

Master 1611

Chapter 1611 1611. A Little Fun

"Walker! That was the last boulder!" The fourth rock ice wall had really strained Walker. After the second he had to get a mana potion. Mostly because the earth and water mages were struggling. It wasn't so much the mana usage overall, but the sudden mana usage paired with the higher mental burden.

This had not been what some of the earth and water mages were used to. Therefore, it led to the mages expending more mana than they actually needed. That was just something they would have to train over time and something that would change as they became closer to their elemental choices in training. They had to understand the earth and water better to minimize mana cost overall.

"Understood! Get on the boats!" The exhausted earth and water mages were already moving when Su had made the call for Walker to prepare to release the built up water. She had ensured that the water mages would be able to have enough mana to direct the boats back to the ship safely. The earth mages on the other hand needed to rest a little before they would be able to push back the river banks for the other ships to have a safer passage.

The last boulder that had been hidden in the soil of the river had been the fastest to deal with since it was the last. It was also the largest so that was the reason that it had been left. It seemed that this was the one that had shifted under the earth and fallen off the back, in turn, causing the rest of the cliffside to fall. But the earth mages had worked together to move it at once, it would be the base for the outpost when it was built here.

"Water coming down!" Walker shouted and used his mana to control some of the water to make a pillar. It was just enough to push him toward a lifeboat where Su grabbed him. The water mages held them in place as the water pushed the boats backwards and up. It was only a few minutes before the water settled for the fourth time but Walker felt that they had accomplished something great.

There were a few shouts from the top of the ship which made all the mages feel like they had done an amazing job. But when they realized that the shouts weren't coming from ship down to them but for something else, Su and Walker shared a questioning look.

"What in the world?" Walker was the first to jump up and strep through the air. He let his curiosity win out when he heard the shouts going on.

"Brother, Su and Gil are training together right now." Onyx was awake and watching the battle happening. The surrounding soldiers were clearly very intent on watching this. A few of the elven archers were even starting to copy Gil's movements while a few dragonkin warriors were trying to mimic a kick that Remey had done before.

"Brother! Training time!" Midnight nearly punched on Walker but he managed to lean back just enough to dodge her.

"Is that what everyone was doing while we worked? Hmmm, I guess that is better than doing nothing. But I feel a little annoyed." Walker still had a little mana left and could not resist the sneaky idea growing in his mind.

"What's the verdict?" Su wasn't sure what was going on but Midnight rushed over to her shouting about Gil and Remey and how it was training time. Su was not as lucky as Walker to dodge the pounce from Midnight and promptly found herself on her back. "Why do you have so much energy? Shouldn't you be resting still?" It took Su a moment to process that Remey and Gil had been battling it out and taking up everyone's attention.

"I was worried about getting all the water mages back up safely after my soldiers checked the final completion of the collapse removal. However, I am apparently not the one in charge up here any longer." Leon even looked a little perturbed seeing that Scylla had made herself the referee to the training battle.

After seeing the rest of the water mages make it up to the top of the ship, Walker got everyone's attention. "It seems like everyone up here is too heated up from training. If everyone can help me with their mana, the water mages and I can help cool them off." The annoyance fell away and evil grins grew on all of their faces. Even Su was smirking a little. She was rarely mischievous but felt that this was very worthwhile to boost their morale after some hard work.

"Come on! Again! That move didn't work last time because you didn't move all the way through!" Remey had picked on Gil's broken movements to the point that he was forced to lessen the hesitation and broken flow of the different styles. This pressure was exactly what he needed to train his muscles in the goal he had.

"Then why don't you try and make your flames hotter? HUH!? Or are you afraid to stop these coiling fires of yours? They aren't even controlled!" Gil had been calling Remey out every single time he saw her flames stray from her fists to the air in streaks. It was why Remey had been

Able to change the focus of her skills and train her mentality. She was becoming more away of temperature and control of flames over everything else. It is also how she toughened her body

"You want more fire!?" Remey had gotten a little angrier since she had been called out so many times. But this time, she increased the red flames in to a darker alchemy fire. The alchemy fire was what she could control the best because she used it so often. She was also ready to lay down a hefty right hook after a jab. The only issue was the sudden shadow over the entire group watching their fight.

A few of those watching hesitated from cheering or trying to copy the two. They looked up at the shadow only to find that there was a wave of water falling right in to their faces. "And that, my friends, is the victory we get after our hard work!" Walker barely got the words out of his mouth before laughing harder than he had in a long time.

The water mages and earth mages had joined him in cheering and laughing. This was hysterical to them since they had been working hard and seriously for the last few hours. It was a great reward to play a small prank before heading to get some food and a good nap in.

"Did we really deserve this?" Gil felt pretty rough but looked at Remey who had also burst in to a smile. She would normally be angry at this but saw how even the soldiers watching them were breaking in to smiles.

"I'm glad I was just below the deck." Alice had come up to see the commotion. She was very impressed seeing the comradery growing on the ship. Even though hard work had just been done and people were clearly exhausted, they still had bright spirits.

"I find myself wondering what humans and other races think in these situations. However, it appears that they do value purity. They may not follow my example in pure elemental mana. But they follow purity in emotion. An interesting fact." Rise had silently returned to the ship from the sky. No one had noticed her watching carefully.

"This is why I am willing to invest in them. If dragons valued these things, we could accomplish greater things." Mordant also showed himself from the shadows. Alice was unsure of what to think after being sandwiched between two royal dragons.

After a few thoughts, she was able to solidify what she wanted to say before walking toward the soaking wet group throwing some cheers and jeers towards the mages. "This is the future. Dragons have a home in Genesis too." Alice walked away from them leaving Rise fairly proud of her chance taken on what Walker had said. But it left Mordant with a full grin.

"I believe that your mind is fully changed now?" Mordant looked over at Rise. "They banned together to go after our enemy and their enemy together. Dragons would have tried it alone first. The wyverns could have been a bigger problem." Mordant knew he was right. He too left Rise behind with his words and headed to join everyone in their good mood before it had passed him by.

Rise still held herself back but she didn't say a word. But if anyone looked hard enough, they could see a small smile on her face. Just enough of one to show how she was really feeling looking at this sight. Looking at the joyful dragonkin of hers that rarely showed smiles around her in the village.

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Chapter 1612 1612. Control Over Light

The earth mages had rested for a short while. Their mental stress was easy to handle since most of them were used to training for a long time. Leon also ensured that he left a crate with messages for the other ships to reference. The details of what work they had done and how it may still be dangerous. It was just better to leave detailed diagrams and explanations than sending someone back to another ship. It also ensured that this location would be an outpost one day.

Scylla had made a temporary plan with Leon to switch underwater patrols to a mix of merfolk and demi-human soldiers. This was to help them bond more and smooth out any difficulties when working together. The forces had not always partnered up so it was better that they were able to have some time to train.

"Are you sure that you don't have much going on?" Walker was unsure if Alice was actually free. She had been working with those that were poisoned earlier by frogs and assassin jackets. It was definitely something that should have worn her out. Yet, after she had returned to the top deck, she showed plenty of energy to Walker. So much that it seemed that she was hiding her tiredness.

"No, we can patrol too." But that was that. It seemed that Alice had shown her stubborn side and was not going to just let Walker join the patrolling round on the riverbanks without her.

The rotations had been altered a little since a lot of the mages were tired. Walker was willing to take a slightly tougher position and head out to patrol right away after the ship had pulled up anchor. It was just the best way since he had more mana left than others.

