

## Master 1631

### Chapter 1631 1631. On The Horizon

"Open Water sighted!" The call went out over and over from the archers. They had seen the mouth of the river on the horizon just like that. It felt like the trip down the river had been simple and short but in reality, it had hidden challenges and taken days just to get there.

But where there was some hardship in the journey, there would be benefits in the future. Genesis now had a dedicated water way through the river for ships, merchants, and the merfolk to move easily.

It might not have been as close to the merfolk city that was much further down the coast, but it was a great place to set up a small village or port city that would be directly connected to Genesis. This wasn't even mentioning the fact that it was creating a solid home for the merfolk who thrived in water.

"Are you coming to see it?" Alice's voice was almost too soft to hear but eventually, Walker lifted his head. He hadn't realized that he had fallen asleep after sitting down in a chair next to Alice's bed.

Alice had just woken up after hearing the commotion and found Walker asleep next to her. His head leaned down on to the bed in the most uncomfortable but adorable way. "Go where...oh! Yes, let's go see the ocean!"

Since the shouts were muffled by the running and metal of the ship, Walker had needed a moment to understand what everyone was shouting about. It seemed that everyone was going to be up on top of the ship before he was.

"I can't believe we are already there. I thought we would get caught up with another monster or have to clear another blockage. This is perfect, we will have time to rest and maybe go ashore to check the beach for additional supplies. I'm just glad you and I could rest a bit before now. I feel much better. How about you?"

Turning around to look at Alice, Walker found that she was much closer than he expected. "You didn't need to carry me back again. You've done it before..." to Walker, it seemed that Alice felt bad that he had been forced to carry her back to her room after exhausting herself. It only proved she was not yet matching his strength.

"Do you really think I would ever make you get back up and go to rest alone? I'm not that kind of terrible person to the people I love." Walker had long decided his feelings about everyone around him. They were family and he had every right to protect them.

"Then I'll carry you too." The promise made Walker a little confused because Alice didn't look happy about it. However, if he had better intuition, he would realize she was just nervous.

Because in one swift motion, Alice grabbed Walker's wrist and pulled him to her. Walker had kissed Alice before but it was still a rare occurrence. Therefore, Alice took her own feelings and used them to her advantage. Naturally, the sudden kiss was enough to throw Walker's heart in to turmoil.

"Now we can go up top." Alice walked briskly out of the room first leaving Walker to let his heart settle down.

"Wait! Don't run away so fast!" His bright smile could have rivaled the sun's light if the sun was not rising in a shade of purple that made everyone's breath hold for a moment.

"How are you up here before Alice? Did you get slower?" Remey elbowed Walker in the side while teasing him as soon as she caught the two coming up the stairs.

"And how are you so awake? Shouldn't you be still knocked out after using so much mana? I'm issued to you sleeping in the alchemy lab because you're too tired to come home."

"Pfftt, the alchemy lab here doesn't have enough space for me to sleep comfortably. The whole ship is too small. It would take ten ships to make enough room for a perfect alchemy lab." Remey's little rant made Walker wonder just what a perfect alchemy lab would demand for size and equipment.

"Are you two alright? You didn't exhaust yourselves forging yesterday? Did you? Your faces are all red." Since Su had heard Remey, she had caught Walker and Alice in her eye. She worried that they may have tired themselves out so much that they got sick.

"No No no, it's just warmer on the lower decks then we ran here to see the sun rising. How about you? Do you feel better resistances to dark, light, and fire elemental mana? Your training was tough."

From what it appeared, Su had used some potions to recover any damage she had suffered. The skin on her hands and neck looked to be shiner which proved this point. It also meant that her body had been forced to heal and learn to resist the elemental mana condensed while forging.

"It was tough but worth it. I already have resistance skills that relate to every elemental mana. But I know I can strengthen them by training like this. My fire elemental resistance is pretty high. I can try to touch fire for a short while if I want without damage."

It was very rare for Su to brag. Yet, this was a good reason to brag. She had made her resistance to one elemental mana tough enough that she could rival those that were naturally resistant or even trained in resisting it for years. Furthermore, that made it easier for Su to fight alongside anyone that used fire elemental skills.

"By the way, did any of you see Gil leave the forge? I think he was there all night." Su made a good point. Where Midnight would enjoy the heat and most likely ended up remaining there all night because it was comfortable, Gil would have left the forge so that he could properly rest. There was no way he would willingly sleep in the heat there.

"Brother Gil was and still is in the forge. He seems to have hit a stride in inspiration with the dwarven blacksmiths. They are very happy to be trying something new that was learned from their very own people." Onyx had slithered from the edge of the ship's top deck. He had been enjoying the cool night air after spending so much time in the forge himself.

"Well, I did hear that crossbowmen had become more popular after they did so much to help clear the slimes from the dwarven city. I bet the blacksmiths here want to be able to show off their skills when we get back from another continent." Remey could see that this was a power move. The blacksmiths would be much more famous after learning and refining a new technique. Add on the new materials from another continent, and they would be miles ahead of others in their field.

"So Gil already made friends with the elves and now he is working on the dwarves. I feel like I should put a lot more focus on charisma statuses than I have been." Walker knew that Gil had the extra edge when it came to perception. He had always done so but Walker had never worried about it. He would just accept it as he naturally was.

"There's not much point in that. Mine is not that high either and I have plenty of friends. Let your actions speak for you." Su took it a little too seriously and offered her advice. But before they could keep going on, Scylla and Leon seemed to be gathering everyone's attention.

"Listen closely, we will be in the mouth of the river soon. This means there will be more danger. Leon's merfolk will be scouting ahead. His team will be absolute within the water. If you hear an issue you believe it and follow it. That is an order!" Scylla knew that Leon had expertise in the water and would be letting him take the lead there.

"Scylla will be preparing the shift rotation. We will be waiting for the other ships and need to remain in one place. If anyone is not prepared for their shift they are leaving the entity of this ship and every single life on it up to fate. The larger monsters out in the ocean may come here to feed on whatever the river spits out!"

This important information was why rivers were always so dangerous. The river carried many things, even prey for the ocean dwelling monsters. Land monsters would come here to catch what they could from the shore while the ocean brought its own monsters. It was overall, a very dangerous place to be, and the ship would be there for a day or two as other ships arrived.

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Chapter 1632 1632. Flowing Form

"What happened to your speech about wanting to keep everyone safe? How Scylla said you were the absolute within the water?" Walker stood watching Leon prepare another piece of bait on a chain and his throwing harpoons.

"This is to procure food for the journey. It will be best to fish up the monsters here than in the open ocean where there will be monsters that can swallow the ship whole. Or even worse, Monsters that will swarm the ship at the slightest sign of food." Leon had a small point but Walker could tell that there was an ulterior motive.

"You definitely just want to fish since you have been away from the ocean for so long."

"And you just want to make it seem like we aren't doing anything. If I remember correctly, you will be leaving for the beach soon to do a scouting round for more food. Natural fruits, vegetables, and monsters to eat. So I don't think we will be in a different position soon. That means you are better off grabbing one of my spears and waiting to hunt something with me."

As much as Walker didn't want to just join Leon, he was keeping a lookout for monsters too large coming near the ship. But Leon just happened to be making more of the time as he did so since he had already sent out the first group underwater patrols.

The underwater patrols were nearly glued to the bottom of the ship. The currents here were rough because of the clashing river and tides. It was easy to predict for those with experience but still not anything to laugh at. The groups leaving would be waiting for the low tides so that there was a higher chance of capturing some food and a safer journey to the shore.

"Fine, I can learn a little about spear fishing. But I thought these were just harpoons?" From what Walker could see, the spear and harpoons were very different things. But in his hand right now was just a chained harpoon.

