

## Master 1621

### Chapter 1621 1621. River Snappers

The orders from Leon and Scylla went out to rest up and begin to prepare. The previous night no one had to worry about the monsters underwater. They were nothing to worry about and the merfolk and demi-humans underwater could scare them off without fighting. But the river snappers were different.

They liked to live in water that came back and turned on itself which was exactly where the ship was headed. There were no rapids, the water had long worn away the stone of the earth to become deep at this point. But there were twists and turns left from many years of traveling the path of least resistance.

This lets the waters form wells of slow moving water ideal for large schools of snappers to make nests and breed. The monsters were known for their sharp teeth and willingness to eat whatever came near them. Adding in the nighttime, they would go in to a frenzy where they would try to eat as much as possible before they would go back to the deepest parts of the slow water during the day.

"So you want us to use fire to heat the water? Will the ship be fine?" Scylla had told the water mages that they were more or less useless here since the biggest problem was the monsters that would live in the water and easily resist their attacks. But she had gathered the leaders of the fire mage groups and anyone else that could use fire elemental attacks.

"Hey, don't go trying to make it sound like it won't work. I have fire to punch these things to pieces to let me roast some fish." Remey was understandably annoyed that Walker was trying to make it seem that fire was not the answer. But it was mostly him wondering why Scylla wanted to take this route.

"There will be many of the river snappers here. They are an important, but dangerous, food source. If we were to harm the nesting beds then it would cause a lot of issues. The other generals in charge of the other ships will be in the same position. We have this area marked." Scylla pointed out the three major bends in the river on the map she had been following.

"This place here should be where the most have made their nests. It is the largest bend and it is where the most food for them will get trapped or try to hunt for their own food. Don't think that you can easily beast them in the water, they are great swimmers and easily prey on their own predators." Leon ensured that this warning came across before Scylla continued.

"They eat the fisherman that fishes them up but the fisherman can still eat them. It's a monster that fits prey and predator. If I fought them in a war it would be very hard to counter them at all times. But they have more value." Scylla looked annoyed.

"I know that you are not as used to focusing on the extra issues and prefer battle. Let me take that in to account." Leon was going to step up. He had to focus on his people more than he was on the battle aspect of things. This was the perfect compliment to Scylla's battle forward personality.

"The portion of river we are on can become a great place for us to provide Genesis with fresh monster meat all year long. It will be a place where the merfolk can make a solid business home. Most of the sentries at any outpost would be merfolk here." Hearing Leon's plan for this section of river was exactly what Scylla had wanted to get at. She was sure that this would be the ideal for this situation. She also would have preferred to just eradicate the monster dangers if she didn't need to worry about these things.

"I understand, it has a better purpose to leave the monster nests there than to beat them and completely get rid of the danger. That being said, we will take some so that we can create some dried river snapper. Then we will head toward the next bend." Scylla put the plan flat. She looked at the fire mage and Walker closely.

"I will need you to create flames that spread out over the top of the water and force them to swim lower. They can not damage the metal of the ship but will definitely attack it if the water is not too warm for their liking."

"So what would I do? Just stand around with my knuckles on fire?" From what Remey saw, she would be useless.

"No, river snappers can jump. That's why the dragonkin are choosing places to stand around the ship. We want you on the very front. When they jump we want you to burn them to a crisp before they can even yet close. It will be where the most of them jump out of the water." Scylla grinned like a devil while explaining this. It was a simple way to say that she was going to make Remey fight the most out of anyone.

"Pfft, fine. I'll do it if it's that important. Better me than him since he has to heat bathwater." Walker wasn't sure what he had done to be brought in to it but could only look at Remey bewildered.

"I can use my fire arrows but I would lose a lot of them. I think it will be the best for archers to focus on the larger river snappers. We can defeat them and use them to distract the smaller ones with some food." Scylla nodded to Gil who immediately left to let the other archers know. Eh was not going to alter this path.

"Otherwise, we will need the healers ready to heal burns. The dragonkin may resist the fire and so can the mages, but there will not be an absence of injuries." This was aimed at Su and Alice. Leon could tell that Su was going to be unable to defend everyone. However, Su had made her knowledge of healing clear to the world. She could supply the proper guidance and materials to whoever needed to wrap or begin protecting their wounds. Mixing this with Remey's potions, Su was like a dedicated doctor.

"We can heal as we go or we could focus on a position for the injured to return to." Alice was much more relaxed while speaking here. She had taken on a serious role as the main leader of any healing effort. Walker could only be proud of how she spoke out easily. Her courage had only grown by the day since she had found that she actually held a different bloodline and a bond with a grand elemental spirit. She realized she had strength and that she would more than catch up with those she cared for. She was not a weak link.

"Good, we will allow a separate space at the center of the top deck for that. I want those with light wounds to move to healers as soon as they happen. It will be a potion intensive process but it will be worthwhile to prevent larger injuries." Leon let Alice and Su leave to take this over.

"Now, go and found your positions. Walker, you will remain with Remey. The two of you are the leading team that will keep the front safe. She will remove the jumping river snappers and you will start a path." Having the two of them work together with the fire elemental mana was also the best method to ensure that things went better.

When Remey used her body with a grand fire elemental spirit to enhance her flames, Walker could piggyback off that. From there, the waters would heat faster allowing for the few fire mages to do even more work with less effort. It was a mana saving plan that could be used during the longest of battles. And seeing that Scylla wanted everyone to fight through the night, she didn't even have to say why she chose this method.

"Then we move in to place. The sun is nearly set and we are on the cusp of the bends." Walker glanced at the sun as it sank below the riverbank. He knew that the night would be long and that everyone would be very tired afterwards.

"Oh, and have Midnight partner up with those that have to switch out because of injuries. I want her to be a roaming attacker. She can heat the water and deal with those that jump. It will be better to have her moving. Onyx can assist as well since he will have a longer reach with his tail to defend the ship." Scylla gave this last instruction before moving to ensure everyone made it to their positions.

.....

Chapter 1622 1622. Prey For The River

The moon happened to be full which everyone on the ship thanked their lucky stars for. This was because the mood was bright enough for them to see the river banks and also the top of the water.

Some sounds that stood out to everyone on post were the lapping of the water against the ship as it turned slowly through the first bend. In other words, the silence was all they could hear. Whenever a change in the water or a small splash occurred, everyone would become hyper focused on it.

"Be on alert, as you can see on the banks a few monsters are starting to gather to cross." Scylla was well aware that some monsters had to travel during the night due to their predators hunting them during the day. And with the full moon, some would be traveling to their breeding grounds.

'Water rat

The water rat is a beast that primarily makes small dens in the side of the river. It will swim under the water to dig out the den then create a small space of air to raise its young. But it must leave the water and the den to hunt for its favorite food, white striped moths.

The white striped moths that the water rats eat are only out when the moon is brightest. Their beautiful appearance is able to attract multiple monsters to feed on them but they breed rapidly which maintains the population. The main predator of the water rat is the black water snake which needs the warmth of the sun to maintain its body temperature...'

Walker mumbled the information to Remey who was watching the largest of the water rats. He knew that she would be asking him if they would be a danger to them at all. "I thought there would be other monsters too. But just water rats? Won't the river snappers not go after them if they are already out of the water?"

"That's because they will have no choice but to enter the water. Can't you see what's starting to creep up beside them while they wait for their favorite white striped moth snacks to come flying in the night?" Walker created a small fire ball and threw it in to the air. The added light was able to light up just enough of the area on the river bank to show what had also come to eat.