Where things seemed off was that Alice kept taking the lead as soon as she and Walker had gotten off the ship. Horizon also had gone in to the spirit mark to rest which was different since as a grand elemental spirit he was the most talkative and brightest out of all of them. But Walker just went with it because he enjoyed spending the time with Alice and he didn't need to get in to a long winded history lesson about what the world was like. Horizon knew a lot of things but the way he spoke was hard to follow since so many years were condensed in his mind.

"How was the healing and purification? I wasn't sure that you would be able to handle all the people being poisoned before Remey had made more of the positions. Since some of those assassin jackets were fast." Walker had heard that some soldiers had been ambushed by the maddened assassin jackets.

The threat they had was largely because they were angry but also because they were used to the area. The assassin jackets could hide easily and attack anyone that was unfamiliar with the area. Especially the patrolling soldiers that were mostly made up of people from further away from the river.

The others that had left to patrol also split in to groups of two or three. They still had to worry about any other frog dens or small groups of roaming assassin jackets. But there was the thought that they might encounter more of the tearing falcons. Gil would have liked that since the archers wanted to make even more arrows. There was no inkling of what monsters they might face in the oceans so that could mean no arrow materials.

"How is your light ?" Alice changed the topic and stopped in her tracks. It seemed like she had been waiting to ask this for a little while.

"I have been slacking off to be honest. I haven't learned any new light lately. But when Midnight and I trained with Rise, I was able to alter the elemental wings to better fit me and Midnight was able to improve her dragon breath attacks. She can use a light elemental attack much better now. But not to the same level as Rise by any means." Walker knew he shouldn't hold this back from Alice. She was sure to figure it out anyways.

"Hmm.." Alice hummed slightly while thinking. Her humming made the light around them vibrate slightly. It seemed like she had also been put in to a training mood. But she hadn't been able to show much off to Walker lately.

"If you want to show me your swords of light again I can try to make one too. I am able to make temporary weapons out of earth whenever I want. I should try doing it with condensed light elemental mana. That would be smart too." Since it was clear that Walker had caught on to her a little, Alice didn't hesitate to start a soft song under her breath. She had wanted to show off but she also wanted Walker to be able to use light with her. She knew that Walker was very good at helping the other mages gather mana if he wanted to. They could make a joint attack if they trained together.

The light that condensed in tune to Alice's soft singing was a thin light blade that seemed like it would be carried by a swordsman that used speed. It was not detailed in any form or fashion but it was tough to add details to a blade condensed from light elemental mana.

"I know that touching it should be tough, but I bet that you can control them not to hurt yourself so you could probably wield your light elemental weapons without any issues. But I will have to try and learn a skill to make sure I won't get hurt." Light elemental mana was not normally condensed like this. A solid mana of any kind could be dangerous. Even earth elemental mana condensed heavily within a small piece of stone could cause issues. It was why some elemental crystals shattered.

After watching Alice reach out a hand and grab the sword made of light, Walker was amazed to see that she was letting the light flow around her. The saint of light title had made her better at controlling light, yes, but so had her relationship with Horizon. The bond that they shared was strengthening her understanding and ability to use light elemental mana.

Just like the former adventurer guild master, Ibis, Alice had a unique relationship with light. When she sang, she was able to control it better than any light mage that Walker had heard of until now. The best part was that Alice was still learning. That was why the light stopped spreading and only managed to make a partial light robe of condensed light elemental mana.

The sword and the robe combination would be her ideal form for healing and defense. She could patrol much safer than before. Even more, she would still be able to change the song she was singing to create additional light blades to send at enemies.

"That's actually pretty amazing. You have started to break the limits of your system. Or maybe you are just starting to find that there aren't limits."

Out of many people, Walker believed that Alice had a great system because it was not as limited as it seemed. She had the issue that she would almost always have light react when she spoke. But she had worked on that downfall. However, she also had the ability to control light elemental mana, condense it, and truly use it as she wished. She might not have major offensive skills, but with the right song and amount of mana, Alice could create a great offensive, defensive, or healing skill.

"I will try to manipulate the light and make a sword too. Then we can see what happens when they clash." Walker knew that they might do nothing because Alice had better control of the mana. He had to try though. Learning to manipulate light elemental mana would help him become better overall when fusing elemental mana in to natural mana. There was also the bonding with Alice since she clearly wanted to be able to share this with him.

The light seemed not to want to bend to Walker until Alice released the light robe she had made. With just the sword as her focus, it became stronger but it left more mana for Walker to control. It was interesting feeling that the light elemental mana would not readily do what he wanted it to do with Alice's control. This made him wonder what would happen if he made the natural mana the core of his control over mana. Could he still beat someone with perfect control of a single mana? Or would it be harder?

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Chapter 1613 1613. Deflecting Light

Focusing on who would be stronger with light elemental mana was not the goal Walker had though. Instead, he was supposed to be patrolling. However, he didn't see any issue in using the patrol to also train since there were multiple other patrol groups around along with the ship being very close by.

"I would say my light blade is less condensed compared to yours but I should be able to control it." Walker made a motion with his hands and the light blade he had created in the air was moved with it. "I just can't hold it like it's nothing. I need to manipulate it and use a little more mana to do so. Yours is easily held because of your song."

The intentions of Alice's singing were clearly an important aspect of her skills. Because she sang with the intention that the light blade she had created would be a held sword, then it was unable to harm the person holding it. Walker's was a different story.

The light blade or light spikes he made were controlled by mana. If he touched it then he had to use mana to move it still while keeping the shape. If he did not move it with mana then it would harm his

hand. The condensed light elemental mana wants to escape being condensed. All condensed mana wanted that.

Alice further demonstrated that her light sword that she had created seemed to copy the way a normal sword acted by slashing at a nearby rock. The crisp ringing of mana was the similarity to metal that anyone would be able to pick up on. This single reason made it seem that the intention to create a sword made it have even more characteristics.

"Your singing really is amazing. Because you sing of swords made from light you have literal swords made of light. I wonder what would happen if you sang about flames of light? Would you get the same illusions as when you sing a healing song? Or would you get light that just looks like fire?"

"The same as healing." Alice's answer came and the sword of light in her hand dissipated pretty quickly. It was another lesson for Walker when it came to the mana not wanting to be condensed. Yet, as he looked at the mana in Alice's sword fade, it was quick. Almost as if it was just losing shape and still waiting for her to control it.

"The light mana still hangs out around you though. If I make a sword it dissipates and doesn't remain close. You have the light attracted to you so you can manipulate it much faster. I think that is a part of the saint of light, your innate affinity, and you're bound with a grand elemental spirit. It's the perfect storm of light based attraction." It was a real blessing when it came to being able to control light. Not many people would ever have so many things assisting their use of an elemental mana.

Hearing that Walker was using her songs to work out her relationship with the elemental mana and learn more made Alice very happy. She wanted to train with Walker so that she could see him analyze her skills and songs. It was the best way that she had found that she was able to expand her knowledge. Su had done much of the same thing.

The way that the attacks against Su's defenses were not physical and only al made Alice feel that she should look for a weapon that channeled the elemental mana. If it did, then she would have the ability to have physical attacks even though she didn't have many attacks in general. But the al attack being nullified would prove less dramatic if some damage was done. There was also the fact that her created attacks might remain for a little longer if she managed to have a physical core for them.

"Alright, start throwing it at me. I am ready to do a little training. I will try to stop your light blades and spikes. Then I can try to block them and manipulate the light mana defensively." The defensive use of light elemental mana was what attracted Walker most. Su had learned to create a secondary shield over

hers that she could cause to grow and cover other people. It was able to help her heal to a small degree while also blocking physical and al attacks. How could Walker not want to learn such a thing? It would be invaluable in the right situation.