"They would be the same. But if you look, there are notches for harpoons to be fired and loaded in to ballistas, or special harpoon firing creations that use springs. These have grips for your hands to hold tighter and aim more accurately. Not to mention the barbs are made to tear away chunks from the prey you hit if they overpower you and you need to rip them free."

Walker had a hard time figuring out how he would rip them free and Leon seemed to catch on to this. "The way the barbs are shaped here and here. They are at better angles compared to a harpoon which the chain would need to be broken to get free. The angles here are to let you arc the chain and pull at the same time. It forces pressure to tear away flesh and free itself." This seemed like a very well designed tool after hearing this.

"That's actually really amazing. I bet that it took generations to get this right." Walker waited in hope that Leon would have more information but he just shrugged.

"I wish I could say but from what I know, this kind of harpoon has been popular for a very long time. I assume someone invented it and then kept on with their lives. After years of being used on ships here and there, so many existed that it was impossible to find who had invented it." Walker could tell that this meant it was an unspoken historical invention. It changed the world but not a single person could definitely lay claim to it.

"Now, back to more important things. This thin chain has some of that frog meat on it. I soaked it in a little bit of the venom from those assassin jackets. That way when prey eats it we can have an easier time hitting it. Then we pull like our lives depend on it. And if we need help..." Leon pointed to the few

dragonkin warriors nearby. They were watching and waiting at their own posts. However, they seemed more interested in what Leon was doing.

As if on cue, the chain that had bait on it rattled. Not a rattle of drifting water and lapping waves, but one that meant something had touched it. Something with teeth that was pulling on it.

### 'Swift Salmon

The swift salmon is a monster that has one strength, agility. It has gained the name swift because it is able to swim through the waters no matter the current. They lack defensive strength but are often hard to catch because of their agility. However, their lean muscles make them a great food item for anything that can catch them.

The best method to catch them is to trap them and avoid letting them gain speed. However, if they are attacked in the head there is a high chance of instantly defeating them. They are loved by many other monsters and prey on anything small enough to fit in their mouths. Sometimes they will migrate in the thousands to their breeding grounds.'

"Aim for the head and we have a good meal." Leon's excitement was there for everyone to see. He had eaten the swift salmon before and could not wait to have it on his dinner plate again. Especially since this time he would be able to show it off to those that had never tasted it before.

"Take the first shot at it, I will take the second." Leon thought it more respectable to let Walker learn. He had no idea at what level Walker's skills would be when it came to throwing a harpoon.

"Then let me try something." The wind gathered around Walker as he channeled the wind elemental mana to wrap the throwing harpoon in his hand. The chains rattled and the dragonkin went on higher alert than before. They could sense the added danger that came with using wind elemental mana on a thrown projectile.

In one fluid movement, Walker used the spear throwing skill he had and applied it to the harpoon. He had no idea if it would work the same but as he saw the wind guiding the harpoon, he felt that he had chosen correctly. The harpoon pierced the water and hit the tail of the swift salmon taking a chunk of the fin with it. There was also the secondary effect of making bubbles all around it.

The bubbles caused the swift salmon to be blinded for just long enough. Leon's spear had much more force behind it and it shot through the water as if being guided right to the head of the swift salmon. The single attack defeated the swift salmon in that instant without even the chance of escape.

"Hmm, you had the right idea to force your throw deeper. But you need to guide it more with your strength so that it will remain accurate." From what it appeared, Leon was adept in teaching people how to throw harpoons. The odds were that he had been someone that went around teaching his fellow merfolk how to do this. It led Walker to believe that this was also one of the hidden hobbies that Leon had as a person.

"Watch me throw this one. It will be more accurate because I let the harpoon follow the flow of my body. I will use more strength but with my entire body." The second swift salmon had caught on to the bait and tried to steal it away from the chain that it was attached to. But as Leon arched his back, he gathered his strength.

With one foot slightly raised, Leon stomped it down and lurched forward. His arm ended up pointing directly at the swift salmon he had aimed at while his harpoon flew in exactly the direction he was pointing. This form was the ideal harpoon or spear throwing form that everyone that desired to throw a spear or harpoon should use.

The harpoon flowed with force toward the swift salmon and found its mark directly in the top of the head. The swift salmon had no chance to even think about running. "It's all about form and making sure you follow through. You do not throw with just your accuracy. You can land a very accurate throw with no force. That leads to a failed hit. But only strength will lead to a miss. So balance your strength and accuracy. Strength with your whole body and accuracy with your whole body."

"Give me another try. I will get the next one." Walker became much more invested seeing how energetic Leon was. He didn't mind learning something new before he headed out with his party to patrol the beach and search for some additional food supplies.

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Chapter 1633 1633. To The Beach!

'The skill harpoon stance has been taken from the harpoon fisherman system. The user has been taught by an experienced spear user that has learned the proper stances to throw an accurate harpoon. This has allowed the user to learn the skill harpoon stance.

Harpoon stance- 1 mana cost

The user is able to use a single mana to reinforce their stance while wielding a harpoon. This will make them naturally have a better handle on the weapon while also making their senses more focused on using the harpoon. The user will also have a better chance of pulling their harpoon back to them after hitting prey.'

Walker saw the skill after the tenth throw of the harpoon. He had been using his throwing spear skills but not focusing on any stance in particular. However, Leon had been commenting on how to adjust his throws. How to be more accurate and better throw the harpoon overall. This is what had spurred the skill showing up.

"Huh, I just got the harpoon stance skill. It only costs one mana to use at first which isn't too bad." Walker mumbled to himself mostly but also intended for Leon to hear it.

"Really? That means you are doing it right. I have a similar skill but specific to spears. But since the harpoon can be used as a spear, It still works. I thought you would just get a spear skill but harpoon stance is better. You will fit in on ships even better now." Leon found it a little funny that Walker always seemed to fit right in everywhere. It was like he was becoming a different system user every time he changed where he was in the world.

"So how many is that?" Walker looked at the dragonkin warriors who were pulling up another swift salmon. For monsters that had relied on their speed and agility, Walker was not impressed. Leon had accurately attacked so many with just a single piece of bait.

"I know you are thinking that these are not a challenge. But you should have seen some of the things I have caught. You should try and capture one of the barnacle lobsters using a harpoon. It is a tough battle since they do not get defeated with one harpoon. They also have water jet attacks. I miss fighting the small ones while watching the warriors take on a larger one." Leon seemed to be thinking back a lot.

"So this is more nostalgic for you than for food. I think it's nice to have a hobby like that." Walker had no intention of showing that he had caught on to why Leon was fishing. He wasn't after food at the end of the day but relaxing and thinking back on pleasant memories.



"Walker!" Remey came up behind and nearly dragged Walker away. This left Leon to continue fishing by himself. "We have been waiting for you forever! And you were just over here throwing around harpoons?" Remey had been the first on the top of the ship to wait for everyone. Now she was the one who had to get everything together.

"I was distracted and learning spear fishing with harpoons. It was a lot of fun plus I have a new skill."

"If you even breathe you get a new skill. It's not that surprising anymore. What is surprising is that Gil already has a dragonkin with a bow and harpoon arrows." This was more surprising. Walker got new skills all the time but Gil rarely made new things that weren't arrows or for the elves. So having a dragonkin warrior wielding a bow was different.

"Remey, you didn't tell him, right? Let me, Walker! Check out the dragonkin archer!" The dragonkin that was with Gil was one of Mordant's dragonkin warriors. They had the same darker armors and daggers on their hips. But holding the larger bow that had been made from the same metals the group had helped forge before showed that it was specially made for darkness affinity.

"The bow was made with braided wires to make sure that it had enough force and strength. The runes on it are darkness runes and even the harpoon arrows have some darkness runes. That means that they can move even faster when figured in the shadows or anywhere with high darkness elemental mana. After adding the darkness elemental crystal we were able to give them a slight decaying effect too." Gil was ranting about it but Walker was actually impressed.