'Whisper cats

These cats are not a cute and adorable animals. They are called whisper cats because even their hissing is silent as a whisper. They are night stealth hunters the size of an average toddler. However, they are insanely accurate in their attacks which always hit the weak points of their prey. They also use their incredible stealth to assassinate their prey. These two skills have given them the nickname, small assassin cats.

They love to prey on rodent and bird type monsters of any kind. The more they can hunt them the better since they often travel in families of six to eight. They will often hunt enough for each member of their family to consume one each. But they are also known to hoard food in dens that they soak in their saliva which in turn helps preserve their prey...'

"I see..." Remey didn't look like she cared that Walker had just shown off an interesting enemy. Instead, she had zeroed in on one of the water rats that had fallen prey to its fear. The first water rat that had disturbed the natural flow of the water under the moonlight.

Without a single moment between the water rat falling in to the water and someone breathing or blinking an eye, a sharp toothed mouth opened up and snapped the water rat in half. What proceeded was a torrent of snapping mouths jumping in to the air. Everyone was able to see their very first river snapper as it developed its prey.

The mouths that the river snappers had were definitely like a crocodiles'. But instead of the long scaly body that would be part of the crocodile, there was a fat and powerful tail. The fins were sharp barbs that mirrored the size of the tough, sharp, teeth. "Those are definitely not going to be easy to beat." Remey cracked her knuckles and felt that the fire elemental mana that her partner had been gathering was going to be more than enough to get in to the mood for a battle.

"Hey, I know this isn't the time for it, but you know that Su was training earlier. She seemed a little unstable compared to her usual calmness. I am a bit worried that she is letting the dragon instincts take advantage of her." Walker knew that Su and Remey were very close. But he also knew that Remey would tell him if he was being dumb flat out. The best way to ask her this was right out and in the open.

"Right time? Who cares about timing? We fight monsters all the time, it's normal for us to talk while we do it. Just use the flames well." Remey didn't care what she talked about. But she knew that telling Walker to ask her anything while they fought would give her enough time to have a proper response. But it was also when she felt most comfortable. Even when she was doing alchemy, she felt comfortable in a different way. When she fought, it was like she was back home with her family in the orphanage.

"And Su isn't being affected by her dragon blood like that. The bastard musician fiddle player violin harp strings guy said he didn't want to get closer to her then went on a trip to the north where he could grow as a musician. A fool that will get beaten up if I ever see him. Probably ran too far for that reason."

Walker tensed up hearing that someone had actually done that to Su. In reaction, the flames he had just grabbed hold of and begun to guide were multiplied a little too much. The water started to steam in the sudden reaction of cold and heat.

"Calm down. I am fine so you should be. Su talked with me about it and after a few good fights she will be back to normal. She's using it as a reason to train and become stronger. Just let her be her." Rmeey was being nicer than usual as she got in to the mood to punch something. She was really telling Walker to keep his nose out of it.

"Then I will leave it to her. I just worried and wanted your opinion in case I needed to speak with her too. But-" Remey wound up and punched out. The flames taken from around Walker to deliver a massive bursting fist of flames to a single river snapper that dared to leap up at the ship thinking it was prey. "- alright, focusing up, I get it." Walker gave up and left Remey to smirk at her victory.

"Now that was a good hit. That single fish thing made it all the way to the bank. Ha! Even those kittens are eating it now." Walker felt that this was a strange development. The whisper cats had taken advantage of an easy prey which let more of the water rats escape without falling in to the water.

"I caught one!"

"One? Three over here!"

Those that had realized they could catch rather than punch or slash away the river snappers were looking around in competition. They had no inkling of what hardships the mages had begun to go through while maintaining bursts of flames to create heated water.

"Damn it all! I want to catch more than...Walker, how large do these things get?" Remey asked the sudden question halfway through her annoyed yelling since she felt like others were beating her.

"They should be about the size of dogs maybe? But I suppose they could grow larger if they have enough food. Why?" Remey pointed toward the dark waters that were being lit by flames. Walker directed the fire he controlled toward the place Remey pointed out.

Flames traveled over illuminating the large sharp spinal fins that had barely broken the surface of the water. The large fins that were attached to swimming that dove deep in to the water within a split second leaving the water churning. "It's about to jump."

Walker could feel it. The large river snapper had not swum downwards just to get away from what he had made. It was preparing to leap up and attack whatever prey it thought it could get. And since the ship was making the biggest commotion with flames, movements, and splashing around it, then the ship was the target. "Gil, aim in front of me when you see it!" Walker roared out the order to prepare.

....

Chapter 1623 1623. Red And Gold Flames

"Fire!" Gil had already noticed the larger river snapper before Walker had shouted out or it had jumped in to the air from the water. His reaction had been to focus every archer in the tower to fire an attack at it at the same time.

The use of the fire arrows had been the only choice they could make. Instead of resisting the elemental mana that opposed water elemental affinity, the river snapper would be opposed to it. When the attack hit, even if it didn't defeat the larger river snapper, the flames from the arrows would further heat the water causing more of the river snappers to dive beneath the water and protect the ship.

Hearing the shout to fire arrows, Walker put up a wall of flames to cover Remey, he knew that the attack would be causing some decent damage and could reflect at them. She didn't say a word as the flames she had covering her knuckles were taken and expanded around her.

The multiple thuds of arrows hitting the large river snapper in the air and the pained snapping of its jaws were only there for a second before a large burst of heat came from behind the wall of flames. Others could see that the flame burst around the large river snapper expanded substantially bigger than the river snapper itself. The flame arrows had impacted and exploded in to fire just as they were intended to do when Gil created them.

There were no more snapping sounds of the large river snapper chomping down in pain or trying to get prey. It fell back in to the water burning away, the water affinity meaning nothing against the intense amounts of fire elemental mana that had been forced around it. The smell of cooking and burning fish was all that anyone could smell now.

"Another here!" The call caused Remey and Walker to look over at another sizable river snapper leaping in to the air. This one was not called out in time though, it fell and managed to latch on to the railing of the ship taking a chunk of metal with it before falling down again. The mages and dragonkin that had been in front of the railing had jumped back to save themselves. River snappers had shown their true strength as the ship rounded in to the largest bend.

"We need to increase the heat, Midnight!" Since Walker saw that they were not making much progress yet, he called for Midnight. It was only seconds before he heard a small roar from the back of the ship. She had felt him calling for her and she was not going to leave him alone.

"Listen, Remey, since we have the best three fire controllers up front we can influence the water that will flow around the whole entire ship. Have your partner bring as much elemental mana around as it can. Midnight is going to use her golden flames and I will try to push them even hotter. We just need to avoid melting the hull of the ship so I want you to focus on that."

"I can't just control flames like a mage, how will I protect the ship?" Remey wanted to punch Walker outright. She was no mage. She had no elemental control that wasn't related to physical contact. This was a ridiculous request.

"Oh, well if you can't control the flames when you do alchemy then I guess you aren't meant to be an alchemist? Right? If you can't just treat the ship like a valuable herb that is caught in the flames of your cauldron then it's fine. Midnight and I will handle it." The sudden nonchalant attitude made Remey want to go mad.

First Walker had asked her something ridiculous and now Walker was comparing an entire river to an alchemy cauldron. It was something that no alchemist could control. A massive amount of water and



one insanely large ingredient that was actually a ship. There were even living beings on the ship. All Remey could think was that Walker had reached a new state of foolishness. He had gone crazy himself and was trying to drag her down with him.

"Good, Midnight, we are heating the water. Use your golden flames and I will boost them. Remey's partner will help if he can. The fire elemental mana will get a little intense. If you are struggling, stop or let me know. I will focus on helping you." Walker's concern for Midnight earned him a huff of indignance. She knew she could do this. She would breathe her strongest fires and show off just how strong she was.

