seeds and roots from what had lived here before the assassin jackets had made their nest began to come back to life.

The use of natural mana proved to be truly remarkable. The three dragonkin had never seen something like this. The soft soil had been forced to even out and was just showing signs of seedlings sprouting. Even more so, there were signs of other things like mushrooms and small worms coming to the surface. They were all reacting to the increased natural mana to grow and move better.

"Ha! Anything else will be too much for the land right now but I gave it a start." Walker jumped up with a satisfied shout. He wasn't going to damage the land by forcing it to grow but he could give it just enough mana to start strong. "Nice job defending me. I had to stay pretty focused there." Mordant's dragonkin were stunned, how could they be anything else?

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Chapter 1606 1606. Racing Winds

The three dragonkin had made quick work of the remaining assassin jackets that crawled around for the time being. Walker had sat for a moment to contemplate how easy it had just been to pull at the natural mana. Between him and Fleur, it appeared that they had become much closer to the natural mana than before.

Overall, Walker had the goal of becoming a true sage while also becoming the nature dragon. It was part of what he wanted to do in life. The power he would have with those official titles would allow him to protect a great many people. But it would also bring him closer to the mystery that the world was.

Fleur had been growing as well. The bonds between Walker and Fleur were actually much stronger than they had been. Just by looking within himself, Walker was able to find this. The reason he had missed it was that he had been too busy lately. He had forced himself to move on and on over and over without enough rest. His mind had become just slow enough to miss something tied to his very soul.

The addition of strengthened bonds between Fleur and him made Walker much more in tune with what Fleur felt. He could feel her using her own natural mana that made up her body to influence the natural mana around them. This was how every elemental spirit was able to manipulate their elemental mana. But Walker had never been able to sense this because he had not reached that level of understanding.

Most elves knew this fact and Walker could have gathered it from what had happened after he had seen elemental spirits use their mana. They always had to rest for some time to recover. It was the same as anyone else that use their mana.

But, what was truly a tell of how important this was, was the fact that elemental spirits were mana with a will. They had an intellect and could control the mana of their body differently than the mana around them. Through the bonds they had with whoever carried their spirit mark, they could increase their mana as well.

Walker was constantly providing his mana and fleur her mana to one another. Because of this, Walker had a better connection with natural mana. It flowed through his body already. And the amount that moved through his body had been getting stronger and stronger, he had just not realized it because he had been distracted!

"Alright, we are going to fly back. If you let me carry you, I can get you three back as well. Or are you able to keep up?" Walker taunted the three dragonkin a little.

"As warriors under the honorable lord, we are able to use the shadows to move much faster. Please do not worry about us." The leader of the three dragonkin replied with respect.

"That just sounds like you want to say you can keep up with us easily. Let me make myself a pair of wings and we can race." Walker used the elemental wings skill and created a pair of purely wind elemental wings. He knew doing this would lower the mana cost and also allow him to shape the wings better for himself.

"Race!" Midnight exclaimed this the second that Walker had created his wings. She was already in the air leaving the four of them in the dust.

"Well, you heard her, my champion said race." Walker laughed while he took off too. His speed was much more than when he was running through the air before. The wings of wind that he had created were gathering the wind elemental mana to push him even further. But what Walker could feel was that he could go even faster if he desired.

The manipulation of wind was something that Walker had seen from Gil and Zephyr a few times more than most people. Add on the fact that Walker had paid careful attention to Ventus when she flew around, he had learned even more about the use of wind elemental mana.

The sudden push in the air was enough to make a wave that brought a large breeze to the area around him. It was nothing harmful and by the time it reached the ground it was a gentle gust. But the amount of mana used was enough to propel Walker right past Midnight and toward the ship.

He could already see the reactions of the look outs and archers who were dumbfounded that Walker was somehow in the air moving at such speeds. He swore he could see Rise just above a cloud shaking

her head as if she was looking at a child playing around. But to be fair, Walker was kind of playing around.