'Dark steel bow

+6atk, +6matk, darkness gathering runes

The dark steel used was perfect for gathering darkness elemental mana. The careful choices in metals for braiding when creating the bowstring proved to be beyond the current realm of bow making and crossbow making. It is strong enough to be wielded by powerful warriors and not break.

The arrows fired by this weapon must be stronger to be able to handle the force. The arrows will also gain a slight darkness elemental coat upon them when used properly. The bow can transfer darkness elemental mana from the user to the arrow to increase effects.'

"That bow sounds like it can deliver a pretty solid punch." Walker had to compliment the bow. It has a very solid black steel aesthetic that made it perfectly fit the darkness affinity dragonkin's style. There was also an aura of darkness mana around it that made it clear that the runes were doing more than just looking pretty. They were there for a reason.

"Alice said she needed to work on the healer's quarters since they might have to do a lot of work when the others arrive. Trading supplies and such. So she isn't coming. Onyx is with Midnight in another group that already headed to the beach. That leaves Myself, Gil, Remey, and you to head to the further beach and investigate." Su refocused the group as soon as Gil had finished his excited rant about bows.

"Thank you for the update. I think we can get that beach done fairly quickly. But I am guessing that there are crab monsters of some sort on the beaches and that's why Gil wants to test the bow with our dragonkin friend here?" Walker could tell that this was the hard shelled monster they would have to test such a weapon on.

"Lord, my lord has instructed me to be the first to test this weapon. I am different from the others who follow the silence and assassination skills that you would call a rogue or wild card. I have relations to rangers' in my skills." The dragonkin knew that Walker might be questioning why he would be the one to be trying out this new bow.

"So you do more scouting and hunting than you do guarding. That would make sense. You can do a lot of the same thing but you have your own role. And I assume that since there were never many bows that could handle your strength, that you are excited to have one?" Walker saw the affirmed nod and felt that it was good to make some small assumptions now and then.

"Now that you three are done catching up, Su and I are leaving. Catch up!" Remey dropped down a rope on the side of the ship toward the boat that was waiting for them. They were not the only group going from the mouth of the river to the shore. Another patrol team made up of dragonkin and mages were with them but would be spreading out.

The three moved to catch up and get on the board quickly. They had to help paddle to get to the shore after all. But Walker knew that this would take a little more time than he wanted. Therefore, he started to manipulate some of the water elemental mana and sped up their journey to the beach. "It really helps to be able to use water ." Gil felt like Walker had cheated but also had a pretty happy expression knowing that he hadn't had to paddle as much.

"Should we look along the treeline more too? I think we will find better herbs growing there than in the sand. There aren't many things worth keeping in the sands." Remey didn't like the beach because the herbs in the sands were not a good quality to find. They didn't receive much in terms of nutrients.

"Shouldn't you have a more open mind? You might find something interesting in the sand. It's where all the shells and coral washes up. I bet something is useful to you." Gil tried to be positive but he had just started another fight with Remey without him realizing it.

"Oh, all might archer Gil, tell me about alchemy since you seem to know all!" Walker and Su could only shake their heads as they realized they might have to deal with this the entire time.

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#### Chapter 1634 1634. Shifting Watery Sands

"See? There are already parts of washed up shells. There are even a few monster bones that must have been left behind by the tides." Gil was about to pick up the piece of coral near the bones but Walker grabbed his hand and held him back.

'Pink needle coral

This is a monster that grows in the exact same size and shape as natural corals. It is able to poison anything that touches it causing them to perish if they are not resistant to the poison. They will then slowly grow over whatever they have claimed as prey while also feeding other smaller monsters around it. They are considered a lower monster on the food chain but serve a very important purpose in maintaining the population of many monsters. '

Walker read this out loud with a lot of sarcasm since he knew that Gil would have just lost his life because he and Remey were arguing over stupid things again. "Next time that you two decide to entertain yourselves by messing with each other, please do it where you won't get attacked by monsters. Even if they are small and weak looking." Walker used water to encapsulate the pink needle coral and throw it toward the water.

"So the monster bones came from that coral. Such a small piece was able to grow and poison a large monster like this." The bones were more simple than Su made them out to be. But Walker still stored them away since they could be potential materials or at least a snack for Midnight.

"So where to now? Are we going to set up a sentry post here too? We marked a bunch of places along the river while we floated our way here." Remey pretended not to see that Gil had just gotten admonished. She also didn't feel like facing Walker's ridicule when it came to her and him arguing.

"I hope not but the way it looks, yes. There won't be another good place to build a place for the ships to dock before leaving for the open ocean or another port city. This will be the first port village that Genesis is able to create." The feelings that Walker had about this were complicated. The area was dangerous and those that had to be posted here would always be in a lot of danger. However, it was important to begin the building of a new town.

"It will be important to have more information for the other ships and those that come after the ships. We should make sure we find any monsters and other things that might be of note." Su knew that Walker would be the one stuck with the report since he had the all around appraisal skill. No one in the party had been lucky enough to receive it after using scrolls over and over. They were only ever able just to use the skill through this means.

"I think we should be worried about the flat sands left behind by the tides. It's great that we are looking for things that are dangerous to make notes of but there are a few things that I can see moving out there." Gil was pointing out the sands in the distance near the waters.

There were small spurts of water here and there along with what appeared to be some sands shifting. There were things that lived under the watery sands left behind by the tides. Even more, the pools left behind where rocks had naturally gathered were clearly full of other dangers and monsters. The movement of water in the larger pools proved this beyond a doubt.

"Then we start with those rocks and move through. When we get to a certain point we will move along the treelines and gather any fruits or herbs. Sounds like a plan?" Walker saw the other give him a nod. The dragonkin with them also gave a nod but it was clear that he would have followed them even if he did not agree. Walker was a royal dragon after all.

Moving along the flat sands proved to be easier than they expected. The sands were fairly solid and their feet only sank in a little bit. Walker was constantly checking the shells, seaweeds, and other things along the sands for dangers. Every now and then he would reach out and store away a piece of shell from a monster or piece of seaweed he thought Remey might be able to use.

For the most part, it appeared that they were children there to explore the beach rather than adventurers there to ensure it was safe. To scout things out for those to come. But that changed quickly when Gil held a hand to the rest of the group.

"The sands up ahead keep shifting. I would say four or five monsters underneath it. They are stirring the sand up and I bet that we can't walk right there because we will sink in there." Gil had not encountered monsters like this but it was a devious trap.

"Making quicksand for us to be trapped in is a smart trap. But now you can have the new bow tested. It should be able to pierce soft sand like that, correct?" Su had already expected that Gil was going with the new bow as the first attack. The monsters beneath the sand were sure to be dangerous. It was better to face them here than on the way back potentially.

"Well, you heard her. Your time to shine with your metal bow." Remey clapped the dragonkin on the back. He was a little unprepared for this but saw that walker also gave the approval.

The bow was drawn back with a metallic creak. It appeared that the pressure the bow was under was a major risk for anything that could be too close. If it were to break, the pressure of the metal braided wire that acted as the bowstring would surely harm someone.

The harpoon arrows notched in to the bow with perfect precision. It was perfect when it came to appearance. Walker could only think that the blacksmiths that worked with Gil had put their hearts and souls in to it. They would never allow the world to see any form of partially finished or in progress work. This bow was a fully finished masterpiece.

The twang of the metal bow strong as the harpoon arrow was released made everyone's hearts jump. The sound was even deadly, feeling as the harpoon arrow whistled through the air. It easily pierced the watery sand without much sound. But the result that followed was much more dramatic.

The sand churned and water shot out of the area that had been shifting. A sand colored shell revealed itself with the harpoon arrow barely sticking out of it. Followed by two more sand colored shells, Walker was able to use his all around appraisal skill on them.