"Then let's do this, we are already in the most dangerous part of this stretch." Walker saw the river open up in to the large bend. He felt that this would mean there were even bigger river snappers. The large ones from before could only be children of those that lived in this massive expanse of slow water. The perfect breeding ground for monsters that could chimp through the ship with enough force.

"You're a huge pain and I will beat you up after this! Get ready!" Alchemy flames grew around Remey as she became more annoyed with Walker. The dark red flames trailed around her preparing to reach down toward the waters and protect the front of the hull from the intense flames Midnight was building up.

There was a cool feeling from around Remey but Walker knew that it was the heat being redirected toward the water more so than anything else. The that was alchemy flames was not just because they were ideal for separating parts of the herbs to make potions.

The alchemy flames had a more powerful and direct control of the heat. This was why alchemists who had this skill could control the way the herbs broke down and melded with other materials. The alchemy flames were always used to heat certain parts and keep others cool by directing the fire elemental mana perfectly. That was also where they got their deep red colorations.

Since Remey was using them, they were more powerful. She had used alchemy flames over and over again more so than anyone else here. She also had the strength to focus her flames in one spot for a long period of time. Just because she was asked to increase the area didn't mean she was just going to give up.

The water elbow the ship began to churn. There was enough commotion on the river bank to cause the river snappers to come up for food. But now a large prey had come right to the middle of their home. It was an ideal situation for them.

Never did the river snappers think that there was a dragon releasing its breath down at them at this moment.

Brilliant gold flames touched the top of the water at the front of the ship. Walker felt the intense fire elemental mana that he had not tried to control. Dragon flames were always stronger but Midnight's golden flames were unique. They were a true born dragon champion's flames. A dragon champion with the golden flame heart which was even rare among dragon champions. Controlling such flames was the same as trying to control the moon and the stars.

Yet, that was for those without bonds. Walker and midnight had one of the closest bonds of family than anyone could have. That was what made the party outstanding. They had fully allowed their safety to be in one another's hands. It was a trust that reached deeper than just face value.

That was why when Walker reached out to grab on to the fire elemental mana within the golden flames that roared in to life even greater than before. It was the same as Midnight asking them to grow stronger. The same as another dragon wishing them to become more intense. And intense was what they grew to be.

The golden flames fell on the water causing a massive burst of steam to surround the ship. It made it harder to see but the river snappers charging up from the deeper water felt like they had been slapped. Their retreat from the heat they did not like was instantaneous. How could they hunt something so hot? They liked the cool deeper waters of the river, not the near boiling waters that covered the top right now.

Midnight stopped to take a breath and she noticed that Remey was covered in sweat. The control of the alchemy fire to a degree at which she had never used before was taking its toll. But Midnight could see Remey's grin clearly. She was smiling like a devil dancing in the flames of its birth. She was enjoying this insane challenge of will.

.....

Chapter 1624 1624. Around The Final Bend

"Water mages! Cool the hull again!" Scylla ordered the water mages to make their moves yet again. The hull of the ship was being monitored by the blacksmiths and ship builders that had come to along carefully. They were ensuring that every single spot that was too hot was identified and cooled.

The burst of steam caused many to cringe away because it blocked their vision, however, some of the dragonkin were uncaring. They faced the leaping river snappers without fear no matter what they saw. The steam was nothing to them. They could use their instincts to attack through it as if it wasn't even there.

Remey was much the same. Between the bursts of flames that Midnight and Walker worked together to create, she got some good punches in here and there. She was grinning like a mad fool the entire time.

The bursts of golden flames that Walker and Midnight manipulated were extremely hot, but they were incredibly effective. The largest of the river snappers were barely able to withstand the heat. Only the hungriest ones were brave enough to leap from the water and attempt to snap up anything they landed on.

One river snapper in particular leaped out of the water and flopped on the top deck of the ship. The only reward it got before its jaws snapped shut for the last time was Leon's spear stabbing it through the heart. He only clicked his tongue at the easy prey that had delivered itself to his spearhead.

"Remey, this is the last bend. Protect the ship with your flames once more!" Walker could tell that Remey was running on the last of her mana. Even the mana that her partner had saved up on the spirit mark was dwindling. Controlling the large amounts of alchemy flames to redirect heat was not an easy task. In such a large amount to cover the entire front of the ship, it caused a lot of mental strain that Remey was powering through like a champion in her own rite.

"This is the last bend! Stay strong and grab yourself some food for the straight away!" Scylla's battle cry received a roar from everyone defending the railings. A few people were injured from burns or the river snappers but the number was few.

Alice and Su were the leaders in healing. Those that received minor burns were healed but potions and a few bandages from Su. Those that were bitten by leaping river snappers were placed beside Alice who was singing a song that created a healing ring around her.

Originally, Alice would have used a wider range healing skill, but through her song writing she had realized she could save mana by keeping the song in shorter verses and also keeping the area of effect smaller. It also concentrated the healing efforts on the parts of the body that were damaged the most. Overall, it was impressive to see someone being healed immediately.

This came at a cost though. The body had to shoulder the burden of so many small injuries being healed all at once. The body needed the nutrition stored up to heal right then and there. If it didn't have it there was a negative effect on the entire body. Instead of stored nutrients, the body could break down muscle to heal a wound. It was a risky procedure which explained why someone should always look for an experienced healer.

Rounding the last bend made the morale skyrocket. Everyone seemed to be able to put in even more effort. Especially since there were fewer and fewer river snappers that were jumping up. The heated water that the fire mages and Walker had guided was drifting along with the ship. The ship itself had even been heated to a degree and the metal transferred the heat right to the water.

Midnight ran out of breath and was forced to take another deep breath. But she had never breathed such strong flames all at once before. Now she was running thin and could not instantly start another flame. This gave a river snapper the perfect chance to leap up at her.

Remey was slowed because of her own mental and physical fatigue. This left Walker undefended as he was busy guiding the flames that were still burning over the water.

The sudden whistle of wind as Onyx whipped his tail over Walker's head and slammed the river snapper back in to the water made the entire ship shake slightly. Everyone who was not battling or just finishing their last attacks heard it and felt it. It was the unintended signal for a final cheer from every warrior and mage.

The last bend had been the smallest but it was the bend that had nearly gotten Walker hurt. Of all the turns they had just been through, this had been the shortest and the final send off for the river snappers that had been caught or defeated in the water.

"Those who did not fight, catch the river snappers floating hereby. They ate our food source for the open waters. Get the cooks up here to start breaking them down and drying the meat. Healers, get over here and examine every single warrior and mage before they attempt to rest. I want perfect health in every single one!"

"Keep the ship cooling! The warmer waters will drift with us for some time. Do not allow the archers to stand down. They must watch the waters for the next hour. This is still very deep water!" Leon and

Scylla were going back and forth with orders. It was amazing to see them working so well together even though this was their first joint expedition.

"Brother, I will always be there when you need me," Onyx reassured Walker as Walker caught Remey. She had collapsed due to mana usage and mental stress. Out of everyone, she had used the most unfamiliar skill during this trouble.

Controlling the alchemy flames in a way that was not at all alchemy was a major stressor. Especially since she was redirecting heat on a large scale. A much larger scale than a single cauldron. Remey could even work three cauldrons at the same time, yet this was much larger than that.

"Thank you for that last defense Onyx. It was exactly what we needed. Midnight, good job with your flames. I can tell that your training has more than paid off. Now help me get Remey to Alice. I know she is fine but she needs to rest." Walker was very impressed with everyone.