"Get ready." Alice's soft and calm face scrunched up in to a serious expression that Walker could barely stop himself from smiling over. He would never get tired of her and how she looked when she was about to act seriously, He found it much too adorable. But what he didn't find adorable was that the light sword she had made appeared in her hand too fast. It was almost in a single breath.

Instead of attacking from a distance, Alice dashed forward and swung the sword in an arc toward Walker. This forced him to raise his hands and call the light mana. But no shield or blocking force appeared which made him need to jump away from Alice.

She didn't let up on Walker either. The single focus she had was to show him that she had begun to learn her own swordsmanship from her songs. The song she sang was full of low and high pitches. When Alice would dash forward or change her direction, she would drop to a low hum. It was nearly silent, but if Walker focused he could hear it.

The unfortunate part was, that when the song suddenly became high pitched and sharp, the attack was already coming. The slight blade would already be slashing down or at his side. Walker found it was actually more challenging than he would expect. That Alice was much faster than he had imagined.

"How can you be getting...Ha, that's how!" Walker looked down and saw that Alice had wrapped her feet in light. It looked like they were a pair of light boots but they were the reason for Alice's speed. She was literally buffing herself with her light armor. Just because she couldn't create a full armor set didn't mean that she couldn't create something. And boots made of light were perfect to boost her speed.

"Fine, then we get serious!" Walker saw a small smirk as Alice dashed toward him yet again. But this time, Walker had already gathered some of the mana copying how Alice had. Instead of a shield, he focused the mana on his hands. Like gloves, or better, gauntlets.

The natural mana that Walker used to assist him in speeding the condensation of light mana was very well used and the best idea he could have. The natural mana was able to manipulate the balance of mana around him which caused his hands to be coated in light twice as fast as he would without using natural mana.

The gauntlets that formed were similar to the pair that Su wore with her armor. Walker didn't have much in the way of creativity. He just went with something he was used to seeing as often as possible. This also made him use the mana much more efficiently because imagining the shape the light took was simpler for him.

When Alice saw that Walker was reaching out a light covered hand to catch her light sword, she tried to retreat. Yet, when she pulled back her sword was already caught. Walker found that it did not cut the gauntlet at all. "So you didn't intend to cut me just train with me. Well, I need to test the toughness so let's see what your sword can do." Walker released Alice's light sword and watched her distance herself.

The three other light blades that appeared within the air struck down toward him. Walker couldn't take the time to dodge since he had committed to testing the results of his light manipulation. Therefore, he turned his hands in to fists and struck out the same way he had seen Remey deflect attacks with her knuckles.

The light swords coming at him were trying to pierce him one by one in a perfect test of his defensive skills. Walker felt that he was flowing through the same motions Remey had used before. It was a mix of memory and bodily action. But when He came in contact with the first light sword, he felt that the light gave way a little. The sword was deflected but his gauntlet had been broken.

Therefore, the second attack would need much more focus. The second light blade that was coming at him would need to be deflected with even more light elemental mana if Walker didn't want to be cut. He had to get more serious.

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Chapter 1614 1614. Radiant

The sudden additional pressure to make the light denser around him caused Walker to instinctively pull the mana around him faster. This sudden tug on the natural mana caused the light elemental mana to become much denser in a rapid burst.

The light that formed around Walker's hands and half his arms was not completely formed compared to the light gauntlets he had created around his hands to defend the light blades. This was not the issue though, he wasn't sure how the deflection would go since he had still not formed a skill, but Walker couldn't think of this in the moment.

His hand was already in motion to strike aside the light blade. The light on his arms seemed to still be taking in the light while he was moving. The second that the light blade hit the gauntlet that had formed, the light blade shattered. The reaction between Walker's super charged light armor and the light blade which was not backed by natural mana was dramatic.

The parts of the shattered light blade adhered themselves to Walker's arms as the third light blade approached. Walker could only keep himself in motion while a smirk grew. The feeling of the natural mana bolstering the light elemental mana to another level made Walker understand.

The flow of mana was highly influenced by the compounded natural mana. It was something that Walker had already felt before but in a much smaller sense. The sudden emotion Walker felt, the adrenaline, had pushed Walker to instinctually tackle a stronger grip on natural mana. That in turn allowed him to manipulate the light elemental mana much more powerfully. That was why he did not fail to burst in to a greater smile when the system proved that he had acted properly.

'The user has allowed his body to act on instinct. The user has properly molded natural mana to assist in the creation of higher skills. The skill radiant armor has been taken from the angelic warrior system.

Radiant armor- 5 mana 10 natural mana

The user will bolster their defenses immensely using the continuous flow of natural mana to meld with their own and light elemental mana. It will create armor of the user's molding out of light elemental mana. The condensed light elemental mana will be able to repair itself from surrounding light elemental mana.

The user will be able to walk normally with this armor as long as they expend mana to fuel it. This skill is normally unique to angelic warriors and those with unique methods of manipulating light elemental mana. It is a great symbol of power in some cultures.'

The radiant armor was not fully created but it was clear enough that it was able to be formed. Walker's arms and part of his torso had been covered in radiant armor similar to Su's armor that Walker had been envisioning. The last light blade didn't even need to be deflected. It hit Walker and shattered adding to the armor's growth.

"Alice, I learned a new skill. It's from copying how you were making armor. It's called radiant armor and I bet you can learn it!" Walker's sudden shout of excitement was enough to somewhat startle Alice who had become focused on Walker's sudden change in light manipulation.

"It says it needs natural mana and I can condense natural mana in to a mana gem. That means I can have equipment altered so that you might be able to make a better armor around you. But you can control mana through a unique skill, your singing! That means you should be able to make radiant armor without natural mana!" Walker could only feel more excited thinking about how he and Alice would be able to match armor in battle. To show everyone around them brilliance.

"Su will be very jealous you stole her armor." Alice's response was not at all what Walker had expected. Her tone and laughter as Walker looked at himself made him feel a little silly. His radiant armor was clearly a copycat of Su's armor but he had done so since it was the most familiar after his own armor. And when anyone thought of defense in their party, Su was who they thought of. She was their guardian.

"Fine fine, I will try and make it more unique, but we should go back to the ship's forge. I am sure I have a mana gem around that we can alter. Some of the blacksmiths might be able to help us make a necklace with a string of mana gems. That should work. Then I will store the natural mana in them." Walker was running off on a tangent. He hadn't even realized that the armor he had made was dissolving and Alice was trying to drag him toward the ship.

"You're back a little early? Did your light show get tiring?" Gil had come down from the look out tower when he saw Walker stepping through the air holding Alice.

"I had a great breakthrough in using light elemental mana. Actually, Rise might like to see what I am working on. I will get her too. Then I will head to the forge and make something. Can you take the next patrol spot from us?" Gil just shrugged, he didn't mind since he was getting restless. He wanted to take the elven archers with him to test the arrows they had made.

"Good luck, but remember that you owe me an extra slice of bacon at dinner." Gil's price was fair. Walker would make sure he held up his side of the bargain.

"Rise! Can you come down? I have something to show you!" Walker heard the flap of wings before Rise glided down from the clouds. She looked annoyed until she felt the denser light elemental mana around Walker.

"You managed to learn a little something. Hm?" Her interest was enough to keep her focused. The only time that she felt this density of light mana was when she used slightly stronger attacks.

"I did, it's a skill called radiant armor. I assume you can use something similar. Alice used her song to make some armor but it was partial. Tried it and found out natural mana could help it from. I made radiant armor but a pure light version of the skill is possible with unique skills. Alice has her singing and you have draconic skills. It should be possible for you to make light armors as well as Alice and I."

"So you have called me to see such a simple thing? I can create armor if I desire." The scales on Rise's arms formed a shining layer of light mana scales. She could easily make an entire second skin to protect herself.