'Sand flea

The sand flea used to be a basic pest that infests beaches. Over the years, it became smarter and smarter while also growing larger in to a truly monstrous size. It has the basic tactic of loosening the shallow tidal sands by moving underneath them. This causing anything that comes to prey on the low tides to become trapped. The sand fleas will then bite at them until they have fallen in to their sandy grave forever.

Their shells are fairly tough but flexible making them a useful building material for farmhouse sheds and anything that needs to resist salted water. They are easily defeated by striking their underside but have a powerful striking attack with their barbed legs.'

"So what you mean to say is we shouldn't get close." Gil fired an arrow at the second sand flea he saw behind the first that already had the harpoon arrow within its body. The first appeared to be still alive but after Walker looked at it again, he could tell that the harpoon arrow had done more internal damage than he thought. It was a lucky shot that would have the sand flea defeated by just waiting for it to happen.

The third sand flea showed off the powerful legs that it had. In just one leap, it had neared the group causing Su to charge forward while yelling at it. Thai drew the attention while Remey followed. She had ignored the fear of being hit by a leg because she had Su.

The shield charge hit the sand flea and knocked it to the slide. The unbalanced sand flea had no defenses as Remey lowered her stance to get under it. The legs would be unable to hit her here while she punched out with the water elemental knuckles on her fists.

The result was a sharp crack wielding a little power of water. This seemingly small attack had been with the knuckles Remey used the least. But they were the reason why water had sliced deeper in to the sand flea, defeating it on the spot.

"Three down, let's gather them and move on. The bow was great." Gil seemed happy but he was keeping a very serious attitude. He needed to see the bow under more stress.

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Chapter 1635 1635. Baiting Fleas

"So you are saying that when you pulled back you felt that you were still holding the arrow back, just barely?" Gil had been pushing more and more questions on to the dragonkin. It was fair though, Gil had to ensure that this bow would hold up to rapid fire if ever needed to.

"Yes, the bow was slightly out of my control due to the strength of the string. I could feel that I was unable to draw it to a perfect eclipse, just by a slight margin." The instant report was what Walker liked about the dragonkin. They were blunt and to the point. Especially with a royal dragon around. But they also followed their desires to perfection.

The dragonkin had always served the dragons. That was just their place. But to say that this was a burden and something they hated would be a blatant lie. They took extreme pride in this. Yes they desired to grow more and they saw Genesis as that chance, but they still revered dragons as almighty beings.

Therefore, when a dragonkin was offered a chance to be the first that could learn a proper form of archery with a bow that could match their strength, it was a great opportunity. A chance to gain strength while representing the dragon they desired to serve. Since Mordant was closer to his dragonkin, the feeling was even more powerful.

"Hmm, if it is just barely out of your strength then it is perfect. You can get stronger the more that you use your bow. Then we can worry about strengthening the bow further with even better materials. I am sure that a few blacksmiths back home have materials that would work." Gil wanted to start making more of the bows but felt that it was currently impossible. They lacked materials and had a larger goal to achieve.

"I will use it in any way necessary to discern any flaws. I assure you my best effort." The dragonkin promised this for the third time making Walker step in.

"We need to move. I can see two more spots where the sand is unsettled. If we manage to capture those sand fleas too we can get even more materials. I have a feeling that we can use these for the building of the outpost here. Or at least leave them for those that can use them"

"Oh, that's a good idea. We can gather materials for those that follow us too. Walker, I think we should focus even more on this task then." Su found a good feeling in preparing for others' safety. It was a value from the core of her being.

"My thoughts exactly. Su, take the lead. I want to see if we can bait one of the sand fleas out so that our new archer friend can take an easier shot and test the strength of the arrow without sand blocking him." Walker saw Gil's eyes brighten too. He was very glad that Walker was worrying about his experimentation with the new bow.

"Understood." Remey watched Su go after this. She neared the spot where the sand seemed unsettled and even moved with each footstep.

"Here we go." The hungry smile on Remey's face made Gil, Walker, and even the dragonkin step back. She had decided she would be punching this next sand flea so all Su had to do was lure it out. The hungry expression came from so many days cooped up in the ship. Even the training with Gil was nothing close to what Remey needed to burn off her pent up battle energy.

"Let Remey have her fun then. She might explode on us if she doesn't" Walker wanted to say more but he could understand. Gil and Remey had trained hard. She had been pushing her body in the forge with them and her own personal training. She wanted to withstand the flames she used most but also be able to toughen her body naturally. And Battle, was the best method for this.

After another step forward, Su saw a single leg lash out from the shifting sands. She had made sure to remain right on the edge as if she was an animal slowly deciding whether to step forward. It was a perfect taunt for the sand fleas that were within the sandy water. They could not resist the temptation of food on their doorstep.

The leg hit Su's shield and caused a loud clang but otherwise, Su was barely forced back a step. Her defenses were still in peak condition. The result of this was that the sand flea became angrier. It had not gotten the prey it wanted. But it had also riled up the other sand fleas around it. That was why Walker, Gil, and the dragonkin warrior reacted with Remey at the same time. They did not expect five sand fleas to show themselves.

Walker used the sand and water as his weapon. The eternal orb staff helped him pull the sand and water in to a solid mix that spiked up from the sand around it. Using just a little more mana, Walker caused ice to form from the salt water. It proved a little tougher and drained a decent amount more of mana than he expected. But that was the price he had to pay for freezing saltwater.

The spike pierced a single sand flea, easily defeating it. But Gil and the dragonkin warrior also had their own targets. Gil's arrows arched out and pierced the gaps in the sand flea's shell. It was a victim to the



perfect precision that Gil trained in every single moment of archery training. The precision that pierced its internal organs.

The dragonkin warrior was slower. He only fired one arrow but that arrow was precise and well guided. Since the harpoon arrows held strength, they did not need to worry about the shells. Therefore, the harpoon arrow fired directly through the first layer of shell and showed them what it could do.

The sandy water had stopped some momentum from the harpoon arrow before. Now that it lacked that barrier, The harpoon arrow pierced halfway through the sand flea's body. This was a perfect illustration of the strength behind the bow and the damage that it could cause to a shelled enemy.

The two sand fleas left were next to Su and Remey. Remey had darted forward and already struck the sand flea that had attacked Su with a defense breaking palm. It was why Su was able to shield bash the sand flea away from her and watch it twitch while the internal damage defeated it. Remey's defense breaking palm attack had only gotten stronger as she had trained herself to make a defense breaking fist attack. Overall, she had held back in respect to how hard she could have hit. But this was training as well. Control of strength was important in any battle.

The last sand flea sensed its demise, yet, that didn't stop it from fighting. It had instincts that said to fight or die, and it chose to fight. That was why it leaped toward Remey. Unfortunately, it had leaped right toward its defeat. Right toward the fist that had just sparked in to flames.

The head on punch that hit the flea's head made a massive crush. The small burst of flames caused the shell struck to turn in to a black charcoal. Out of all the fleas defeated, this was the most brutal victory but also the most decisive.

"Good work, five found, five defeated. Walker, store them up. We have one more shifty sands over there to check before we can go to the tidal pools." Reney seemed happier than anything. She even whistles a little while bouncing in place waiting for Walker to store away everything.

"Your defense breaking palm is stronger than it used to be. You also added to that last attack with your flames. I didn't realize you had improved so much." Su's praise made Remey blush and act a little bashful. But it was all true. Everyone always felt that they missed some of their own growth when they were too focused.

"Don't think that I am slow. You showed off so watch what we can do." Gil slapped the dragonkin on the shoulder. He wanted back up to show off their skills.

"As the creator of this bow says, we will be faster." It was a little melodramatic though since the same energetic attitude was lost on the dragonkin.