The shop was minorly damaged but even more, he had seen everyone working very well with together. He had also seen Remey show off what she was actually capable of. The alchemy flames might not be a central fighting power but they could be used in certain situations. Flames were flames and they could still burn. But Alchemy flames were unique. They could touch things and leave them without a single bit of a burn.

"Is Remey alright!?" Su was understandably worried when she saw that Walker, Midnight, and Onyx were coming with an unconscious Remey.

"She used all her mana while making that curtain of alchemy fire. I wasn't sure it would actually work but it was very impressive." There was no hiding how he felt about what Remey had managed to do.

"The flames that you and Midnight moved around were also something that caught a lot of attention. The dragonkin warriors have been looking at you for a while now. Even Mordant and Rise watched from the skies. They did not intervene but they watched every single movement." Scylla had been aware of this the entire time. She had also just joined them because she was helping someone else over to the healing area.

"Saving their mana for when we really need it is more important. Who knows what might be at the mouth of the river or in the ocean? I have a feeling we will see them fight something much more

dangerous than we will see in this river." Walker was sure that this was the case. But it seemed like everyone else was listening but for Midnight who had just plopped on the ground to fall asleep.

"Go and rest." Alice stopped singing for just a moment to tell them all they should rest. Su and her would have everything covered. Scylla even looked at Alice a little wondering if she had also been ordered to sleep. The demanding tone that Alice had managed to achieve was that of a healer that refused to let her patient worsen. It was a healer that would gladly tell you exactly where your faults lay if you were missing a lesson after becoming hurt. But that means she cared. And, everyone needed the rest after the river snapper battles.

.....

#### Chapter 1625 1625. Smoking Snapper

"Gil, slow down!" The battle had just finished and a lot of people were going off to rest while those with more energy and no injuries took over the watch. The bend was the only place that anyone really worried about.

Many other monsters were moving around the river banks looking for prey. Water rats and a few others that were of no concern since they could care less about the ship. Even a few of the striped moths were flying by, sitting on the ship, then taking off again. But what was going on on the top deck of the ship was more dramatic.

Nearly every archer that did not have to remain on watch had come to the main deck to begin breaking down the river snappers. Since most of the archers had some sort of skill that helped with breaking down their prey, it was best that they handled the preparations for the smoking and drying of the river snappers. They would not remain fresh the entire time that the ship was on the ocean.

"Don't tell me to slow down. We need to make a better effort. If we don't get this done we will have less viewable food. Think of the future." Walker could tell that Gil was hyper focused. It was him wondering why Gil had become so focused on a task that was not as pressing as the battle that had just happened.

"Listen, I will help to so slow down and take your time. You are fast, I know that, but it's not that big a deal." There was a moment where Gil paused but then continued.

"It is a big deal. I could barely handle the time I was up in that tower. I shot arrows and helped, but they were nothing compared to what everyone else did. Even Remey was able to protect the ship with her

alchemy skills. I thought that I would do so much better than anyone else with my archery. So I have to make it up here."

This made a lot more sense. Gil had felt more useless than even Onyx in this battle. Mixing the night with the fact that the battle had only been a deterrent than anything else, Gil and the archers had really only been able to attack and lose arrows. It was a wear on their supplies. They felt that they hadn't helped enough but instead weakened the ship.

"Oh, well if you think those arrows to that huge river snapper were nothing then that's fine. I will just pretend that a fire arrow didn't explode on it with the coordination of multiple arcane archers that follow you because they have gained a bunch of respect after you learned from their culture. I guess that was just nothing."

While Walker sounded like he was being a jerk, Gil knew exactly what Walker meant. "Fine...fine. I was just getting in my own head. But we all thought that we hadn't helped. Even the poison arrows were useless. So what should we do?" Walker didn't actually have any answers for Gil. he felt that the issue would be shooting through the water at the monsters that might use it to protect themselves.

Whereas those with up close combat skills would be limited to waiting for anything to enter the ship, the archers should be able to shoot anything. But even they were limited. "Harpoons. All of you have never been on a ship. This is why we told those dwarf builders to focus on the harpoons. I swear, no one teaches anyone nothing today."

The voice that came at the two who were looking over the river snapper was from an older man that had been hired due to his experience on ships. He was a sailor through and through. Many of the merchant sailors had been hired at a decent price to help with the building and teaching of others when it came to sailing. It wasn't fair to just expect that a crew could be thrown together in a second.

"I saw those, but they are huge, how would we be able to fire them? They are more like a crossbow than a regular bow." Gil felt that he was being messed with by the older sailor.

The exasperated sigh that came in response was one that made Walker and Gil wonder just what had been said wrong. "You and your archer friends up there on that tower were making arrows. Why not make small metal harpoons and tie a rope on it? Huh? Thinking with your head now?"

While the sailor had a somewhat bad temper, it proved to be something that Gil had completely missed. He couldn't even feel foolish. He had already started to brainstorm. He had to figure out how to make this work before he was in the ocean. It might take a lot of time, but there were plenty of materials in the forge. He had the strength of the wind to help any arrow he fired. This would help with the weight of the arrow.

The issues that Gil saw in this would be the distance he fired and getting the harpoon arrow back. They would be small so he would have to fire multiple at a single monster. But if they were successful, then the merfolk would be able to help get the monster aboard the ship as well as those with close combat skills. It was actually an ideal plan.

"Go on, the sailor was right. Try and make something good. I can finish up this river snapper." Gil was gone in a single breath. He barely heard Walker but has dashed away toward the lower deck's forge. He wanted to make this work.

A few of the other archers had heard the sailor reprimanding Gil and Walker. They too were ready to go and experiment with Gil. no one had the heart to stop them. This would be too helpful anyways. Especially when it came to having even more food while on the open ocean.

"Well, I guess this fish is mine to break down." Walker took out one of the knives he had for such activities and got to work. It was not an uncommon thing to do and with the cooking skills he had, along with a few other small skills, he was going to work easily.

The small bones were the hardest part to deal with. The fat filets of river snapper had the tiniest bones in them because the entire growth of the river snapper was to make more muscle that could propel it toward its prey. There was also no good meat near the large mouth that could snap shut making it the only place with tough bones.

The bones, teeth, and other parts would be used elsewhere. Even the scales would have a use somewhere which Walker was thankful for. He was not at all surprised to see that Remey was taking a few of the internal organs for use in potions. He overheard a few people mentioning that it was an ingredient for an adrenaline potion.

Apparently, when the river snappers went in to a frenzy, they had an organ that would produce a lot of chemicals in their body. This made their mana flare up and swim faster. This would make a potion that could boost someone's body temporarily but would also tire them out much faster. It was really only



good for short fights or last minute attacks. But the dragonkin seemed to want it nonetheless. Therefore, Remey took advantage of the situation to gather materials for her next potion.

By the time Walker had broken down the large river snapper he was working on, a small section of the top deck had already been prepared to cook and dry fish. It was a similar set up to the forges. There were fire elemental mana crystals that would be used to heat it. But the addition of a few pieces of water soaked wood meant that the smoke would keep the river snapper filets tasting good and safe from insects.

The protective metals placed over the top deck were rune carved for this purpose. Heat wouldn't even get through them. The result was a perfect portable cooking area that Walker was excited to see in action. He even wished that his mother was there since she would enjoy seeing the different process of cooking.

It was a matter of hours that this process would take but Walker was sure there would be a great meal at the end of it. He just had to keep helping until all the river snappers were in the cooking area. Then he would be able to sleep again. By time he woke up, he would have a good breakfast.