"Interesting. The dragon version is a second set of scales... but the version I use is this." Walker pulled on the natural mana to form one gauntlet of radiant light armor. The shine was dense and seemed to nearly match the scales on Rise's body. "The natural mana boosts the strength. If I can refine the skill I can use it better." Rise watched as she saw Walker also had more to say.

"If I condense some natural mana in to mana gems, then maybe, we can use them to boost the light mana we all use. Alice and you can have stronger light armor or skills in general with it. If we had a natural mana rune gathering pattern we might even be able to make an inscribed mana gem." The idea seemed too grand. The only thing that could do this was the eternal orb for now.

"So you believe you can bring greater strength to all of the skills a dragon or even a human has by creating natural mana gems? To control natural mana to a small extent. That does sound familiar. When the nature dragon was recorded in our history, they were able to greatly enhance every dragon's strength in battle. It was not just an addition to a story." Rise was becoming even more interested. She had not believed the stories, yet, now she was realizing just how true they were.

"So this has been seen before. Even more evidence that we should try it. Do you want to come to the forge with us? We will try to make a mana game and maybe a few smaller ones in to a necklace. Then we can test the theory properly." Walker's exuberant attitude made Alice want to drag him right to the forge. Even Rise was showing a little excitement.

"I will overlook this endeavor. It is only right to prove this theory with me as a witness. Especially if it will influence the growth of other dragons." Rise kept herself proper while she kept up with Walker and Alice moving toward the forge.

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Chapter 1615 1615. Molding

The idea to make it so that the mana gems would only hold natural mana was not as simple as it sounded. Walker was able to store natural mana within the eternal orb because it had been made to house every single elemental mana which included natural mana when they fused together.

The normal mana gems usually could only host one singular mana. That meant that it would most likely be unable to hold all the elemental manas to combine in to natural mana. In turn, that would make them unable to store mana without Walker adding the natural mana directly. Unless he somehow managed to inscribe a natural mana rune on to them, which he did not have the ability to do because natural mana runes were not something he knew.

"I do not enjoy cramped places such as this. They are much too dirty to even sit down." Rise hated the forge. She was a dragon that stayed in the wide open sky where she could absorb the light elemental mana as often as possible. The idea of being confined was disgusting to her. This is also why she could never understand Terron or any other earth dragon who would prefer large caves.

"It's just for a little while. If you really don't like it we can go to the top of the ship and I can use my portable forge skill. It would just take longer to set up. I just thought it better to use forges that were already heated." The forges had been lit and were in use. The odds were that they would always be in use as long as the ship was able to stay afloat.

Dwarves and a few other non dwarf blacksmiths moved around fixing small parts on armors along with weapons. Just because Walker had not faced any damages while patrolling did not mean that others had not. Some of the dragonkin had managed to break their armor defending against the assassin jackets. Not to mention the fact that the bones of the frogs could also dull or chip blades.

"Where do we start?" Alice was a little too excited to see Walker forging something for her. She had not been able to watch him work with blacksmithing skills. It would be very interesting. However, she was clearly already feeling the heat which prompted Walker to share the necklace that Midnight had given him which cooled the body.

"We need the mana crystal shards. Luckily, I have some in my storage. But I think we should have a bunch more left over from some true spirit crafting practice. It takes a lot of mana to make something like that but the elemental spirits seem to help a lot even though they don't always dwell within the practice creations."

Walker knew that the crystal shards were saved more and more by the blacksmiths since the need for the mana gems was on the rise due to items needing them. The true spirit crafting endeavors were the main reason. The items made with the technique would need a mana gem to house the mana that the elemental spirits stored. It also needed them to use the skills they developed after the item was forged.

Those molds are what we will use to force the mana gem shards to become different shapes. They also need to be heated a lot. Midnight has used her dragon fire to make the process easier. That's not required though, I should be able to manipulate the heat well enough." Walker was more talking to himself as he became more and more focused.

"I can probably add more light elemental mana to the forging fires too so that the natural mana I use to fill the mana gems will better meld with light elemental mana. That could smooth things over." A few of the dwarves saw that Walker was preparing mana gem molds while also grabbing up the mana crystals.

The interest was out of sheer curiosity. Some knew that Walker was friends with the wandering blacksmith and wore many items that were created by him. Just knowing that Walker had also helped the wandering blacksmith was a major reason for them to watch him work. They could learn a few small tricks from Walker who might have learned them from the wandering blacksmith. It was a major opportunity.

The first mold that Walker grabbed was the largest mana gem mold he could find. It was the size of a large strawberry. But it had a flat side so that it would better be used as jewelry. This would be optimal compared to the rounded mana gem molds that were better used to string on the necklace in smaller sizes.

The other smaller molds that Walker grabbed were mainly for jewelry in general. There were different shaped molds that would fit in to pieces of armor or shields. But they were mainly too large or shaped to fit the general shape of what they were intended for. If any were used for jewelry it would be bulky and uncomfortable.

"Alright, Can you sing any songs to condense the light elemental mana? I want to see if it is easier to bring more light mana in the entire environment so that I can draw on it. Maybe it can make some white flames that will incorporate the mana and higher heat." Walker had not truly made a mana gem by himself but he had watched the process. A small failure here and there would not be an issue.

"I was curious if you would ask for my flames. I have never done such a thing for others. It would diminish my stature. You are wise not to ask." Walker had a feeling that if he had asked Rise to heat the forge with light elemental flames, that she would have become angry. But he also knew that Alice was more than happy to be his partner for this. She could sing a song that would boost his ability to draw on the mana he wanted to mix with the gem's structure.

"I thought it better for Alice to help since she would be the one using the gems we make. It could also help her draw the natural mana out of the gem when she needed it. It might not really be possible because she doesn't have a natural mana manipulation skill but in theory, this will work." Walker could also incorporate a little of Alice's mana in to the creation just because she would be expending it nearby. It would only take a little guidance.

The forge was easily heated up with a pull of a few levers. They were made so that they could increase by adding air from the bottom. It was a very wise choice when it came to heating with speed. But the ingenious idea was inlaying the forge with multiple mana gems made with fire elemental mana as the focus. This would allow the forge to retain and absorb fire elemental mana to further heat the products put inside.

The mold proved heavier than Walker though but he had greatly strengthened his body with the stat points from his level ups over time. He was able to show off his strength as he split the mold in half while placing the gem shards within it. He used just enough to fill the mold before pressing it down and resting the first mold near the forge to allow it to slowly heat. The drastic change in temperature was never good because it could lead to potential stress cracking.

Rise was watching with great interest. She had not been present when dwarves or humans had smithed anything. She rarely even looked over the work that her own blacksmiths would do since she didn't feel the need for armor. However, the more that the other dragons spoke about the armors they were going to have made, she had become a little jealous. Especially since the true spirit forging technique could allow a light elemental spirit to join her and increase her mana mediation.

"Normally this will take a few hours, but since we have the mana and the skills to manipulate the heat better, I might be able to speed it up." Walker tried his best to copy every single small step he could

remember the wandering blacksmith make. He became solely focused on the forge and heating the molds he was placing within it.

Something about the process made him feel like he was being lulled in to a comfortable dream. Alice's singing had started and the light elemental mana had become a fog around him. It further helped Walker forget that anyone was even around him. He didn't notice the many dwarves that came to watch him from a short distance away.

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Chapter 1616 1616. White Hot Forge

Taking out the single handed elemental hammer from his storage, Walker started to slam the molds to force them the rest of the way together. The hotter the molds got the better it would go. The shaping of the mana gem could not have any air bubbles inside it at all. If it did, the mana entering it would cause it to immediately shatter. Being dangerous was just the start of this issue, it could cause an unfortunate elemental attack accidentally.