"I hear you all, but keep your calm. The sand fleas are weak. But whatever is in the tidal pools might be more dangerous. We have plenty of monsters we have never seen in our lives here. But the more we document, the better." Walker stored the sand fleas and looked at their next target.

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#### Chapter 1636 1636. Brilliant Ocean Life

"Take the shot!" Gil gave the order to the dragonkin as soon as Walker and Su had baited the last sand flea in to the perfect position. The harpoon arrow was released in an instant and pierced straight through the head of the sand flea leaving the last one defeated for Walker to store away.

"Good shot, you are getting more accurate with Gil's guidance." Walker was a little amazed. This dragonkin warrior had never used their full potential since they were able to use daggers like others of Mordant's dragonkin warriors. But they had been such an archery genius that it was a wonder how they had never considered trying it until now.

"It is all thanks to the opportunities given to me. I can improve myself to better serve my lord." The dragonkin was very energetic compared to the start of this scouting quest. There had been an unsurety when it came to the bow but now that they realized how much it fit them, there was a pride blooming.

"That should be it for these ones. I can see more towards the water but if we go that close we will have other things to worry about. Such as what might feed on the sand fleas." Su was very right. She had inferred that the sand fleas causing the sands to shift nearer to the water would be perfect prey for anything that could survive in the shallow waters of the ocean. It would be easy to see them beach themselves for a meal and then wait for the high tide to return. Some monsters cared a lot about food.

"So we get to check out the tidal pools. I am sure that some of the seaweed there will be valuable to what I can make." Remey was thinking about the herbs she had seen in books but was unable to gather since they didn't find them the last time they were at a beach or even in the merfolk city. This chance

was great for the alchemy guild since Remey knew how to preserve the seaweed and bring them back to the guild so that they could be grown properly.

"I just hope that the tidal pools don't hold too much trouble. If they do then it would mean more people will have to be posted here while the port village is built. Especially soldiers or adventurers. But it would make a nice repeating quest for those able to handle it." Gil was sure that the hunting would be good for those around the port village when it was built. All that needed to happen was some time to figure it all out.

"Good point, we should be extra thorough then." Walker took this as more encouragement to improve faster. They had to work a little harder to bring a better future, so that was what they would do.

Looking at the rocks that had naturally spoiled up on the beach in random groups, Walker could only wonder how long it would take for them to be turned to sand by the tides. It was a strange thought but one that would happen as nature moved forward. The thought was interrupted as he saw the waters in the pool ahead of them rippling.

"Stay slow and steady. Then we can take a look." Walker couldn't see any danger right away so he moved as slowly as possible to make it to the first large tidal pool. What he saw as they approached was something unexpected.

The bright and vibrant corals were mirrored by the many different sea weeds and fish within the tidal pool. It was as if they were looking at an entirely different world than they had ever seen. The small monsters were clearly the young of some of the larger ocean monsters that would travel the shores.

"Rock crabs, pink needle coral, sand flea eggs, there are even a few adolescent sword fish monsters. There are so many things in this pool!" Walker had started using the all around appraisal skill as soon as he was able to. The immense amount of life within this tidal pool put him in to a frenzy. He had to learn everything he could.

"I see some angel hair seaweed. That will be great for making some water affinity potions. But I also want that green lettuce seaweed. It is edible but also helps heal your body from small illnesses brought on by the dry weather." Remey watched as Walker used the water to harvest these seaweeds in their whole form. He was still looking wildly but did not hesitate to help Remey using his water manipulation.

"I thought there would be some larger monsters in here. But they are all small and couldn't harm us much if we keep our distance." Gil was a little disappointed but understood that this was ideal.

"Oh, no. there are worse things deeper. Look at that hole there. The tidal pools are connected to each other under the sands. Some of the rocks have been hollowed out by the water over the years. That is where the larger and more dangerous monsters are. Just watch out for holes like that." Walker knew that there were many things that could hide from them. Most that he didn't know about.

"Let's see what is in the next pool. This one is too small to have any larger sea weed specimens. I need to gather one of those adult bull kelp pods. That has the roots of the next generation within it. That way I can simulate the ocean and grow them in small quantities. It also means that we might be able to make an earth and water affinity potion. That would be an odd but powerful combination." Remey's orders turned in to mumbling but Walker was not discouraged. He liked that she was finding value here. It gave the area even brighter of a future.

"Maybe not that pool though." Remey stopped her rambling as they approached another pool. They had all seen a large rock crab claw break the surface of the water. It slowly moved back down but the sight was enough to make them hesitate.

"No, we should try and capture that rock crab. It has meat that can feed the ship. It is also an adult and doesn't need to be protected for anything." Walker had used the all around appraisal skill on the crab. The small detail that the system had left him with proved that this crab was old and could not help populate the ocean anymore. That meant it was a perfect target for boosting food reserves on the ship.

"Then I will go first." Su took a step toward the rocks and banged her shield on them. The vibrations were enough to cause many ripples but also liven up everything within the single pool. The younger monsters were sent in to a panic but the larger rock crab also moved in a flash.

The rock crab broke the surface of the water showing off its larger body covered in multiple types of seaweed, algae, and even some small barnacles. It had lived for a long time and the larger prey that came to the pool was how it survived. This time though, it did not expect that the prey was biting back.

Su's baiting had allowed Gil and the dragonkin warrior to prepare arrows. They had already released them at the first sight of the rock crabs' large body. The result was simple, the joints of its legs had been attacked by Gil causing two of them to be unusable. The third arrow had been a harpoon arrow that perfectly shattered a third leg. In moments the rock crab was in pain and being beaten.

The following attack from Remey was a solid but powerful defense breaking punch toward the back of the rock crab. The cracked shell caused clear blood to flow out of the crab but it was not enough to defeat it. However, Walker had prepared for this. Remey had made a perfect opening.

With a single large jump, Walker had changed the eternal orb in to a spear and fell downward with it pointed at the space Remey had cracked open. His attack would have been easy to dodge if the crab was not in pain and slowed by the arrows. Now, the attack landed and pierced through the damaged shell revealing the victory hiding behind their teamwork.

"Good job. We are getting more efficient lately." Walker had a feeling that they were only improving their teamwork. He couldn't wait to have Midnight and Onyx return to the group. Then with Alice's buffs and healing they would be even better off. The ocean was looking more and more manageable by the day.

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Chapter 1637 1637. Stolen Prey!

" You know, that crab wasn't so tough. I thought that the shell would be the hardest part to get through." Remey was flexing her arms as she stretched out. She felt like the battle had been too easy and smooth.

"Well, every fight can't be enough to calm you down. I know you have more energy so just go and find-" Walker jumped back pulling Remey with him. If he hadn't looked at the tidal pool again he would have been hit by the orange tentacle that had slapped out at them.

The next seven tentacles that arced out and pulled a large bulbous head of an octopus out of the tidal pool reached for the body of the older rock crab. It was already trying to steal their prey and also attack them. There was too much greed in this monster!

'Vibrant octopus

The vibrant octopus is a unique monster that can change the shape of its body often due to the lack of bones within its body. It can generate a lot of force due to this and even break some stones. Its favorite food are rock crabs making it perfectly adapted to hunt them.

They are not venomous like their cousins the purple ring octopus but they still have powerful beaks that can bite through shells and stones. They are resistant to physical attacks due to the slimy membrane on their skin and flexible body. But they are significantly weaker to al attacks. Specifically fire elemental attacks due to their slimy membrane needed to remain wet with saltwater.

They are very fast due to their elastic body. This is their advantage in and outside the water. They can also attack independently with all eight of their tentacles. They are also very intelligent for monsters, some even learn to trade with merfolk if they live nearby and have reached a larger size than is easy to hunt.'

"Don't you dare touch my crab meat!" Remey's anger skyrocketed seeing that the octopus was not only trying to steal from them, but it was trying to also take them away as prey too.