His landing was a little less elegant than normal since Walker had to use the wind to keep himself from slamming in to the top deck of the ship. It caused a decent amount of wind to push a few of those on the ship around. They gave looks of annoyance that Walker had to wave an apology for before Scylla came to stand in front of him again.

"I take it that things went well?" Scylla glanced at Midnight landing right behind Walker with three dragonkin also hopping from the shadows on to the ship. They seemed a little out of breath and Midnight was clearly fired up for another test of speed.

"It did, I was able to put out the embers, flatten out the land, and help the grasses start to grow again. It was a lot faster since I managed to find these three working together to clear some of the assassin jackets. They also watched my back with Midnight as I did it all." Walker hadn't planned to find guards but had been glad that he did. Not that he doubted Midnight could have handled the weakened assassin jackets.

"Good, then I will make that location as one to watch out for in the future. I have spoken to a few of the researchers we brought on the ship. They read through their knowledge and have mentioned that the eggs left underground may be viable for another queen to hatch. It could be years but it is always good to have a notice made. Potentially, the taming guild could go to search for them."

This made sense, the eggs could be dormant like many monster eggs could be. Onyx was living proof of this and the first person that Walker thought of when Scylla said this. "Walker! What did you bring? Anything good!?" Gil had not wasted a second. He had a feeling that Walker had brought back a good haul of monster materials.

"Go ahead, I am interested as well." Scylla had a grin on her face. She was clearly excited to see what would be made in to even more arrows, armors, and various weapons before they reached the ocean. The more they had at their disposal, the more they could do to protect the ship. It was only in their best interest, or, in Scylla's battle interest.

Walker sighed slightly before he realized that this had been planned ahead. Scylla had motioned for a few soldiers to bring out a sheet to cover the space in front of Walker. It would protect the metal of the top deck from any monster blood that could wear away at the integrity.

"I had a lot of help from these three gathering what they could. That's why there are so many parts. And a lot of them are partially broken down. Gil, you should get Remey though. They have valuable poison that can be used for more antidotes."

"I will take care of that. Alice and I already told Remey to start on the basics. We will bring them to her." Alice and Su were wearing some protective leather gloves and aprons. They had been ready for this as soon as they could be.

"I didn't know that you two were becoming alchemists too. I look forward to what you are working on." Walker could see that Alice and Su were very dedicated to their goals and watched them begin to gather the poison from the assassin jacket stingers.

"We have a few ideas about how to use the poison in the water. If we concentrate it and then pour it around a swarm of underwater monsters, we can stop them in their tracks. It might not kill anything but it is defensive. Leon actually had the idea when he came abroad to eat. A few of his merfolk are in the dining area right now." Since Walker had not seen Leon in a while, he nodded his thanks to Su and Alice for this information before he headed off to meet with Leon. He also could use a bite to eat.

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Chapter 1607 1607. Underwater Update

The merfolk had taken the longest shifts when it came to defending the ship. Their job had been of the utmost importance. The main reason being the integrity of the ships. They were under the water scouting the stocks, trees, and other dangers that the ship might face while traveling.

The mages had been working closely with their signals. On top of this, they had been the guiding force when it came to the earth and water mages expanding or smoothing some of the river banks so that the ship could fit. At a few trunks in the river, there had even been streams slightly diverged to better flow in to the river.

"But that small brook beaver really sent you for a trip! I wasn't sure that you would manage to catch it before it got back to the hole it had dug itself in the bank!" Leon and his merfolk soldiers were laughing a lot. They seemed to be enjoying the trip even though they had been working hard.

"I am glad you all have so much energy. I was wondering if you would be exhausted yet." Walker's greeting came with another burst of laughter and shouting. They had all been having the time of their life. It seemed that Leon had raised the morale of his soldiers pretty high before they had gotten in to the adventure.