Walker had reached out to pull more of the light elemental mana toward the flames of the forge. The heat was increasing the more mana that he pushed in to the forge. The fire elemental mana in the forge of the ship had been dense already, now that it was being pulled toward one forge, it was even more intense.

The white flames that Walker was envisioning were not the same cleansing flames he had seen before. He was imagining the flames that held danger. The flames that were so hot that you wouldn't even feel the burns they gave you if you touched them.

The mixing of light elemental mana in to the fire elemental mana was increasing greatly. This was bringing out the dangers that light elemental mana possessed. Most people only saw light elemental mana as a safe and healing kind of power. But this was mainly because of the churches and healers that used it.

Yet, many had proven the dangers of light elemental mana. Alice was a living example of the things that she could create if she was able to create a song with her mana. The light could become anything that could defeat, cut, destroy, and so much more. There was power and respect that the light elemental mana needed to be faced with if someone wished to use it.

"Use more authority. The light must bend to your values. Your will. If you give it an inch you will lose all control." Rise spoke with firm intentions. Walker had been in his own focused world as he pushed for more of the light and fire elemental mana to mix.

He wasn't sure where she was around him but Rise's words were clear and concise. They told Walker exactly where he was failing in increasing the bonding of the two elemental manas. The fire elemental mana raged on while the light needed strict control. They were slightly opposing but they could also be one and the same. Roaming free and growing.

Understanding the very essence of a single elemental mana was what needed to be done so that one could grasp the best possible understanding. Walker was more familiar with the warm and loving glow that came from healing or buffs from light elemental skills. He was not as comfortable with the strict, sharp, and dangerous side of light elemental mana. But Rise was and she liked what she was seeing. The growth in front of her eyes was worthy of her guidance.

The simple thing that had come to Rise's attention was that she didn't need to just sit by. Walker was going to be and would remain the next natural dragon royal. She could do nothing about it. But where she could act was in how he grew. He was young. A fledgling in standards of dragons. Their lifespan could bridge thousands of years if they grow properly. Why could she not guide him?

The acceptance was not something Rise would ever speak out loud. She had resisted and even partially fought against the values that Walker and his family represented. They oppose many things she had trained herself to go against. However, she could do something here and there while maintaining her pride.

The small encouragement and advice was enough for Walker to stabilize his mana again. Using some of the natural mana within his body was all he had to do. The light elemental mana was forced to move better with what he intended. The natural mana was his way of holding other singular elemental manas accountable.

Within the natural mana was their opposite but also their match in perfect balances. The fact that this was the case made the elemental mana easier to tame. Adding on the degree of control that Walker already had, the flames began to brighten.

The dim forge that had been lit with orange and red flames soon began to brighten. So much so that some of the younger dwarves and blacksmiths that had yet to gain certain protective skills were forced to look away.

Walker's hammering on the molds increased. He was fully immersed in the forging of these mana gems. It was the same way that the wandering blacksmith acted when he found that he was interested in a new material or idea. Walker had nearly replicated the obsession that led to the wandering blacksmith becoming a great name for many who desired to even look at a forge.

'The skill white flame forging has been taken from the starlight forge master system. The user has learned the skill white flame forging automatically through guidance, prior knowledge, and intense focus bordering on obsession.

White flame forging- passive

The user of this skill is able to more easily meld light and fire elemental manas to create the white hot flames replicating stars. Those who forge in such flames can easily add light elemental affinities to the forged item. Along with this, the white flames can also force the fire elemental mana in to a purified state. This purified state allows them to burn incredibly hot.'

The skill notification was totally missed as Walker dropped the smaller molds in to buckets of tempered oil to cool them. If he had seen the skill, he would realize that this skill was not just something he could use for forging. He would increase the heat of any fire elemental skill he used by bringing the light elemental mana to match the fire elemental mana. Therefore, increasing his strength in fire overall.

"I need a silver ingot!" Walker was in the flow and had already made the gems. He was not even going to check them. Instead, he wanted a silver ingot to begin to forge a necklace. He had a blueprint memorized from the wandering blacksmith's workshop. It was nothing fancy but ideal for what he wanted to do.

If Walker had thought about it, he would have wondered why he said silver. But his instincts told him that silver would perfectly bond with his intended use of the light elemental mana. Silver was often used to face undead and darker species of monsters. It had a natural affinity for light elemental mana which could harm undead more easily.

The blacksmiths that had surrounded burst in to action. They knew the materials and intentions Walker had. They were going to help a creation by someone that had personally worked with the wandering blacksmith more than once. For them, this was the same as indirectly assisting a master. Walker could even be considered a partial student of the wandering blacksmith.

The silver was white hot in just a few breaths after being placed in the forge. Walker was easily able to hammer it and began shaping it. He had forged things before and was able to replicate some of the simple techniques when it came to creating the chain necklace with small inlays here and there for gems.

The skills he showed off were enough to make anyone jealous who had never forged before in their life. While his work was miles away from a master's work, Walker showed that the level he had was well above average just because of his mana control.

'Natural light gem

This natural light gem is the near perfect fusion of natural mana and light elemental mana affinity. Due to the high amount of light elemental mana used and natural mana used to pacify it, this gem can hold both light and natural mana. It can only ever hold the two manas in tandem and if exposed to too much of another elemental mana will risk breaking.'

The gems that Walker took out from the molds were perfect. He did not even need to worry about them as he fitted them in to the heated silver necklace. The metal was still soft so that he could form it to the gems without worry that he would ever have to reset them in the metal. He was going to make something that would last a lifetime and then some.

The process was lasting much longer than any of those watching realized. Alice had exhausted all of her mana and then some after drinking the mana potions handed to her. But Walker had also drunk some through the process. But what truly shined was the finished product as Walker began to polish the metal and the gems to remove small bits of ash from them.

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Chapter 1617 1617. Perfect For You

Walker was sitting back on a chair that one of the dwarves had brought over to his work table. The necklace he had just made was resting on a clean black cloth to show it off. This was the best way that any jeweler would polish something. They would put it on an opposing color fabric to ensure that it was absolutely perfect all the way around.

"I would like to say this is the best possible thing I have ever made, but It might be better than that. I was really in the flow to get this done. I tried my best to copy everything that the wandering blacksmith does when he makes something with my help." Walker knew that this necklace was very good.

The small shimmers of light within the mana gems proved that there was a perfect mix of light elemental mana that would always be there. He could even sense the natural mana that had taken up a home within the mana gems while he had worked on it. This was a surprising event. He had not intentionally stored any but the gems had done so from the ambient mana.

It wasn't the same as a mana gem or set of equipment that could store mana through a rune carved on it. This was simply because this mana had been trapped there while it was being made. Although, this clearly made the necklace come out better.

There were also the white flames that had purified the metals with light elemental mana. The heat that it brought was intense enough that even the forge looked like it had worn away a year's worth of tough built on slag. Furthermore, the silver metal ingot used had also been very close to the light elemental mana while forging because of the white flames. It had taken on more light elemental affinity than it had naturally.

'Natural light gem necklace

Def +1, Condensed Light elemental mana +30, condensed natural mana +30

Natural mana and light elemental mana were extremely important to the forging of this accessory. While sacrificing any other boost in defense or al strength, the mana storage ability is one above the rest.

While the storage does not seem large at first, it is for condensed light and natural mana. This is due to the multiple natural light gems within the necklace. Because of this, the mana s can be stored with higher purity making them last longer for the wearer.'