In response to her shout. A tentacle lashed out towards Remey. But without any hesitation, Remey spun a leg up and deflected it with a solid heel kick. She was not having anything to do with being food for an octopus today.

"Listen up, it is weak to al attacks. Fire in particular. Remey, use your fire knuckles. Gil, fire arrows, I will be charging in with a few fire ball spells!" Walker's orders were quick and to the point. He knew that Su would be ready to defend anything that came their way, but that it would be a radical challenge.

The twin shields that Su had were already split apart in each hand. She was not going to let a single tentacle tougher her party if she could prevent it. Since Gil and the dragonkin warrior were farther back, she only had to worry about Walker and Remey, but that also meant that all eight tentacles would be focused on them.

The next tentacle came at Remey with even more speed, however, Remey had already snapped on the fire affinity knuckles to her gloves. She was sparking up a flame on her fists as soon as the tentacle came near. The single punch of head to head force with the tentacle pushed Remey back but caused a deep burn on the tentacle.

Muffled Screeching was all that the group could hear from the octopus since its mouth faced the stones. But the burn had perfectly damaged it without their own harm. This caused Walker to speed up his creation of three fire balls that he sent toward the bulbous head of the octopus.

The result was a single tentacle swiping up to knock two of the fireballs away. It caused the tentacle to burn and bring the smell of cooking fish around the beach. The third fireball was missed and landed on the rocks nearby. This explosion of fire caused the octopus to move closer to the group.

As the octopus moved closer, Su took the chance to taunt the octopus and open a few more places for her party to attack. "Get over here you seagull food! You're only good for roasting and rotting on the sand!" The insults flew from Su's mouth. It was always a wonder that she was able to produce such cruel words even though her soul was so sweet and kind.

The taunting attracted the attention of the vibrant octopus in an instant. Five of its eight tentacles lashed out as Su slammed the twin shields together. The concussive attacks caused the shield to vibrate but not a scratch was left. "Can't do any better than that you boneless freak!"

Enraged by the taunting and not being able to procure any of the prey it had found, the octopus started attacking over and over. It was completely blind to the five fireballs being created around it. Nor did it notice that Remey was gathering a much hotter flame upon her fist and rushing towards it.

In perfect unison, Walker attacked with the five fireballs while Remey made contact with the base of a tentacle. The sudden burning of its head was enough to blind and cause the octopus to react with panic. But the punch of concentrated heat at the base of a tentacle caused it to react even more violently.

With a manipulated rope of water, Walker pulled Remey away from the flailing octopus. It was too drastic in its movements and the tentacle that Remey had damaged broke off entirely. She had landed a devastating blow at the optimal point.

With severe burns and now a tentacle missing, the vibrant octopus that had thought itself sneaky and brilliant for stealing the prey of others and taking them as prey was in a poor situation. It had only one choice in its mind and that was to flee. But when it began to spray black ink around it, there was little effect. It was better to use this kind of attack in the water. The only result it won was blackened rocks, sand, and some drops on the party. But its attempt at escape had actually opened a new path for an attack.

"Fire!" Gil released a fire elemental wither spike arrow. The arrow pierced the skin of the octopus but did not go deep. It was unable to pierce the elastic and resistant skin. However, the second arrow that

was fired came from the dragonkin warrior. He had fired along with Gil and aimed for the same spot. The spot that was open for the fire to penetrate.

The explosion of flames where Gil had fired proved to be the perfect attack. The vibrant octopus could not resist the attack at all. It felt the flames burn it and enter its body before falling down defeated and deflated.

"What in the holy heavens was that!" Su let out an exasperated sigh. She was not very convinced that they had just defeated a monster that had the ability to fight them all at once. But with Walker's all around appraisal skill, it had been possible without major injury.

"That was intense. But did you see how I punched off an entire tentacle? I was able to crush it!" Remey was fired up over the victory. The fight had been spur of the moment and took them off guard. Yet, it had awakened their instincts to fight. An ideal teamwork situation.

"It nearly had a free meal from us. If it hadn't tried to attack us too, it would have been able to steal the rock crab easily." Gil knew that the reason they now had the rock crab and the vibrant octopus bodies was because the octopus was greedy. It could have easily run away.

"But it attacked us and we beat it. That last arrow worked wonders. The harpoon arrow broke the skin where you shot and the fire was able to work well. Good job. Hopefully, you will want to stay an archer after this." Walker saw a fierce fire burning in the eyes of the dragonkin warrior. It appeared that he had found a joy in hunting like this.

"The octopus skin should be fairly valuable. There isn't much we can do with the ink though," Walker was slightly disappointed but knew that the flexible and resistant skin from the octopus might be able to make some interesting armor or even repair the sails on the ship if they lost the power from the crystals.

"Then we should get to work harvesting. Or do you want to just wait until we get to the ship?" Gil seemed more excited to break down the monsters than before. It was a challenge to his hunting skills to break down a monster like this.

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Chapter 1638 1638. Scavengers



"How many of those things do you think are around here?" Remey was still fired up after they had gathered the body of the vibrant octopus and the rock crab. She didn't want to fight one again in particular, however, she still wanted to fight something.

"I would really prefer there to be zero. The fewer of them the better. They knew how to hit and use their multiple tentacles to cause trouble." Su was somewhat against looking in any more of the tidal pools. She had felt the heavy hits of the vibrant octopus and knew that anything larger than the one they had fought would be much more dangerous.

"If we find another one of those, we can just scare it away with some fire. I doubt we will need to defeat it again. I also think we may have attracted a few other things." Walker pointed out the tidal pool they were still near. The ripples seemed to be growing which meant that something may be coming out to see what had happened.

What they didn't expect to see were snails. "Snails?" Gil looked at them and wondered if they had been cheated. There was no way that all the fighting had only attracted snails.

'Scavenger snail

The scavenger snail is a water and dark type monster that feeds on anything left over by fighting or hunting of other beasts. They can survive on just about anything of any quality. They have incredible poison and decay resistance making them the best of the best when it comes to the oceans' cleaners.

They are inedible due to the concentrated poisons, diseases, and other parasites within their bodies. Their shells can be used as decorations or jewelry. Some people will keep them in their homes to feed their trash and other things too. Especially if they live in ocean side villages, cities, or towns.'

"Oh, so they are basically cleaning up what we missed?" Remey thought that they would be a great addition to the alchemy guild but also any salt water herb growing areas. The snails would handle fertilizing and also cleaning. The perfect combination.

"Exactly. They are harmless for the most part. Just don't eat them. Should I guess that you want some for the alchemy guild?" Walker had read Remey's mind. He had seen exactly why her eyes lit up when she heard Walker's appraisal.

"We won't be home for long. This is something we can leave behind for those that come by here after us. The people building the ocean side village will be able to send them back to the alchemy guild. It is also good to leave this for them to know while building. It could save them a lot of trouble." Su was the voice of reason. She saved Walker from having to look for dormant scavenger snails or their eggs at the moment.

"Hello...are we going to keep moving?" Gil drew the focus to the tree line. He and the dragonkin warrior were ready to move onward but the three were holding them up. He wasn't being too rude but Gil had to get their attention. He had been asking if they could move on for a moment now and had been ignored because they were too focused on snails.

"If you keep getting so excited about getting closer to trees, then we will have to start calling you forest elf Gil." Remey's jab didn't seem to affect Gil at all. He actually smiled a little which made them all wonder if he would actually prefer to be a forest elf.

"There are some footprints on the sand. That means there might be some monsters that come out during low tide to hunt or scavenge. But we probably scared them away because we made so much noise." Walker heard what Gil was talking about and jumped at the chance to check out the footprints.