"We have had a lot on our plates. But saying that to you and the others that deal with those bugs on the river bank might be wrong. We were just dealing with a few small pests in the water. Can't have any beaver dams blocking up the river between the ships we send or come back, right?" Maintaining the future of their river was going to be a very large job.

"I was actually hoping that the merfolk and demi-humans with similar traits could handle that. It would be an ongoing job. River maintenance while not disturbing the important natural life. I think even the water elves would work with you on it." Walker knew that the Genesis council already had plans to put outposts along the river. It would be the best way for them to be able to protect the initial work they were doing.

"I would take that!"

"Hey, no, Give me the captain position!"

"Ha! Captain? Of what? Slipper eels trying to eat away at the river bank!?" The merfolk started up again teasing each other and getting even more rowdy than they were before.

"As you can see, we are enjoying our job. The work with the water and earth mages is actually going very smoothly. The monsters are less frequent in the water after the incidents with the kraken spawn. It's actually a blessing in disguise." Walker had not considered this and was very impressed that Leon had managed to put this all together. He had actually ended up with a much better position than those patrolling the river banks.

"I think that sets you up for success then. You just have to watch for obstacles. If you have your soldiers now act as trainers, they could each become captains of guard posts along the river." This was also how Walker envisioned small farms along the river would be able to start.

The river presented a great way for many villages to form. If the monsters in and around the river were in check, then there would be a safe place for people to move. Many people were not happy with the city life. They would prefer the peace and quiet of a small village. It would also mean that they could put everything they had in to farming or developing unique herbs.

The river would also become a major trade route. Boats could bring crops to any point along the river. It would increase trade while reducing food shortage issues. From there, it would connect other trade routes to other cities around the lands. It was similar to the underground trade routes that the dwarves were creating. A perfect supplement for all merchants.

"I can't see that being an issue. But I won't be losing my best men. They have been with me too long. If I lose them then who will I boss around!?" Leon found a few of his best soldiers glaring at him but their smiles told him that they never intended to leave anyways.

"You're telling me that you wouldn't want to lose a few soldiers? Come on, they might take your job if you let them learn it all." Walker gave in to the atmosphere while sitting down next to Leon. Midnight saw no need to stay in her dragon form and switched to her dragonkin form privately before coming back to steal the spot next to Walker. They could sit and eat while speaking more in depth. The rest period for the merfolk soldiers had to include some sleep to keep them sharp. Walker was no different and would be catching a small nap as well.

The atmosphere slowly calmed down as they ate and spoke here and there. Walker managed to hear about a few places where pests were identified. The beavers were more or less normal animals. But they had the ability to block up the brooks, streams, and smaller waterways. They could cut many trees and apparently multiplied quickly once they built a dam.

The green river muscles were also an issue. They were a species of shellfish monster that could snap up a whole person if left to grow long enough. The main issue that they caused though was not that they snapped up whole prey to eat. It was that they had to latch on to the bottom of the river. This caused them to break away parts of the river and weaken the bank. From there large stretches of sand would form that could only be washed down river by strong currents.

"So, you can see the issues that we will face over time and up ahead. That's excluding the monsters that we should see once we get downriver more. I am sure that there are more that are coming back in to their normal habitats after being pushed out by the kraken spawn."

"I agree, we should wait and see what else there is. This is light work for you and your soldiers. I will be ready to help when things get more troublesome." Walker was gladly going to assist the merfolk and the other underwater patrols when it came to the monsters that would surely show up.

"I was wondering why you had considered using condensed poisons to deal with the ocean monsters. I thought that it would limit your ability to swim in the water as well." Walker knew that Leon had thought of the idea as soon as he heard about the high amounts of poisons they had from the frogs and assassin jackets. It was a good idea but limited the number of forces they could have underwater.