.....

#### Chapter 1626 1626. A Dull Trip Following

"Is she alright?" The question came after many people had already asked this very same question.

The very reason laying before everyone was a dragon that seemed to have gotten just a little too pudgy. The dragon in question? Midnight after she had discovered a new love for smoked and dried river snapper. The new favorite snack that seemed to have captured her heart...and stomach.

"I think she will be working off some of that tomorrow. But for now, I think it's alright that she enjoys it. She helped with the fire a lot. But maybe she won't ever get to eat this much again." Walker chuckled a little when he was that Midnight barely twitched hearing him in her sleep.

"I agree, she will have to learn some moderation." Su gave a few nods before sitting down with Walker. She had finished helping Alice but had been shooed away after Alice had realized that Su had neglected to eat.

"Are you feeling alright?" Walker looked at Alice because he knew she was still off. Remey had said that he shouldn't worry but she was his family. He would always worry about his family and how they were. Just because they were all strong teammates that could stand by themselves didn't mean anything. It was just part of being family that would make someone care about each other no matter what.

After a few bites of food, Su looked at Walker and shrugged a little. "I knew you would catch on a bit more than you let on but I thought that you would just let it be for a little longer. Remey and I already worked it out and I'm just going to get stronger. It's the only thing I can do without letting things eat away at me. Plus, I feel like I have been able to understand myself better."

It was good that Su was able to find the hidden positives in just about any situation. It was also good that she directed any negative feelings toward her training. "You know, you've been through harder things in life. You were by your mother's side while you and your father worried every day about her illness. I doubt you couldn't face any emotion now. But you definitely look more like a dragonkin when you fight lately."

"About that... I think the dragon blood is getting used to me. You know?" Su looked at Walker right in the eyes. He could see the more defined dragon like pupils along with a new golden coloration around them. But even more, the skin around her eyes seemed a little patterned. Not quite like a dragonkin's skin but definitely more refined.

"That's a good thing. The more you get close to it the more you will grow. Oh, wait, that means I need to get stronger faster too." This response earned Walker an elbow to his side. But it was Su, she was just making sure he knew that she would not let him stay too far ahead.

"You know, we are going to a brand new continent. No one we know or even met in our lives has been there. Remey kind of said it, but I have no idea what I will find there. Maybe that's where my future is." Walker wasn't sure how to reply. Su was totally right. Just because she had been turned away by someone she thought cared for her didn't mean there was only one person for her. There was more to the world.

"Hmm. The world is way bigger than we think. Isn't it?" The elemental planes came to mind when Walker thought of this as they were their own worlds in a way while this one was also massive. Adding in the fact that there were skills and s that were considered outside of the natural flow made it seem like there might even be more than he could fathom right now. He was still just a child in comparison to his world, let alone the universe.

"By the way, when we get to the ocean, I am going to ask the water mages to help me with my water elemental resistances. I think that midnight and I can learn to swim. I'm tough and heavy now but I have the water affinity too even though it's weak compared to my earth affinity."

"That's a great idea! I have to work on some water elemental skills too. I always make things in to ice because it's easier to think of water as a solid. But I never try to keep water as water. But what if I could do more with just water? Maybe I can shorten the trip we are taking by a few days..." Walker trailed off in to too many tangents. Su felt like she had opened a can of worms she was not prepared to handle.

"Walker." Su looked at Walker seriously. He wasn't sure why she had interrupted him so suddenly. "Go and see how Alice is doing. Spend some time with her before we get to the open ocean. We only have a short while until we get to the mouth of the river at this speed. The river is already getting wider so we will move faster over the next day."

Feeling that he would get yelled at if he didn't get his priorities in order, Walker jumped up to do just that. Meanwhile, the other ships were following behind quite well.

"From what I can gather after checking the messages left behind, there were some monster dens around here. And the main monster swarm that was here has been handled. But what we need to watch out for is the area we are crossing through now. It had a collapse that left this space nearly impassable." Alma had been caught up trying to alter the route they were on for some time.

The fact that so many messages were left behind had proved to be extremely helpful. She had been adding to the patrols when needed while also directing the mages aboard her ship to do what needed to be done to ensure that the waters they traveled in were safe. The merfolk that had come with them had taken up complete control of monitoring the under water which helped immensely.

Many of the elves had tried to come on her ship specifically. But she had ordered them to split up and represent her on every ship. This was because she was highly respected as the future forest elf queen but stood for every single elf on the Genesis council. The only elves that had not fought to stay with her were those that had gone with Gil. he was now seen as equally respected as she was which really made her proud at the end of the day.

"It sounds like things are going well. But I can tell that things have been a little rough. I went to look at that nest location you mentioned. There were dragon flame traces there. It means that a few of the people ahead of us may have learned to work with Walker and his champion."

Current had also taken the second ship. He had not done much as of yet since most threats were minuscule compared to what he would need to deal with. However, when he noticed that patrols were sent out he followed them. His discoveries made him want to fly ahead and find out what the details were. He wanted to Meet Walker and the others to hear everything.

"If I am right, then there may be a few of those that have joined with the first ship that will be coming to our villages in the future." The ideas that Current had were from what he had learned of history. Other races assisting dragons was not unheard of. Some dwarves had been asked to create their armor after all.

"Oh? Then I hope they are some of my fellow elves. If they are then we can share more runes and skills." Alma knew that it would be very important for them to keep growing together. If the elves and the dragons came together more closely, then they would be able to enhance each other's homes more than others due to their longer lifespans.

"But that's for the future. When we get to the open ocean we will see what more there is to know and what enemies we will have to face." The dragonkin around the two seemed more focused than just a second ago. This somewhat peaceful trip had been fairly dull for them. They were waiting for the chance to show off their prowess in battle. And the open ocean would be ideal for them. They were the water affinity dragonkin under the strongest water affinity dragon royal. They needed to represent him with power.

.....

Chapter 1627 1627. Cornered

"What do you mean you want me to make ten of the mana gems? I can't just make them that quickly." Walker was sitting and resting by one of the railings of the ship. The stretch of river they were in was large and it was just starting to break in to morning properly. It was easy to see if any monsters were under the water and nearby, therefore, Walker was not worried that he wouldn't be able to pull himself and Alice back if there was an issue.

"I am asking for them so that I may bring them to the highest point of the sun. they will have purified light elemental mana within them. I will see their limits before any armor or items are created with it." Rise had been stuck with the idea of the natural light gem that Walker had made for the necklace that Alice wore.

It wasn't jealousy but more the fact that Rise wanted to see more made. She wanted her dragonkin to be able to make them along with being able to experiment with them. But even worse, Mordant had become interested too.

"If you were able to make light mana gems like those, then you should be able to make pure darkness mana gems. I would expect you to try to make them without my pushing but... I want to see your process." Mordant knew that Walker could tell he wanted them for other reasons. He wanted to match Rise but also be able to sue them for the armor that had already been ordered.

The singular reason why Mordant wanted Walker to make them was that walker had the ability to add the natural mana to them. It made a much better potential than just a pure darkness mana gem.

While the pure darkness mana gems would be perfect, they were not all Mordant wanted. If he had the natural mana to bolster his darkness elemental mana then he would have the boost of strength that came with it. The idea of using natural mana to force the darkness elemental mana to condense due to the fact that the natural mana contained a mix of all mana forcing the dark mana to follow the flow.

"So you both want multiple elemental mana crystals using different elemental manas. And you both want them before we get through today?" Walker looked at the two of them as if they had just asked for the most ridiculous thing ever. But Mordant and Rise seemed a little out of touch.