The tracking knowledge that walker had was mostly taught by Gil and learned through the system's skills. But he had the chance to use them now to identify new monsters that might be a danger to anyone else that comes here so it was better that he took the chance and used his all around appraisal skill more.

'This is an unknown footprint. It is too damaged to be able to identify.'

The first attempt was a failure. Walker had thought that the all round appraisal skill was omnipotent. It would have been better that it was able to tell him what monster made it. However, he was asking too much. If Gil or an experienced hunter could not identify a damaged monster footprint, then how could the system?

"Try this set of prints here. They are more stable because whatever it was seemed like it stood here for a while. It was most likely looking at us from here." Gil pointed out the tracks and how they faced the tidal pool that they had been at. Whatever the monster was then they had definitely been standing and watching them. It was also where it could stand and not be seen easily due to the shadow of the tree line.

'Jungle dog tracks

These tracks come from a monster called a jungle dog. They live near the ocean to scavenge fish and anything else left behind by the tides. They often travel in packs of twenty to thirty.'

It was a short and sweet explanation but Walker didn't expect much. This was just a set of tracks and not the actual monster. If Walker wanted any more information he would have to find a jungle dog and lay eyes on it. However, he didn't feel like it would be a good thing to find one. The idea of fighting twenty to thirty of them did not sit well. Especially since they were a smaller group right now.

"So we have to watch out for a large pack of dogs. Great. And I thought we would be able to just walk along the trees without issues. At least I can get some herbs." Remey ignored the looks of wonder from the others. They weren't sure how she could just stay focused on herbs with the risk of fighting twenty monsters at once. But then Su, Gil, and Walker remembered that they had fought more than that before. It would be nothing new.

"See, day wilting daisy here. The perfect thing to add to a revitalizing tea once the petals are dried. But the flower core can be dried and ground in to a powder that keeps bugs away. It's not a potion materials but a great thing for around the house." Remey had already snagged an herb with the bare minimum of looking. It was incredible how efficient and lucky she was.

"What about this, is it anything useful?" The dragonkin warrior who had been silent for some time had grabbed a spiny looking branch with little orange fruits on it. He was unsure if it would be helpful.

"Sure. if you want to cause an entire city to be unable to eat for a week. Those are orange spiny fruits. They look smooth but just like the branches they had spines you can't see. They can get stuck in your stomach and make eating very hard until you break them down naturally." everyone instinctually moved away from the bush that the branch had come from. The dragonkin warrior even went so far as to wipe his hands off on his armor.

"But the seeds inside those small little fruits can be used to make a better mana potion. They aren't a main ingredient but help with how long they will last. It will take a little playing with but I might be able to derive a potion from them alone to be used in a concentrated form for every potion that helps replenish mana." The thoughts that Remey just mumbled out loud made everyone wonder if she even remembered where she was.

"So we have lost Remey. Now we are basically bodyguards for the alchemy guild master?" Gil tried to joke and tease Remey but she didn't hear a word she had said.

"It's fine. Let Remey find useful things here. It will all help those that come to settle here and build a port village. Leon will be overjoyed to hear that this area has a lot of potentials. Monsters that can purify the mess created by a village, monsters to eat for food, and even herbs that can help with livelihood." Su saw all the positives coming together. Every single one was another reason that the village could be built here.

"Good points, let's keep moving so we can find more things before we have to go back to the whip." Walker knew that the forge would be waiting for them. Rise and Mordant couldn't possibly be content yet with just a few materials for their future armors.

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Chapter 1639 1639. Light And Dark Trio

"Sister and I will be going our own way from here to scout. It is best that you all stay within groups of three." Onyx was sure that the group of mages and dragonkin warriors that had come with them on their patrol group would be more than enough to drop a small sweep of the nearby beach and overgrown bush area.

"Wait, I will go too." What Onyx and Midnight did not expect though, was that Alice would push her way through and jump on the same boat to shore with them. Now she was here and joining both of them in their group to patrol.

"Sister Alice, we will be going in to the bushes there to patrol, are you alright with that?" Onyx had to be polite. He saw Alice as family just like the others. Especially family that was closer to Walker. This made him wary and want to send her back, if he didn't know about her surprising battle prowess with light elemental songs, he would have done just that to protect her.

The direction that the groups split off in to when the boat had made it to the beach ahead of Walker's group was simple. One took the tidal pools nearby the river mouth, another took the sands that had gathered up at the edge of the river, and the other took the bushes and trees that had grown wildly around the river mouth. This division would speed up their patrols while also getting the most results at once.

Since Onyx had already told midnight that he wanted to go in to the bushes and tree, she did not hesitate to begin running that way as soon as they could. Alice had changed from her normal healer's robes in to a closer fitting set of white armor. The leather and thin metal layers were perfectly made for her to maintain her movement while also protecting her more. Neither Onyx nor Midnight had seen this armor before and wondered if it was new. Especially since Alice had other clothing and armor from Walker to wear.

The area that they found themselves in was not too unique. There were some high sea grasses that grew to Alice's waist, perfect for Midnight and Onyx to hide in. The bushes that grew were mostly thorny but here and there Alice could make out a few herb bushes that she could harvest to bring back to the alchemists aboard the ship. The trees that grew were not too tall since they were constantly bombarded by saltwater. This left them gnarled and wild.

What struck them all was the sudden peace around them. The breeze rustled the grasses and the leaves on the gnarled tree branches. It was a soft and welcoming ocean scent that made it feel like there was no such thing as a monster that could live here. However, the sharp growl of Midnight proved to be the warning that onyx and Alice need.

Without hesitation, Alice's song of swords started. The sharp upper pitches and undiscernable words made it seem that she was somehow speaking with a powerful sword intent. The light blades that formed were around her for protection but also aimed at the rustling bushes that Midnight had begun to circle.

Without hesitation, Onyx grew in size to be able to intimidate anything that came up against them. His real size seemed to have grown yet again making him even closer to being the ancient abyssal serpent that he had seen drawn on the walls of ancient ruins. But that also did not stop him from using his brain. He had not been a fool to forget that Alice had a satchel with her.

"If you have an all around appraisal scroll, you are the only one that can take it out to use it." Alice's swords of light wavered as she took a scroll out to use. She was able to sing and use such items easily. All she needed was a little mana to release the skill within the scroll. That was the joy of having them and also why they were so incredibly expensive compared to other things.

'Sand jack

This is a monster known to live in sandy burrows within any beach or some deserts. They can eat a variety of foods including natural fruits and meats. They often avoid attacking other monsters because of their smaller size but can use sharp claws to fight if backed in to a corner.

The sand jack's fur is very valuable since it is incredibly fine. This is because it needs to be able to protect it from the cold winter salt winds of the ocean because it does not go dormant in the colder months. It is distantly related to the horned rabbits but in species only.

The best method to capture one is to not allow it to dig itself in to the sand. By the time that they have done so, they will have dug themselves deep enough to cause anyone a lot of trouble to find them again. They should be caught with speed and decisiveness.'

The mental communication that Onyx had played a perfect part in helping him read this from Alice's mind. He was able to understand her even though she was still singing and passed the information to Midnight.

Upon hearing that the sandy brownish yellow ears she saw was a monster that had exceptional fur and was related to a monster she already thought tasted good, there was no stopping Midnight's pounce.

She had leaped in to the air and into the thorny bush without hesitation. The suffering squeak that followed was enough to tell that she had managed to get her claws on her prey before she revealed herself. The thorns hadn't even been able to make her scales dirty, let alone scratch them.

"Sister, that is something you will need to carry until we return." Onyx knew that Alice was already reaching her hands out to take and carry the sand jack. She was too kind but this was Midnight's problem.

"Snacks for later." If anyone couldn't feel it, Onyx was rolling his eyes mentally at Midnight. But when Alice stopped her singing to take the sand jack she responded as well.