"I know it will make things harder, but I think it will be safe. There are a lot of antidotes. The alchemists aboard can create better potions to protect us. It will make shifts shorter but it can be a resort that protects us from piranhas, tuna schools, and even the razor fin schools. There are more dangers in the water but those are some we might face right away." Leon had been thinking of the monsters and fish that would cause issues that couldn't be easily solved.

"So you heard about the assassin jacket swarm and knew that fighting them as a swarm would be too tough. Then you applied it to the monsters you knew." Walker perfectly understood and was gladly going to back up Leon when it came to this.

"I can't afford to lose any of my men to a school or swarm. One on one fights are rare and can only be done with good strategy." Leon's surety in this statement showed that he had thought hard and used the past experiences he had to make this decision. Only a veteran fighter would be able to easily discern this.

"You should pass this on to Scylla before you rest, it will be better to develop a solid plan. Scylla and you working together might actually be better than we imagined." Walker knew that Scylla had an unending battle strategy. She was the front line general for the demi-human forces. Add in the strength that Leon had as an underwater specialist with high training because of his background, it was a perfect team. Two generals that would help everyone.

"Sounds like a plan. But for now, I will take my men to sleep. The cabins are actually pretty great you know." Leon praised the ship as he left Walker and Midnight to finish eating then rest themselves.

Chapter 1608 1608. Slight Delay

"Hmm? Did we stop?" Walker felt that the swaying of the ship had come to a halt. This was what had woken him up from his nap. The sudden change in how the ship had bobbed on the water as it went down the river was enough to call him out of his slumber.

Without any effort, Walker left the cabin that had been designated as a resting room and headed back toward the top deck. Seeing that there was no panic or hurry in the movement of the crew, Walker knew that there was not an emergency. There was also no one yelling out for people to move in to battle positions.

"What happened?" Walker managed to see Su moving toward the front of the ship when he climbed the last stair. It was a fortuitous encounter since Walker was sure that she had been resting as well up until now.

"I heard someone saying something about the river bank collapsing or that there were rocks ahead. It was not clear. It sounds troublesome." Since Su had minimal information, Walker didn't push for anything more. However, just this was enough to explain that they had come to a place where the earth and water mages would be working extra hard. That also meant that Walker should get in to the work as well.

"Ah good, I was just about to ask someone to find you. We have a bit of a blockage up there." Leon was the first to find them. It was clear that he had taken over main command while Scylla rested. It was a surprise that Leon had managed this let alone the fact that Scylla had actually rested at all.

"We heard a little about it but what is the exact..." Walker looked off the side of the ship and saw that the riverbank had become much taller. It was almost a cliff because of the landscape. There were hills that had taken this section of river over.

From what Walker could see, the river had been slowly but surely carving through these hills. So much so that they were able to carve enough away to cause a small collapse. It was just a perfect example of how nature flowed without anyone having to do anything.

"So we need to bring the rocks and the dirt out of the water or else we can't pass." Su finished what Walker was surely going to see. She could make out some large boulders that had been hidden in the dirt while the dirt itself was slowly being washed away.

The water mages in Genesis had used a large burst of water to help the ships along. They needed to do this so that the ships could make it to the deeper water. However, this had also caused the current to change slightly ahead of the ships. There was no doubt that this had caused the collapse in advance.

Unfortunately, it was something they had to deal with. Although everyone was glad that it did not happen when a ship was passing by. It could have been many times worse.

"I have already asked the water mages to decrease the flow of water when the earth mages are ready. There will be an attempt at joint to push the entire river bank back. It seems to be the best case right now, if we do not there will be more collapses soon since it is weakened." Leon had made the right call. No one else could consider using another method since the imminent risk of a collapse seemed to be the focus of this issue.

The earth mages had already left the ship and were currently on the small lifeboats. They were prepared to jump out on to the shallow waters when the water mages forced the current back temporarily. If they could manage this and they jump back in to the lifeboats before the current returned, then they could work in cycles.