"You both know that it will take me a few hours to make as many gems as were in Alice's necklace. But using different elemental mana in between two long processes to make fewer gems than you want. Not to mention that none of us even have the mana to make all that. That doesn't even take in to account the fact that we need to worry about mental stress, condensing mana, and just, in general, having enough materials."

"Oh, the materials are there. We were sure to do a little looking around to survey the conditions." Mordant smirked a little. It seemed that he had already taken this a step further.

"There are a few of those blacksmiths that have gone looking around as well. They were interested in your fire control. They could take on the role of creating while you and others add mana to the flames." Rise had also thought this out. Walker felt that he was being forced in to a decision that he had absolutely no say in.

"Let's try it." Alice had become much more focused. The sunrise was nice and all but she was going to be able to help with something that wasn't healing again. It would be interesting and a different use for her songs. She had even been inspired to write a song that gathered light elemental mana to share with others. It was not her best work but she thought that it was an important step in broadening her horizons.

"Hey, what's going on over there?" Gil had come up from the alchemy lab to get some fresh air. Remey and followed him since she felt that it was a good idea as well. The two had been hard at work after the blacksmiths had been given the guidance needed to make smaller harpoon arrows. They had even promised to make them so that they held the assassin jacket's venom.

"It looks like Rise and Mordant and are trying to make Walker work again. They were all in the forge earlier from the gossip I heard. It should be fitting since he has been lazing around here for a while." From what Remey could see, Walker was cornered and had to do whatever he was being asked. Especially since Alice looked so interested.

"Poor guy. He is going to miss his patrol but have to make so much more than he even knew. I bet they will capture Midnight while she naps too. But as long as I avoid it I should be fine. We have the excuse that the poisons we are making need to be bottled after cooling." Gil was glad that he could remain safe from any additional work. He was already preparing arrows with multiple archers for multiple archers.

"That doesn't seem likely. They spotted us." Remey wanted to go right back to her safe and sound alchemy lab. It was already tiring having to make sure that the other alchemists kept up their potion production. They had been trying to stock up the mana and health potions since they had the time. Especially since they had brought so many herbs with them.

"You are up here just in time. I will need some of your partner's flames to help Alice and I. we will even have Midnight helping. If you and a grand fire elemental spirit help attract fire elemental mana, then I can mix it with the light that Alice condenses while Midnight uses decaying flames on another furnace." Walker had a sly look in his eyes. One that he really didn't like.

"We are also dragging Onyx to train too. He will be sitting with me between the furnace I pour light and dark elemental mana in to. He can help the balance between them without causing any trouble." This was growing more and more.

Instead of being down that he had been caught, Walker had begun to think of ways to drag everyone in to it. "And since Su will be left out it would be unfair that she did not get a chance to train her other

elemental resistance skills. Gil, you're the only one that isn't helping. I would ask you to help since you can guide elemental mana in to arrows from elemental crystals. But I think it will be better that you come and give us ideas for creating arrows with runes on them."

"Wait, arrows with runes on them?" Gil was a little lost. How had the topic gotten to runes on arrows now?

"You may not understand since most light and darkness dragons remain in the sun or the shadows. However, we do have the rare dragonkin following us that have the skills for archery. I will allow you to create them special arrows using draconic runes if you are able to create a metallic design and metallic bow. It is something I was told you would accept in challenge?"

Rise spoke as if she was looking down on Gil. Even Mordant was giving him a look that said he did not believe that Gil could do it. Walker had made this plan on the roll and been able to trap Gil perfectly too. It would also keep Mordant and Rise's attentions divided between multiple projects. A perfect chance to keep them from asking for more.

"Well, I know a lot of the elven archers would enjoy sharing that experience with the dragonkin. Especially seeing a new kind of bow made with metal for those with strength to use. Even the arrows would be tougher to be able to be fired by them." Gil knew he was stuck too and just decided to go with it.

But what was going on in his head was even better. He was thinking about the poison harpoon arrows and how he would use them as the base for the design. He just needs to steal away a few of the rune carvers on the ship. There were only a few that had to monitor the runes being use around the ship but that was fine. They could easily take on more tasks.

"In that case I will go and get your champion and serpent. It will be an easier time for us all to meet in the forge with the blacksmiths." Mordant let Rise head that way first. He was excited and had fallen in to the same thought process as her.

.....

Chapter 1628 1628. Mixing Flames

"Wait, but I was going to help the healers prepare the next bundles of healing supplies. It needs to get done in advance since we used so many when we were passing through the river snapper bends." Su had attempted to argue with Mordant.

However, before she realized it, she had been pulled in to the shadows and appeared to be in the forge. "Don't worry sister. I was taken the very same way from the patrol I was going to go on to stretch out and get fresh air." Onyx felt the very same as Su. He had other things he wanted to do but had been captured by Mordant.

"There are so many warriors and healers that can do those things. You two are here to get stronger before you help us deal with a wyvern. Or maybe a hundred wyverns. Have you forgotten your duty to uphold those promises?" Mordant was as sneaky as ever. He played right on their promises to deal with the greatest threat the dragonkin faced.

Su felt that she had no choice but also saw that Walker, Gil, and Remey were there. Even Midnight had been brought down from where she was sleeping to the forge. "If everyone is training together then I should be part of it. I can't let everyone work without being here." She saw that Gil was going to actively attempt to escape but Rise was there to ensure that everyone worked together.

"Walker, if you ever become as pushy as the other royal dragons I will teach you a lesson." Remey's threats seemed to carry the weight of her fist but she didn't punch out. Instead, she looked at the fires of the forge and wondered how her alchemy fire would react when there was light or dark elemental mana being mixed in. it was something she had not needed to do when creating potions.

"If you are thinking that this would be a good chance to experiment with flames, I agree. I have seen you create a potion and I am very familiar with alchemy flames." Mordant was also there to learn something. But he had been interested in the potions that Remey made for some time.

"Normally I can make the affinity potions by manipulating the materials I use. They change their affinity and burn off the parts that can't be used. Sometimes I can make one cauldron in to two different potions based on the byproducts. But if I add mana to my flames I am not sure I will be able to manipulate them the same way as alchemy fire."

This seemed to be the current conclusion of Remey's theory, she could control, alchemy fire which was a purer version of fire elemental mana. It did not branch off by incorporating any mana other than her very own mana.



The question of whether Remey could even add other elemental mana to the alchemy fire was also in the air. Walker could hear the conversation slightly as Midnight woke herself up. Rise was very encouraging since she had managed to learn how to bait Midnight through seeing her eating habits. There was also the fact that Rise saw Midnight as a hatchling and naturally leaned toward treating her as one. Which was fair, Midnight only acted mature because that was what she had learned. She was still very young.

The environment in the forge was already home to a few of the fire elemental spirits. But they sensed a grand fire elemental spirit instantly. Therefore, a few started to move around Remey waiting to see what she would do. It was the attraction of even stronger fire elemental mana.

"Then let's get on with this. I will bring my alchemy fire and walker can make it fake or light infused. But don't get angry at me if it doesn't work." Feeling that things would get interesting, Remey began to spark up flames the same way she would when she worked on a potion. But instead of directing them around a cauldron, she let the fire elemental spirits manipulate them toward the forge furnaces.

The two forges next to each other were meant for blacksmiths to work on two things at once, but this was also a perfect use for them. Walker was able to manipulate both at the same time. He could also feel that there was more or less fire elemental mana in one or the other.