"We can roast this well for snacks." The agreement made Midnight realize that by handing over the sand jack to Alice, that she had agreed to share it. This made her unhappy but it was a problem of her own

making. She vowed to hold on to her own prey in the future so that she could get the most out of it as possible.

"Don't move, we have company." Onyx curled up around Alice as a defensive stance against what he had just caught out of the corner of his eyes moving. The seven moving monsters resembled dogs but they had larger heads and nacks for biting. They also seemed to have a rough sand colored fur that would easily let sand shake off from it. "They must have heard the rabbit's squeak as it was beaten by sister."

Onyx had moved to protect Alice so that she could attack without worry. He had tougher scales so it made more sense that he was defensive. However, he had not remembered that she had trained with Walker. And, that she had trained to be able to make a new song using swords of light and shields of light. Two songs becoming one in a simpler term.

The three light swords that formed were paired with two light shields. The shields floated idly around Alice as the three swords of light broke through the air. The result was astounding, two of the monsters had been directly sliced in half while the song Alice sang was shrill and deterring. Her son was one of defense and attack to protect those around her. It was made to show the battle for life when one stood to defend those they cared for.

The simple fact that Alice had just taken the lead in a battle wounded Midnight's pride. She could only take a deep breath in before condensing the ambient water elemental mana all around them. Their location close to the ocean and river helped her create the frost breath that she released upon the remaining five monsters that had come to see what they could win.

Instead of the weaker frost breath she had used once before, Midnight showed her growth clearly. Ice formed on the five dog like monsters stopping them in their tracks. None would be able to easily move with this sort of attack.

All that was left was for Onyx to snap out of his surprised daze and raise his large tail. The slam that came down was unavoidable, it crushed the five with blunt force before retracting back toward the coil Onyx still sat in. The sound of this slam echoed back to the beach drawing the attention of some familiar faces who had also been out scouting.

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Chapter 1640 1640 Jungle Dogs

"Midnight! Onyx!...Alice!?" Walker was the first to spot the three that had just crushed the jungle dogs. They were still prepared for another fight but had clearly lost track of time while they had explored the forested area near the mouth of the river. "We heard the commotion and came running. Why are all three of you here without the rest of your squad? Did you split up too? Are you all right?"

The amount of worry Walker had was a little high since he knew that they had gone out, but he had not known that Alice had gone out as well. But even more, he saw how many jungle dogs there were and knew that they had fought the monsters at the same time. It was dangerous regardless of their situation.

"Brother, we are safe. We were just handling some annoying monsters that decided we were an easy target. They did not expect us to be as powerful as we are as a trio." Onyx's pride here was backed up by Alice who put her hands on her hips. The two of them knew that they could easily beat this many monsters over and over again if they needed to.

"Weak. not even worth snacks." Midnight huffed a little before going over to Alice and making Alice take out the sand jack to show Walker.

"Is this what you hunted before we came here to see you?" Gil was examining the monster with great interest. He had never seen it but could already tell that it was similar to the horned rabbits. "I bet they are faster than the horned rabbits. They don't seem to have poison either, I wonder if a snare would be better than an arrow. I want to try it."

There was a great temptation for Gil to start hunting the sand jacks. Unfortunately, he could tell that he had to leave for the ship with the others. They had to be there when the other ships arrived. If he were to miss Alma's arrival then he would be in a world of trouble for some time. Not that he didn't want to see her. He was looking forward to it more than anything at the moment.

"Please everyone remain focused. There are only seven jungle dogs here. If I am correct, there should be a few more somewhere else." Su had a feeling that a pack like this would be larger. She could see that these monsters were a bit weaker than others but had clearly spent a lot of time together. She was also the first to notice that there were many footprints around them.

It wasn't that Su was an expert when it came to the footprints and tracking. That was Gil's expertise. Yet, when she looked at the ground to examine the monsters that the trio had defeated, she saw footprints that could not have been made during a single fight. Almost as if many more monsters were here and ran off away from their location.



The addition of yipping and distance growling made it clear that su had caught on to this in the perfect amount of time. There was another group of jungle dogs returning from their hunting. They were coming back to the rest of the pack that had waited behind for them. But even more, they had heard the scuffle as well and ran back even faster.

Without any hesitation, Alice had started the same song before. Her song of shields and swords created the three light condensed blades that attacked and the two light shields that defended. She was the first one to send a shield out to block one of the jungle dogs leaping at Remey.

In turn, Remey took the opportunity and slammed downward on to the head of the jungle dog with her fist. It was a single hit kill for her but also a perfect collaboration with Alice. "Good song, keep it up." The brutal grin on Remey's face was somewhat matched by Alice's tone. The swords and the shields seemed to become denser with the encouragement showing just how much mana Alice added to her words. Just how much the emotions she felt could affect her songs.

Midnight was able to get near Walker. The two didn't need to speak to communicate what they would be doing. In a single breath, Midnight breathed out her golden dragon flames. Walker perfectly manipulated them using his grand elemental manipulation to keep them from burning the grasses and nearby trees. But he did not stop them from hitting three jungle dogs that were charging at them through the grass.

From the side, four more jungle dogs had tried to flank the group. They were too in the open at the moment and from any monster's perspective, they were an easy target. That was a poor train of thought to keep though, Because Gil and the dragonkin warrior had their bows drawn and released arrow after arrow. The four jungle dogs couldn't even growl again to scare anyone or anything before their defeat.

It would have been simple to let things go there and to run off. The jungle dogs had already more than lost. They could see their fallen pack members everywhere around them. But their alpha was still standing. Yet, their alpha was nothing standing in front of Su.

The single shield charge it took to slam the jungle dog alpha in to a tree was enough to shatter bones. The following tail slam from Onyx was enough to crush the remaining two pack members of the jungle dogs. They had no chance to run away because they hesitated after seeing their pack's defeat. If they had followed their instincts to run, they might have had a chance to rebuild another pack and terrorize the village that would have been built here in the future.

"That's it!" Remey jumped up feeling better than ever. She knew they were technically just ambushed by monsters but they had easily worked together to beat them. It took only a few minutes and a great danger for the average person was beaten. Now all Remey could do was stretch a little while Walker took on the job of storing away the bodies of the jungle dogs.

"I doubt they will be used for much. They are fairly weak. But brother will not allow anything to be wasted. His respect for nature in all forms is inspirational." Alice just nodded softly. That was something she also liked about Walker. He didn't leave behind the monsters defeated to be fed on by other monsters. It was always better to gather them and make the most with even a little something.

"The harpoon arrows were too much for monsters like this. We should save them for a time when they are needed for something dangerous. Maybe we should make needle arrows. They are basically just metal spikes with a backing so they can be fired from a bow." Gil had seen needle arrows before they were very inaccurate but if used by the right person and the right bow, they were still a very dangerous force to be reckoned with.

"I understand, please allow me to learn to make them and to use them." The dragonkin was very interested in a new arrow to use already. It had been a single small patrolling journey but he had been fully taken by the desire to learn more about the bow and arrow. To be able to live up to the full skills that he had. Sitting in the shadows and using daggers his entire life had become dull in comparison to the bow. He was basically a child in a candy shop with the promise that he could buy whatever he wanted.

"Let's wrap this up!" Walker got everyone's attention back on the task at hand. He was quick in gathering the defeated jungle dogs. He couldn't hear anymore around and he was certain that it was nearly time for them all to return. He was even more certain that the trio of his family he had just found had ignored their own group and gone off alone. The evidence of this was in the fact that they were still out even though they had technically left earlier than them.

"The ship is waiting for us and we have to be there when the other ships get back to the first one. If we miss it then we will miss the link up." The ship would be stopping near each other to anchor. This would be when they set up bridges between them to meet on one ship and begin the final plan for the journey across the ocean or even more, to ensure that everyone has decent supplies on their ship.