"If You want to hold the current back, It might be better to temporarily divert it. I know it would be tougher though. I just don't know how long this will take to clear. We might be caught by the second ship." Leon shook his head when Walker and Su suggested this plan of action.

"It would be better if they did catch up. Then we would be able to gain more assistance. We also would have more strength altogether. If they catch up we can also share the antidotes we have made with them instead of leaving supply crates at the marked positions of the route." The river was more or less mapped out. It was just the ability to travel through the water that was in question.

"Then we can be sure that things will go faster. But, what if I made a temporary ice dam?" The beavers that Leon had told Walker about were an inspiration. It was not something that most people would consider, however, it was a temporary solution that could do a lot for them.

"An ice dam would stop the water and also allow a short time for the earth mages to work. If I join the earth mages with my partner then we could work much better." Su was sure that she would be of assistance. Just having a grand earth spirit around to attract more earth mana would greatly increase the progress they would make in each cycle.

"I like it. Having Walker and Su together would be a big boost in morale for every mage. They have been talking about all of you for some time. The guardian who can make earth shields at will and the all around mage with dragon wings. The normal gossip." Leon's small joke was enough to shake Su from her calm demeanor. Her face turned slightly red due to the embarrassment of a sudden compliment. She didn't like to think of how some people idolized her.

"The moment that the water mages hold the current back I will make an ice dam with the ice dragon domain. If Fleur and I work together we can force the ice to go one direction. It might be a little cold though." Fleur had already revealed herself from the spirit mark. She had sensed the goals Walker had. Unlike Fleur, Su and her partner were more reserved. It was very rare to see the new grand earth spirit leaving the spirit mark. Walker considered this to be because it was constantly consolidating mana to stabilize its new position.

Without hesitation, Leon began to grab the leaders he had assigned to the mages. He was sure that the change would go very well. It was also a bonus that the mages had just switched shifts and were well rested just like Walker and Su who had also taken their rest earlier. The only issue was that the sun was setting for the day.

The ship had been on the water and traveled a great distance without any issues. They had managed to go much further than expected but some of the members of the crew had exhausted more mana than expected. The switching of day to night would bring other challenges, especially to this sort of situation.

The dark would make it harder to move the earth but could also hide the dangers around the ship. On top of that, new monsters would be coming out to hunt in the darkness. It was very dangerous at night compared to the day.

"I will not let you sit in the shadows. I have enough control of the light to ensure that the fading sun is not an issue. If I am to guide all of you, I must exert a little of my strength." Without so much as a warning, Rise had drifted lower to hear what was going on. She was unhappy that they had stopped, but if the ship had been damaged it would be a greater insult to the dragons leading it. In her mind, it was better to be the guiding light for this slow point.

"Perfect, I was going to ask the mages who could create light to work through the shifts or the fire mages to try and create fireballs that could work as lanterns." Leon immediately praised the idea that Rise could light the area. It was going to do much more than what anyone else could do.

It would be different if they were just slowly moving along in the night. The ship had some al lights set up that used the al crystals as fuel. But that was just for spotting dangers and moving on the top of the deck. It was not for focused work. "All hands at the ready! We move to complete this project before the second ship catches up!" Leon had a new goal, hearing everyone's support.

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Chapter 1609 1609. Ice Walls

The movement of every mage on the ship in unison was the most impressive part about the orders that Leon was giving. Out of everyone, it seemed that Leon had been doing the most to meet those that had been selected for the first ship.

Since Walker had not seen Leon around too much, he had assumed that Leon had also been focused on training. However, he had not been training his body as much as his social skills. Leon had recognized that he didn't need the harsh and strict strength that his father had as king of the merfolk. Instead, he could be even better with a few compassionate words. A little time dedicated to meeting others.

Su and her partner Alvaro were ahead of Walker. They had jumped from the ship and in to the first possible life boat. It seemed that Su wanted to get on the way even more than Walker had expected. "You are really throwing yourself in to the work. It's impressive." Walker had to praise Su for her determination. However, he noticed the slight glint of sadness in her eyes before she refocused on the large rocks and soil that blocked the water flow.