"Overall, I would say it's a success." Walker read out the all around appraisal. He had a soft smile because he could feel his aching arms. The surrounding blacksmiths felt that they had just watched an amazing show. They had not seen the white flames used by just anyone. White flames were usually due to purely heat.

However, as professional blacksmiths that had learned this for generations, they knew that the white flames were more unique. They could never use the light elemental mana to forcefully boost the heat due to natural mana control. It was something that only Walker or another could do. It was something spectacular and if they could manage it, they would be deemed a genius among geniuses.

"I wish to have one of those like it. If you say that natural mana can increase my abilities, then I will want the natural light gems added. I expect that you will be able to assist the blacksmiths creating this since there are some that are still learning from your wandering blacksmith." Rise just looked at Walker calmly. She had to take advantage of something that would allow her to get stronger faster.

The ability for a dragon to increase the strength of their attacks or just their usage of their specific elemental man was a great boon. Rise could only see that the addition of natural mana in the same way Walker did here was ideal. She could use it to draw in condensed light elemental mana that would be usable by her. How could that be bad? But she was not going to take from Alice in front of her. She may be a dragon but taking from a weaker being like it was nothing was an insult to life itself and a stain on her pride.

"I will help out when I can. I am sure that a few rumors will spread. I can't escape the fact that I will have to make more natural mana gems." Walker knew that it would be a lot of hard work in the future. Yet, he felt it was a very good thing. If people relied on the natural mana that he put in to mana gems, then they would slowly adapt to higher amounts of natural mana. From there, even more system users of natural mana may be born. A great thing indeed.

"Alice, what do you think? You are so quiet?" As much as Walker wanted to place it directly on Alice's neck, she was frozen, staring at the necklace. It seemed that she was completely stuck.

"She is just stunned that you would be able to make something so beautiful and useful. Her heart is beating too fast for her to speak. You have effectively stunned my new saintess." Horizon seemed to have left Alice's spirit mark at some point and was looking down from above Walker. No one had even noticed him doing so, even Rise was surprised that he managed to sneak past her.

"But that's a good thing. Almost as good as this necklace. It's ideal for some small reforging in to those spirit forged things I have been told about. It can be my resting place in the future. Just learn to carve some runes and I will take it." Horizon just floated lazily around the forge after speaking. There was a slight mischievous aura around him.

"It's too good...How can I wear it?" Alice finally spoke up with her voice barely louder than a mouse could be. She didn't feel that she should be able to take something made with so much effort. She may have helped to a degree but when she looked at the necklace she was too stunned. It was just too perfect.

The silver glint of light affinity metal was perfect for anyone to wear. It would naturally pair with light elemental mana. The natural light gems were something that Alice knew did not exist anywhere else. They were too precious. A perfect gem that would help her in everything that he did that revolved around her light elemental mana controlling abilities. Too perfect.

"I doubt you can't take it. I made it for you and you will have it as long as you want it." Walker didn't hesitate to stand up. He could ignore some soreness to clean his hands in a nearby bucket of water before grabbing the necklace.

Alice didn't even have the will to resist as Walker moved a little closer to her and clasped the natural light gem necklace around her neck. He could feel her breath on him as he did so making his face turn a brilliant shade of red. However, he was calm as could be even though at this distance he could hear the pounding of Alice's heart.

Walker knew that he and Alice had not been able to spend a lot of time alone together. They had been too busy. But somehow, Walker felt that this had increased the strength of their relationship. They had been proud to see the other getting stronger while busy. Something that could only be said by people that had strong feelings.

"It also looks perfect on you. Like it was made for you or something." Walker saw Alice's face begin to light up as he said this. She didn't let Walker pull away and instead, she grabbed him and squeezed him in to a hug with all her might. If Walker was not stronger than Alice he was sure that he might pop from the pure happiness within her hug.

"This is a normal human thing. Very odd that wrapping your arms around one another has been considered a show of affection. I can understand the touching of lips since that shows weakness and openings as a sign of trust. But this is just different." Rise was mumbling to herself. She still did not grasp why other races do the things they do. But most dragons and dragonkin would find themselves wondering the same things having lived more isolated lives.

The fact that many people were still around dawned on Alice and Walker before they separated from each other and tried to pretend that they were acting normally. It seemed that this was what the dwarves were waiting for. The flood of questions came like a broken dam.

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Chapter 1618 1618. Dark Training

By the time that Walker, Alice, and Rise had finished their time in the forge, Walker had been thoroughly talked to death. He felt that he couldn't manage to answer another question if his life depended on it. But that was just how much the other blacksmiths wanted to learn from the wandering blacksmith.

"I thought you would never enter a forge, it's very confined in there." Mordant saw the three as they made it to the top of the ship. They had all taken time to rest. Rise hadn't really needed it but she was still very interested to see the process in which Walker stored the natural mana for Slice to use. She wanted to see the results of what had been made.

"I was overseeing the creation of a valuable new mana storage gem that could change the armors all dragonkin and dragons wear. You should spend more of your time valuing the future of the dragons." Rise's response was sharp enough to cut.

Mordant only smiled seeing that he had gotten some annoyed looks from Rise. "I have been guiding something else. Look at those three, they seem to have gotten themselves very wound up here." Mordant had been helping Leon, Su, and Midnight train.

"Why is Leon there? I thought he would be busy...unless Scylla took the lead as we started moving again." Waker noticed instantly that Scylla was nowhere to be seen which meant she was most likely in the water. But she had to take a trump in to the underwater areas at some point, so this did make some sense.

"That is the case. Scylla desired to check the work and the sands washed down the river. No one argued because she was able to take over a larger portion of the underwater patrol with her leviathans." Mordant's explanation made them all agree. Scylla had the ability to cover much more ground than the other demi-humans or merfolk.

"Midnight was asking me about how to blend in with shadows better. She had some guidance about her light elemental breath attacks and wanted to better utilize her fire. But she has no issue making dark

and fire elemental flames. It is second nature because of her mother. This is clearly passed down. But she lacks the ability to confuse others with shadows like this."

Since Mordant had been standing right in front of them, neither of them realized that he had been starting to demonstrate something. Rise could tell because she had seen it before but Alice and Walker were a little surprised.

The shadows twisted around Mordant's dark scales making it seem like his body was bigger and smaller in fluctuating rhythms. This would make it much harder to strike him since he would be a smaller or larger target at different times. Overall, it was a very good skill to have when it came to protecting his body from harm.

"Is that a darkness mana type illusion skill?" Walker knew it at a glance. He felt that he was watching someone so well practiced in darkness that he should just assume it anyway.

"Yes, it is. But it can be done with light too just to a smaller degree because it is more similar to blinding someone with light. I am using my own shadow to wrap my body here and there. But instead of just hiding in shadows I let myself get shown to others. This will make them attack you and miss attacks more often. It tricks their mind that you are where they see and not where you truly are."

To demonstrate this, Mordant walked in a simple circle around Walker and Alice. His shadow seemed to leave a trail behind him while also stepping ahead of him. It was clear that Mordant was leaving his main body clearer so that Walker and Alice could learn about this skill. "If Midnight manages to alter her shadow wrapping skill like that then she might be able to stay closer to enemies while battling."

"She can hide anytime." Alice saw a different possibility. She knew that Midnight used the shadow wrapping skill to sneak around often. But with the skill that Mordant was using and the shadow wrapping skill, Midnight could more easily hide away during a battle without causing the enemy to know.

"That's a good point, this is an improvement. It's like being half ready to be in a full shadow wrapping state at any time." Walker grew more interested while he watched Leon trying to strike Midnight who was using slower motions to attempt to use the skill Mordant had just demonstrated.