Onyx took a place in between the two forges and so did Su. she was a little unhappy still that she had abandoned the healers in their preparations. However, she saw that it was an ideal chance to meditate as Walker did between opposing elemental manas. She didn't keep her armor on and fully exposed herself to the elemental manas. The thin training garments were too basic and made for working out instead of defensive training. They worked perfectly for this.

"So you want me to work on guiding a few different elemental manas while I wait for the blacksmiths to gather me a few different materials?" Gil was ready to manipulate what he could since he could actively pull the elemental mana from any elemental crystals. From there Walker would have more mana to work with.

"Yes, take the dark and light elemental crystals from over there and start to let them bleed their mana out in the air. Alice will gather the light elemental mana with her song and Rise's help. Then I will work with Mordant to condense the darkness elemental mana. It will work out pretty well since Rise and Mordant have the best elemental control of light and darkness mana than anyone else here."

Mordant and Rise looked at each other with a little confusion. "Oh? Are the two royal dragons of light and dark elemental mana unable to help experiment with the things they want made? Would the product be so poor if you helped?" Walker's mocking made the two freeze. Mordant was usually calm and collected and Rise wanted to remain over everyone. Yet, at the moment they were also put on the spot and did not like it one bit. Especially since they had been cooperating for the first time in a while without issue.

"Let's start then," Walker smirked as he watched the two remain silent. He felt like he had won already. The flames that Midnight had woken up to were the brilliant reds that came from alchemy fire. She saw that Remey was fully focused on bonding with the fire elemental spirits that were helping guide the alchemy fire.

Seeing that this was the process, Midnight stood slowly and did not interrupt things. She instead moved toward the place where the flames were being split. She knew that Walker could manipulate the flames when it came to her golden dragon flames.

"Midnight, if you are going to add to the fires use the light elemental flame breath and the darkness elemental flame breath on either forge. We are going to make darkness elemental alchemy flames first to see if it will help make a mana gem better."

The order was enough to make Midnight cringe about how this had all happened. In a daze, she had just gone along when dragged to the forge. But after waking up fully she was lost. Everyone was here though and she could only be excited that the entire team was training together. They were family and it was better to do things together than apart.

The mana that there was darkness elemental mana. Mordant directed some towards Midnight, helping her more easily form a strong decaying flame. She was being guided by an expert to make a stronger black flame influenced by darkness elemental mana. It was teachings that most darkness dragons would never have because they usually were left to learn themselves.

The first breath of black flames that Midnight released caused a drastic reaction with the alchemy fire. It would normally just change the flames of the entire forge but the alchemy flames resisted it. They were stronger fire elemental mana that would usually stop the decaying of herbs because the alchemy fire had to make a better potion. So coming up against the mana that often caused the alchemy flames to purify an herb was tough.

Walker tried his best to pull the two together but found that the more he forced it the worse things got. That was until he began to add the natural mana. The fire elemental mana began to calm down the temperature of the forge rise slightly.

The darkness elemental mana also stopped reacting in such a violent manner. It caused a strange balance where the decaying flames seemed to remain lower in the forge and the alchemy flames ran along the top of the forge. Everyone could only wonder what the result would be when something was heated doing so.

.....

#### Chapter 1629 1629. Light And Dark Metal

Without any hesitation, one of the blacksmiths added steel to the forge. He was sure that the forge was hot enough and that before any mold to make mana gems were added to the forage, that things needed to be tested. He was also very curious himself to see what the result would be.

Meanwhile, Walker was feeling the odd balance that came from the alchemy flames. He had not expected that the alchemy fire would reject the darkness elemental flames at first. But seeing that the alchemy fires were about singling out certain aspects of herbs and other beneficial things, it did make sense.

This also could be applied to the light elemental flames though. Walker didn't hesitate to control both forge furnaces while the blacksmiths began to work. He saw that Alice and Rise had begun to provide the light elemental mana needed for him to work.

The light elemental flames were easier to manipulate because he was able to create the white flames from earlier. But when Remey's alchemy fire was concerned, the white flames began to react violently as well.

At that time it was clear that the reaction was done so because even the negative effects of things would be purified with the powerful light elemental mana. This was because most light elemental mana was used for purification of poisons, decay, and even undead. That meant that the alchemy fire, which could create poisons and negative solutions as byproducts, was being rejected by the white flames.

"I thought so." The alchemy fire was a true neutral when anyone could think about it. They were made to be able to create both good and bad potions. Poisons would be considered bad because they could

kill, however, some poisons were good in moderation and could actually heal. The healing and mana potions were naturally considered good, however, they could also be used in ways that caused someone to perish so they could be considered dangerous in that respect.

The alchemy flames could be balanced though. If they were going to be used like this, Walker just had to make them balance using natural mana. Even though the alchemy flames seemed to be a perfect middle, the white flames and the dark flames were not. They were opposites.

As he focused on balancing these things, the natural mana drifted around the forge causing a lot of the fire elemental mana to become stronger. The fire elemental spirits also seemed to have been rejuvenated. They had more ability to control the fire elemental mana and seemed to be growing their bodies while they assisted in the guiding of alchemy fire. Some of them even took on the alchemy fire as their own becoming higher alchemy fire spirits which was a shock to Remey who had only seen her partner become an alchemy fire spirit before later becoming the grand fire elemental spirit.

The steel added to both of the forges was undergoing a drastic change. They were taking on traits from both the white flames and the dark flames. The alchemy fire seemed to be forcing them to become purer steel. Instead of the natural impurities that would be left through the forging process, Walker could see that they had melted out of the steel into slag at the bottom of the forge. The metals had taken on darker and lighter tints. The steel with the white flames was nearly white and the steel with the dark flames was nearly black.

'Shining steel

This is a material forged using a purification and addition forging method. The alchemy flames used to purify the material have released many of the impurities in the folded steel allowing for places where more mana can be added. The white flames used gave this a natural purifying effect similar to silver. This causes the metal to have a better chance of purifying poisonous monsters, undead, and even curses.

'Pitch black steel

This steel has been purified using alchemy flames allowing it to become much denser. This allows larger amounts of darkness mana to seep in to the steel and even change its coloration to match the essence of the mana within it. The darkness elemental mana can cause a decaying effect and the steel is the same. Any weapon made with this can release concentrated darkness elemental mana within what is attacked with it. Therefore, it will leave a decaying effect on them.'

Since Walker could see this information with the all around appraisal skill, he did not hold back. He was sure to share it with everyone who could only look at him stunned. This was a process that must have been used somewhere but to the blacksmiths on the ship, it was foreign. This drastic style of forging was never used by the dwarves to their knowledge. They were not normally alchemists by trade.

The blacksmiths could not resist making things with these metals. They were basically handed a holy grail to experiment with and immediately set out to start creating. They all saw and heard that the shining steel was ideal for creating armors. It resisted curses and poisons, what else would be best? They also heard and saw that the pitch black steel was ideal for weapons that caused high lasting damage to a foe. Their excitement could only grow.

"Get the mana crystal shards. We will begin making mana gems. Make sure everyone has a mana potion. We have work to do!" The orders from Walker rang out strong. He was ready to get this working.

Time fell away from their perception as everyone worked. Su was fighting the heat mentally while also being bombarded by the light and darkness elemental mana. The additional heat from alchemy flames just caused her to focus more on the state of her body. For her dragon blood, it was a perfect activator of her natural resistances.

Midnight was somewhat the same. She had two royal dragons guiding her constant fire breathing. This was the best of the best training to use dark and light elemental flame breath fluidly between one another. She would never have an issue switching from one to the other against because she had directly learned the perfect balance of them within her body.