"Water mages, prepare to hold the current. You will move on Walker's command. He will be freezing the water you control, do not resist!" Leon was sure that if the water mages tried to perfectly maintain a hold on the water as it froze that the freezing would slow.

,m The currents that some of the water mages might create to keep the water back were going to be tough to handle in the first place. The main reason for this was that the more the water moved the warmer it might get. Everyone could understand the strength of friction and how it attracted the small bits of fire elemental mana that would stop something from freezing. It was why there was flowing water in some parts of Genesis and soon to be all parts of Genesis. Dwarven genius was to thank for that.

Walker let himself fall in to the water from the lifeboat. He watched the ship and knew that the wall of ice would nearly cover the entirety of the ship. Leon would be able to barely see over it but that would give them enough time to move many of the rocks with . It might take five or six tries if they were to be slow with it. But with an ice wall, it could only take twice to move everything.

After that, the earth mages could focus on the river banks. They would be able to use their skills to move the earth so that it would not be collapsing again. Add in Walker's earth sculpting skills and they might be able to make more dependable structures until the dwarves could create an outpost here. It would

be ideal to have the outpost here so that they could keep an eye on a dangerous part of the river more often. It would be dangerous for merchants and travelers if they didn't.

"Listen closely. Once the ice is formed, I will have to focus on it with all I have. The water mages can help you use water to cut the stones in to pieces. From there, move them to the side. Once they are on the bank we can worry about them later. Just work fast and don't hold back. The water can't stay in place for long." Walker kept everyone clear on what he could and could not do. Holding back a force of nature indefinitely was just impossible.

"Ready!" Walker felt the mana gathering around him. The water mages had worked together before. It was very common for the elven water mages to work in teams to get things done. This was a very large aspect of their al culture. It had also affected Genesis for the better since it encouraged more mages to work together more often.

Feeling the large mass of water elemental mana was enough for Walker to keep hold of. He was using the natural mana that Fleur and he gathered to keep a rope around it that he could tighten and take ahold of. This felt strange to him because he was not the one gathering the water mana. However, he would be the one changing its form in a moment to create ice.

But, Walker had worked together before with other mages, so when he took a deep breath to shout for the water mages to move, he was not hesitant at all. "Now! Hold the water back!" It was a good thing that the water flowed slowly in this portion of the river. It made it much easier to hold the water back.

The sudden surge of water caused the lifeboats to shake for a moment but Walker had already lowered himself in to the water. He felt the sand of the river bed sooner than expected which prompted him to grab ahold of the water elemental mana. "Fleur, now!" The bond he had with Fleur flared in to life as the two used the natural mana to expand their control. The ice dragon domain skill was forced to flow forward toward the wall of water only.

"Out of the boats and start moving those rocks! The soil and sand can wait!" Su's orders were prompt. She would not waste a second even though the ice wall was still forming.

Slowly, the water mages dropped off as they felt that the water elemental mana they controlled was lost to them. The water was freezing and less and less of them were needed. The idea to create this ice wall as a dam similar to a beaver was working exactly as planned. There was a growing chill in the air but it was proof of their success.

Cracking and crumbling sounds came from behind Walker before he even knew that the earth mages had organized. Su was leading them with Alvaro. The grand earth spirit had come out of the spirit mark and formed an earth shield with Su. The pair slammed the earth shield in to the soft mucky sand of the river bed.

In moments, a large spike of solid rock had been pushed up in to the air while moving the larger boulders. In a blink of an eye, they would crumble again. This constant action cost Su and Alvaro more mana than they wanted but it was also gathering incredible amounts of earth elemental mana that helped the earth mages work faster.