"So that means that Su is trying to learn a skill that enhances her speed?" Walker saw that Su was moving around Midnight and Leon, trying to jump in and block attacks then retreat instantly.

"Yes, Su had been showing a great growth speed. If you haven't noticed, she is accepting the bonds with Midnight and yourself through Midnight much faster than imagined. That is helping her body grow and change." Mordant looked troubled for a little bit.

"What's wrong?" Since it seemed Mordant was worried, Walker had to ask.

"Hmm, She just appears to be a little on edge with her emotions. It is good to put yourself in to a lot of training to get stronger. yet...I believe she is covering up something a little with training. She might not make as many improvements as she believes."

"I can see what you mean. She is rarely that angry looking. But it's not really angry. I will talk to her in a little bit. I want to see what happens when she starts to grasp the ability to move faster with the shadows helping her." Walker saw that Su was too focused. If he were to get in the way now then he might ruin a perfect breakthrough.

The skill that Su had been shown was a skill that used the shadows to assist in speed. The darkness elemental dragonkin used this skill to get around better even though they could also hide completely within shadows to travel. Instead, Su used the shadows to allow her to have less resistance on the ground she walked. If there were shadows, she could push off the ground faster or stop faster. It made her motions sharp but in a way that made her faster and not less elegant.

For someone that carried a lot of weight at all times, having a better ability to move because of the shadows was amazing. It would make Su a much better guardian. She would have to worry less about protecting others. She would be able to get to them when they needed her help faster. Any monster or person that attacked her family would find that she was already in front of them with a shield defending.

The other added bonus came to force. Because Su would be able to move faster, she could improve other skills. Mainly, the shield charge or shield bash. With additional speed came the additional force behind her shield. This could cause more blunt force attacks. Paired with her partner, the earth elemental spirit, Su could create spikes on her shield and do devastating damage as a guardian.

"That was it! Focus on that feeling and run with it!" Mordant saw Su change the shape of a few shadows on the ground. It was a sign that she was beginning to grasp darkness elemental mana. Since Su had a bind with Midnight, she would be able to better understand all the affinities Midnight had. And since earth and darkness elemental manas worked well together, Su had another advantage.

"So that leaves Leon just training his speed in spearmanship. Good, he can challenge everyone a little." Walker was watching the precision in Leon's moves. It was very clear that Leon trained very often with his spear. It was a perfect extension of who Leon was.

"If I heard him correctly, Leon said he desired to awaken the spear soul skill. A skill that I have seen written but not in person." Mordant wanted to explain more but it seemed that Walker had already heard of this skill before. A very important skill that any person mastering the spear would want to learn.

"That's the skill where someone who has a mastery of their system can use all of their mana to enhance their entire spearmanship for a single set period of time. If I remember, they can only use that skill a limited number of times a year." Walker knew this because whenever someone achieved this level of their system it was always shared as a major story in the world. Many people would go to see that master.

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Chapter 1619 1619. Just More Pushing

"If I move any faster my spear will hit you!" Leon was sure that he could push the two in front of them further. He had not trained with many people recently other than his own warriors and the dragonkin. It had become repetitive so he had been thinking about breaking the pattern.

The moment he had heard that Remey and Gil had been training on the top of the ship between rotations of patrolling, Leon jumped at it. He looked around and saw that Midnight was seemingly practicing absorbing elemental mana but Mordant had just approached her. On top of that, he had spotted Su around as well. The idea had come like a wave.

Just a few words had brought Midnight in to the idea. She had just been told that she should use the darkness elemental mana that she had in a different way. Naturally, her excitement fueled her. And when Leon said he would try and hit her with his spear, Su had decided that it was an ideal chance to train her defensive skills and speed. Mordant had had an answer for that as well.

"As if!" The growl that escaped Midnight's maw was a mocking tone. The translation that the world did for everyone even brought the tones and intentions right to someone's ear. It was a perfect match for the way that Midnight used her childish features. She is proud and unreserved due to her young age. She didn't want to be beaten even if she came against the most powerful of all beings.

"Grasp the mana and move the moment you do. The mana is part of the world you are in. It will always be there, just let it help you." Mordant shouted at Su seeing that she had also heard Leon's claim.

With Midnight retorting and keeping the tension in their little match, Su couldn't let Midnight's words be ignored. They were a team in this and could easily defend against Leon's spears!

The next attacks were much faster. Leon had ramped up the speed as he trained his techniques well. He could only slowly go through the motions for so long before his body yearned to push faster. It was just something that anyone who had let the motions become ingrained within their muscles could do. This was second nature to him.

The spear that Leon shifted side to side while chasing Midnight around was still not coming in contact with her. However, with the encouragement, Su was focusing solely on her movements. Instead of trying to bash Leon, she was letting the spear that would have hit Midnight hit her shield. The result was a decent pushback making Su work harder to move back in to position.

This was in turn pushing Midnight to use the partial shadow wrapping to avoid Leon at all costs. His spear was not aiming to harm her greatly, but it would still cut through her scales due to the quality of his weapon. Even if it didn't cut through her scales, it would cause a lot of bruising and trauma knocking Midnight back. Leon was a lot stronger than he looked. That was something that most people forgot.

Leon had been trained by the king of the merfolk for many years. He was also trained by the best of the best warriors the merfolk had. If anyone were to say that Leon was weak, they would be in for a rude awakening. He had many years to become as strong as he was and represented the merfolk on the Genesis council for a reason.

"Midnight, Is this all you have!" Walker had taken a deep breath. He felt that Midnight was focused but not giving it her best. When he was watching, she was holding herself back slightly. She didn't seem to want to damage any of the ship as she moved. But she was also keeping an eye on Su who was moving around her to block the spear.

There was always something to be said about someone that was looking to protect their family. Su and Midnight were clearly family. Midnight wanted Su to keep up and be safe. But what Midnight did not realize was that this would also hold Su back.

"If you can't beat Leon's fastest speed I will be keeping you from snacks for a week!" Walker's follow up threat drew even more attention from midnight. She had been slightly insulted but also told she would lose snacks. Snacks! Who would ever threaten something so good? It was terrible. A tragedy for the ages.

The growl in response from Midnight didn't need any translation. She had decided to throw caution to the wind and push herself faster and further. Instead of a grip on the shadow wrapping skill, Midnight dug her mental claws in to it.

The darkness elemental mana around her tightened. She could bring the skeletal armor out easily, this was the same. As her skills activated and showed themselves the shadow wrapping became clearer to sight. It had wrapped itself around the skeletal armor while trailing off to her shadow. There was a constant stream of shadow that was creating a secondary and even tertiary image of herself on her sides. It was like looking at an object with your eyes crossed. Hitting her would be immensely harder.

"Now that is the skill I wanted her to learn. It's not the same as I would have expected but it is a very clear shadow illusion. A harder skill to use but she seems to have tied it to her other skills. Shadow wrapping, skeleton armor, and shadow illusion. That is the essence of a darkness dragon assassin." Mordant was grinning like a villain. He was greatly pleased to see that Walker had pushed Midnight to the next level of training.

"I can see that you might take more pride in training your younger dragons than I expected." Walker's surprise and small fears about Mordant came to one conclusion here. Mordant was vicious if left unchecked.

"This is normal for how Mordant acts. He has been this way for many years. He has dragonkin that train under him. Not everyone understands his unique obsession. I am surprised that you have not learned it yet." Rise seemed a little tired, but her eyes betrayed her. They were following Midnight's movements while Leon was speeding up more and more.

"I did not expect that your human guardian would fall behind so much. I thought that the nature dragon royal would be able to give his champion a better guardian." Rise spoke up, surprising Walker. He didn't

expect her to say a word. Let alone a few words that clearly were meant to antagonize Su. However, the small smirk that Rise wore proved she had ulterior motives.