Onyx was in his prime. The light elemental mana and the darkness elemental mana perfectly balanced within his body. He was able to train his absorption of both while also learning to endure heat. This was something newer for him but as he saw how hard everyone else worked, he decided to push his body and mind beyond what he normally would. It was a spectacular sight.

Walker and Alice were in a similar state. They were learning about elemental mana flow through the flames. They could feel the resistances and strengths of each. It was a different experience for Alice in particular because she was not used to the fact that the light elemental mana would be pushed away from her by darkness elemental mana. Now she would be able to resist others' influences on her skills.

"This is too crazy." Gil had been running around the forge guiding the creation of harpoon arrows. He had also been designing a few bows that would use the metals he saw forged before his very eyes. They would be ideal for Mordants' and Rise's dragonkin warriors with archery proficiency.

The idea was that the bows would be created from the steels before him to match what effects the arrows would have. The arrows would be made with the very same steel but carved with light and dark runes. The fusion of newly discovered origin runes and draconic runes would be the perfect mix to create power and quick mana absorption. It would also help the dragonkin in battle since they would not have as much natural mana saved up to fire the arrows successively.

But this was small compared to the fusing of elemental manas, the fusing of flames. He was just focusing on the end products and how he could use them. He would even have unique mana gems to add to the bows after the molds were removed from the flames. The molds that were already showing differences from the usual mana gems.

This was the result of the mana being absorbed. Other than the small amounts of natural mana that were absorbed, the darkness and light elemental mana were being absorbed in concentrated forms. This condensed mana was already powerful. So much so that mordant and Rise could feel it within the gems instantly. They were very happy with this result. They wanted to see the finished product immediately but understood that the cooling process would solidify the molten mana gem that would become a centerpiece in any of the things made with them. Any of the things they desired to have created for the gems specifically and their armors later.

.....

Chapter 1630 1630. Successful Forging!

'Purified light gem

The purified light gem is a gem that has the ability to store light elemental mana that has been condensed to very high purity. The amount that it can store will be altered depending on the user, what other materials this gem is attached to, and the runes that attach to this gem.

This gem can not be used alone due to the high strain that would be placed on it while holding a high amount of purified mana. It can be reinforced better using natural light gems as a balance so that even greater amounts of condensed light elemental mana can be stored within.

Purified darkness gem...'

The purified light and purified darkness gems that were made caused everyone to stand silent while watching the flames die down. The blacksmiths had taken whatever metals they had ready at the moment and heated them to begin forging. Small shields, a few pieces of armor, and even the odd sword or dagger were being made. But the mana gems that were being revealed to have been made were what stood out.

"That is true? You can store condensed and purified elemental mana in those gems? And there are also some natural light and dark gems that we will be able to pair with them?" Rise felt like she was not seeing the truth. The things that Walker had just said seemed surreal. She never imagined that this would be the quality that was in front of her.

"Listen, that's what those are and if you want more you can ask in a million years because I am done." Remey didn't even care for pleasantries. So what if this was a royal dragon she was talking to? She had been worked to the bone. She was out of mana and she could sense that her partner had remained within the spirit mark for the sole reason that all its mana was being drained this entire time.

"No, this is enough. We can hold on to these and use them when we have armors made for us. We can even add these to armors that we would wear in these dragonkin forms." Mordant was too happy to go against anything. He wanted to skip in to the future and see the multiple sets of armors that he would be wearing with these gems. He was even feeling that Shade was stirring because he had felt the draw of the purified darkness gem.

The fact that Shade even stirred was a big deal for Mordant. His partner had rested since the last time they exhausted a lot of mana. That meant there was a chance to gather more darkness elemental mana. To grow even more while they were in the open ocean where only a star's light could touch them at night.

"They are something to be proud of. All of us worked on something here. Alice is...well she is napping already so I will help her to her room. But I want to see these gems in action sooner or later too. But that will have to be after we get home. I doubt that either of you brought the armors you ordered with you. The wandering blacksmith works fast but not that fast." Walker gave a slight laugh as he took a

wobbly step forward. He had used a significantly larger amount of mana and mental strength to control the forge flames and use multiple skills.

'The skill sea legs has been taken from the veteran sailor system. The user has spent the minimum time on the water in a ship to gain the skill sea legs.'

Sea legs- passive

The user is naturally able to balance better in even the worst storms. All sailors or related systems will get this skill after spending different amounts of time on a ship in waters that are rough or calm. It is all dependent on the user and how comfortable they are with their body.'

Walker found it funny that he had gained such a random skill. But even though he was tired, he felt that his balance and walking became more stable at that moment. It was a small blessing that he could take with him as he helped carry Alice out of the forge.

Midnight had decided just to sleep where she was. The constant training she had just endured from the light and dark royal dragon was too intense. She had used the decaying flame breath and the light flame breath over and over again. The switching had changed her inner resistances and ability to gather elemental mana. It was a challenge not many dragons would have to go through but one that had made her much better when it came to using light and darkness elemental mana. She even felt that she might be able to fuse the two elemental manas in to a flame breath with a little more effort.

The only ones that were continuing their training were Onyx and Su. Onyx had found a good balance between the darkness and light elemental mana that challenged his level of control over both. This alone was something that many mages that could use multiple elemental manas would be incredibly jealous of.

This was because Onyx was learning to balance his own mana between the two opposing forces. Not only that but he was also learning to look deeper within himself to be able to live up to his best possible strength. Onyx had a deep desire to grow in to the ancient history of the abyssal and heavenly serpent species of monsters.



When I came to Su, she had been focused on enduring the pressure of multiple elemental manas and the heat of the forges. Without any defensive armor or accessories, the full heat of the forge had been hitting Su the entire time. This had gone on long enough to truly wear away on her body and mind.

The additional darkness and light elemental mana that were in condensed waves from the forging also had a large effect on her. She had to resist the effects that came with both elemental manas. This triple threat led Su to a tough impasse where she had to decide if she was being harmed or if she was actually still training.

This mentality could be found in many people who followed the guardian path. Training defensive skills or resistances was considered a very hard task. One that only those with tough minds could handle at the end of the day. If someone with a lower tier system had a stronger mind and was able to push themselves beyond what was normal for their resistances, then they would shine more than someone with a weaker mind. But that could be said for many people in many different positions.

The person that had done the least physical and nearly all mental work was Gil. He had been working on blueprints in the heat. The metals forged by the blacksmiths had been practiced on right in front of him. This was the ideal testing ground for how the metal bows would be created for dragonkin archers.

The complicated balance of strength and weight was what Gil became stuck on the most. The different elemental steels created through forging with alchemy flames were unique. They were also pure. But the issue that came with them was that they would still weigh more than a dragonkin could carry and fire accurately at all times.

This meant that the design had to be hollowed out and made with special supporting parts to properly fire an arrow and not break. This change was one that was often used in crossbows. Gil only had this knowledge to share between the dwarves because he had learned the designs and theories from the dwarven crossbowmen that had helped him alter the bow that Zephyr often rested in. If he didn't have this knowledge he would find himself like a lost child in the market.

The real breakthrough came unexpectedly. The blacksmiths that brought him the slightly heavier harpoon inspired arrows were clearly happy to do so. They had been unable to make arrows overall because they were not something often made from metals. But this design was something that united those that forged metals and archers who made arrows. To be able to connect two different crafting abilities was a blessing to any crafter.

The harpoon arrows were small but they had a hook barb that would stick in to prey easily. There was also a braided thin metal rope made of multiple metals to be able to handle the weight of what was hit with the harpoon arrows. This would allow the strong close combat fighters to take up the role of bringing in the prey caught with the arrows. It was an ideal creation for the entire journey through the ocean.