Small stress cracks formed around the ice wall as Walker realized just how terrifying the water pressure of a river was. It was not something small to hold back and the natural mana wanted to flow instead of stay still. It was just how nature worked, it couldn't be held back for long. "Less than a minute before I have to release the water!" Walker was thankful that fish and other animals were able to remain in the extremely shallow pools that had been created when he stopped the water. But when he released it, they would have more water than the rainy season.

"Back in to the boats! Water mages anchor them in place!" Walker's shout was a little garbled because of the mental stress holding the ice wall in place. However, he managed to shout it loud enough that every single earth and water mage moved as they were told.

In just a moment, the earth mages had managed to get in to the lifeboats. The few that weren't were grabbed by others and dragged up in to the boats. Walker clearly saw Su out of the corner of his eye grab an earth mage and toss him in to a boat. It was a reminder not to make her angry because she was much tougher than she looked.

Walker was the only one that was not in a boat but was confident that he could keep himself safe. Just as the cracks in the ice expanded, Walker released his hold and formed a small dome of ice just around him. The sudden rush of water returned the river to the normal flow minus the fact that a small wave traveled down the river.

This was a good thing though. The small wave was able to wash some of the soil and sand down the river that was causing them issues here. It would evenly distribute the new nutrients to the river as well further helping it develop and grow. Overall, it was a small bonus for the monsters and animals living in the river.

While Walker remained under the water in his little ice dome, he heard the shouts of water mages gathering. They were dull but he had confidence that he would be able to work well to make the second ice wall. The clearing of the path was going along without a hitch!

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Chapter 1610 1610. Heated Training

"Is this really what we have to do?" Gil was a little shocked watching Walker form the third ice wall. The water mages had to work extra hard and then leave all the weight on Walker.

"It's what was needed. I doubt I could have done anything like this with my fists. But I am pretty sure I could break a rock of two." Remey had even been brought up to the top of the ship. The main reason being the mana potions that she had brought from the alchemy lab.

The moment that this stop had been made and the plan settled, many people went to the alchemy lab. The other alchemists that were hard at work were commanded by Remey to focus solely on mana potions since the mages would need them most of all if there was another collapse. There were also the earth mages that would be working much harder to push the river bank back after the clearing.

"It's just that there is so much work at once. It will make things slower but I think we would be better off taking longer to do this." Gil knew that getting to the ocean and heading to the new continent to tackle two big problems was more important. But he also felt that this was being hasty.

"You really need to get over it. I think you are upset that you can't do much with your arrows here. It's the same issue with my fists. They have skills and that affects a larger area. We don't and if you fired your more dangerous arrows, just like my explosive potions, they would cause more problems." Remey put her foot down and stopped Gil from being jealous of how useful others' skills were compared to what he could do.

"And shouldn't you be training instead of sitting here watching? I thought you were close to some breakthrough. Walker was saying just the other day that you wanted to show off your elven dagger style to Alma. But here you are, not getting closer to it." Gil felt like an arrow had shot him instead of him firing an arrow. Remey had hit him hard.

"Fone, then we will train. You already helped with the mana potions. You can train with me. I will use daggers and you can overheat yourself again with flames. I know that your fire resistance still needs

training. You just won't admit that your body isn't getting tougher." The response that Gil had was mostly just to annoy Remey back. Unfortunately, he had hit a sore spot.

Since Remey had bonded with her partner even more deeply, she had gained much easier usage of flames. She also gained a better control of flames. Yet, this did not translate in to how well she could resist her own flames. Yes, there was a major boost in her resistance. That was not enough though. When Remey channeled stronger flames to fight, she found that she would still begin to burn her body. It was not natural for her to burn when she had a strong bond with a grand elemental spirit.

The issue that Remey had come up with was that she needed to become more accustomed to fire. She had not had an affinity until she had bonded with a fire spirit. The changes from fire spirit to alchemy fire spirit had just delayed her acclimation to this. Instead of strengthening her body in the respect to flames, she had instead focused on alchemy knowledge. It was a lapse in her training that she had been trying to fix. She had seen her own weakness and her weakness was a strength that she had been growing.