"Who the hell are you to say that!?" The reaction that Su had was drastically different from how she normally was. She stomped her foot on the ground before bringing the shield up.

"As you said, she is on edge. Emotional turmoil will do that to any being. The same as when Ignus causes small tantrums and burned a forest or two. It's almost adorable, she's like all the hatchlings in the first few years." Rise seemed to be showing her softer side while enjoying the anger that Su had shown. It was her growing tensions showing themselves.

"You did that to see her temper? Su might be a little off lately but I think you pushed too-" Walker silenced himself as he saw the shadows around Su's feet bend with resilience. They were benign forced to become springs for Su's movement.

As a light shield wrapped around Su's shield, she pushed off the shadows with explosive force. The result was Leon's spear being slammed backwards with a large metallic ring. Leon's face showed an expression of great surprise seeing that he had been deflected and pushed back. This had not happened the entire training.

"And now we will see what a little hatchling can do when they embrace their instinct." Rise seemed to be playing right in to the emotions that were present for Su's dragon blood. It was growing and now Su had the chance to match those instincts with her human side.

The three watched as Su, Midnight, and Leon pushed the training higher. Leon was nowhere near using the full force but he was smiling. He could feel the strain of Su's shield and Midnight's growing speed stopping him from using his perfect techniques. This strained his muscles and made him become one with his spear much faster.

This was exactly what Leon needed to break through faster. He had to become one with his spear to the point that he could truly have the spear soul skill. He needed it for the dangers that a new continent would hold. So he could protect everyone.

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Chapter 1620 1620. Upcoming Turns

"Now that was what they needed. The young ones always seem to need a little anger to push them all the way." Rise took this as a success and decided to call it a day. She flew back in to the sky presumably changing back to her dragon form above the clouds. Mordant just shook his head since he knew that Rise had actually just done what she wanted and then got bored.

"I will put an end to this, Su and Midnight need to rest now that they forced themselves to grasp a new skill. I don't want them going on patrol like Gil. I know he was tired from making arrows and being on the look out tower." Walker knew that Gil did not even care either. But at least he had multiple archers to watch his back.

"Before you do that, you should be looking at the shadows. Onyx has been there the entire time. I don't think anyone has noticed him." Mordant was smiling very wide at this. He could see much better than the others.

When Walker began to focus on the darkness elemental mana and the shadows. He could sense the shape of something hiding away. By the time he narrowed in on the view of a serpent shape in the shadows, it was already too late. Onyx had already made it in to position.

Without any hesitation, Su had jumped to defend Midnight, but Midnight had only moved back slightly compared to the usual large leaps back. This brought Leon, Su, and Midnight all in to the same close proximity all at once.

The shadows burst up around the three causing surprise to grace their faces. The shadows immediately revealed themselves to be the full size of Onyx's body taking form around them. However, all the three could see were moving dark scales as Onyx wrapped around them. He was trapping them while they had been totally focused. It was very sneaky but also very smart.

The small growls and pleas of freedom were all Walker heard while he moved up to Onyx's head and looked him in the eye. "The victor is the sneaky Onyx and his stealth training!"

"Thank you brother." Onyx released the three while taking his place on Walker's shoulders. He slowly shrank down as he did so, but everyone could tell he was extremely happy to have the praise.

"So, Midnight, you landed a good amount about making a shadow illusion. It looks like you can use it when you are in just about any situation. It will keep you safer while you battle and sneak up on others.

Just because you are a dragon does not mean that you are invincible to everything." Midnight could only look down. She hated that onyx had caught her so easily.

"Leon, I am glad you are training with us. I thought you were a little distant lately but it was just the fact that you were too busy. I would like you to teach me a little about spearmanship at some point. I have a few but never had someone that was as experienced as you teach me." These were Walker's honest thoughts. Leon could see this in his eyes and smiled a little while giving Walker a nod. He had to keep his attention on the merfolk that had been watching the training too so he would be busy.

"Su, nice job but you need to get out of your own head. If you want to talk about it you can...I know some things are hard in life." Walker still had not gotten on the same page as Su but was sure that she was working to get through it. He had complete trust in her judgment.

"Don't worry. I just need to work it all out of my system. It won't matter after we beat a few more monsters..." It seemed that Su still had some tension left. But so did many people. Walker was not going to judge it unless it caused others harm. Su was always caring when it came to who was around her. This was just training and she had been calm and collected in any recent battles. It would be foolish to judge her on everything with this training.

"I think you really got the hang of that shadow step skill? Or is it called shadow propulsion? Because it propelled you pretty fast. I would almost think your agility is higher than Gils'.

"It's called shadow steps. But I like shadow propulsion. It feels like I am in a slingshot that I make out of my own shadow. It is actually pretty fun when I am not letting my emotions rule me...it felt nice though, to let loose." Su was embarrassed that she had let herself be a puppet to her emotions in front of others. Yet, when she glanced at some of the dragonkin, they were still looking at her with pride.

"You are a draconic guardian. From what I can see, you just accepted the instincts in your blood. They think that too. Hell, you may have just become their idol." Walker's laugh rang out thinking about how Su might have an entire fan club made of dragonkin because she would be able to fight them all head on soon. It was comical, to say the least.

"My snacks?" Midnight had been watching Walker like a hawk. She was not going to let him get away with threatening her snacks and then just forgetting that he had said anything at all.

"I would never take away your snacks after you did so well to learn the skill you were training. I am actually very glad that Alice and I came back when we did. Even Rise seemed to think you were doing great. She encouraged Su too. You saw her use the dark and light skills at the same time."

Midnight huffed in response. She was proud that they had made breakthroughs in their training. But more importantly, she knew that they had done very well in their training. "It was inspiring to see." Alice joined the conversation while also pulling Su's hand to show her the necklace that they had just made.

"That's what we were doing in the forge. We managed to make a mana gem that stores natural mana and light elemental mana. It's because I learned the radiant armor skill while training a little with Alice." Walker was also a little embarrassed to say that he had let his curiosity and one track thinking drag multiple people to the forge. But it had also helped him realize that they could make mana gems that were specifically oriented for a certain mana only. That way he could have natural mana and that mana mixed better than just a normal mana gem that stored certain manas alone.

"Can I see it? I want to see how it works." Su touched the mana gem and felt that there was already light elemental mana in it. She gasped a little feeling how strong it was even though there wasn't really much there. "It's condensed light elemental mana?"

"Oh, yes. I forgot to mention that the natural mana helped make the mana gem able to store the condensed light elemental mana as well as the condensed natural mana. I was thinking I would take some time to properly store it and meditate here. I need to rest to get ready for another patrol too. It's been a long day today already. But night patrols are fair for everyone." Walker saw that the sun was already setting. He had to get ready for what the river might have for them tonight.

"Good, rest up now. I have to show you all what we are passing through on the map if you don't already know coming up." Scylla had just set foot on the top of the ship again after being under the water patrolling for some time. She gladly joined the conversation.

"I already know what you will say. There are a few twists and turns coming up. We will travel through them in the night. It should be an interesting event. Especially since that is a good area for monsters to live. I would like some caught for food though. I have heard river snappers are a delicious fish." Mordant didn't hide his own desires before giving a wave and heading toward the railing of the ship to watch the water go by.

"Ah, I forgot about this part of the river. I was so focused on training a little that I should have called my soldiers back. The river snappers are more active at night. Sharp teeth like a giant crocodile but with a

large karp's body. They are a ravenous monster that lives to eat whatever they can get." Leon didn't look happy to have to deal with them. Walker could gather that these monsters were in the river and the oceans.