Seeing that there was a commotion and a potential battle to watch, a few of the resting soldiers had stopped what they were doing. The stoppage of the ship had brought Scylla out of her rest to see the progress as well. When she saw that there was a group setting up to watch a battle, she was attracted as well.

"I can say that you two will need a judge for your training battle. I have slept enough so it's better that I take the lead here." Gil and Remey don't mind seeing that Scylla wanted to step in. It was already decided that they would be fighting here.

"Both of you have a little too much energy since we aren't moving along. So, let's see what we can do about that." Scylla motioned for the soldiers around to create a large open space for Remey and Gil. The ship was large enough for multiple people to train on top. But this was mostly so that there would be space to fight anyone that boarded the ship, specifically, monsters that might board the ship.

"Come on arrow boy. Show me what you can do with a little dagger. I bet you are still stuck where you were when you fought Walker." Remey had no idea what level Gil was at when it came to combining the high elf dagger technique, but she would find out.

"Fine then, I will bring you down easily. Just have a few healing potions ready. I'm sure you will need them." Gil's speed was expected. Remey had known that he was agile from the very first day that they had met. It had always been a fact.

When Gil approached, he flowed lower to the ground before firmly stomping his feet on the ground to push the dagger in his hand toward Remey. The upward slash had a strength behind it that came directly from the stone elf's stance when using a dagger. Gil had copied it perfectly from the books he had read.

Remey's reaction had to be to dodge. She knew that she had decent defenses and could potentially use her elemental knuckles to deflect it. However, she could tell that the strength in the dagger was enough to damage an elemental knuckle if she was not careful. Two tough weapons colliding never left one unharmed.

What Gil did not expect was that Remey had not countered with her fist after dodging. She had instead bent her back and kicked upwards. This kick was enough to hit his chest and force him to step back out of his stance. Remey was able to perfectly reset in to a boxer's bouncing motion waiting for Gil to try and get close again.

The flexibility in Remey's battle style had been birthed from her constant brawling. She was a brawler for a reason, she had learned to fight in different positions. Since she had trained with Su more and more, she had accepted her flexibility to attack in odd angles. This was her best form of attack against the well defended Su. attack odd areas with strange angles so that she could damage undefended portions of Su's body.

As flames began to ignite on Remey's knuckles and trail around her, Gil knew that he had to increase his speed. Using the wind elf dagger technique, he heightened his steps. He also made his movements light and bouncy before he thrust downwards with both daggers. The attack was full of blatant fury, the core of the flame elf dagger techniques.

"That Was too easy to read!" Remey shouted and deflected the daggers. The deflection left Gil open to her follow up jab but his daggers had grazed Remey's arm. They both left the encounter with damage.

But Gil did not stop. He pushed forward with a flurry of dagger attacks. They were fast and nearly blinding as he turned each dagger to reflect the light. This was a direct use of the environment, it was the light elf dagger technique that used the reflection of sun to blind their opponents. It had been extremely challenging to learn but very valuable.

Unfortunately, Remey responded with a combination of punches and a swift kick. She might have scratches from ducking and dodging but she left bruises on Gil as well. The two were heating up more and more while they fought out their training frustrations.

"You are just mixing broken movements still. Leaving openings." Remey was slightly out of breath after forcing herself to keep up with Gil's changing styles.

"And you are not paying attention to the flames that burn through the air and graze your skin. They might close your scratches but they also burn you up." Gil had seen the trails of flames that Remey fought with around her. They were not controlled.

"Fine, then I will show you more." Remey knew that the two of them were going to exploit their weaknesses. It was the perfect way to forge their bodies. To train themselves to develop against their own weaknesses. It was also how everyone watching their battle realized that they sounded angry with each other because they were angry with themselves. That they were perfectly helping the other to become stronger overall. It was inspiring. It made Scylla grin.