

Master 1671

Chapter 1671 1671. More Than An Island

'Living Island- dormant

The living island is just that, it is land given life through high mana density. It also has a flesh and blood core that is able to feed on the monsters that it captures with its sand, stone, and plant like body parts. It is often confused for an abandoned island but the telltale signs of it being a living island are the lack of plants, fruits, and living monsters.

The living island starts off as a floating mass of sand that slowly grows. Eventually, it attaches to rocks in the ocean and makes them part of its body. From there it can only grow. The more it consumes the more it grows. It has been known to grow to the size of four or five islands swallowing whales. They often attempt to eat each other.

One tamer once found the core on the island and attempted to tame it. Unfortunately, such a large species of unfeeling monster is impossible to tame. They have no emotion for the connection to form with and therefore can only be destroyed. They are not overly destructive but do not discriminate in their meals. They have been known to consume entire ecosystems.'

There was more information that Walker could have read. However, he was already falling toward the others with Midnight in tow. She sensed his worry and was reacting accordingly. "Everyone! Off the island now! Retreat immediately!"

The order boomed out like a roar. Walker was already pulling Su toward the lifeboat they had just left behind. Onyx was right with them trying to understand what Walker could have seen. If he had taken the time to tell them though, they might be too late.

The scouting groups had done nothing to wake the island yet. That was a good thing. If it awoke while they were there then there was the chance for it to eat all of them. The island was so large that the chances of fighting it were too low. They would most likely be unable to even make a move against it.

The caves under the waters would be the anchors it had put down when it was dormant. The parasitic plants made sense now. They weren't feeding off the island because there was no other living thing for them to feed off, it was because the island was perfect for them to feed on. Everything else that they saw around them was part of the island. Part of the island that could eat them if it wanted.

The ships saw that everyone was rushing back. Lifeboats were setting off again with speed that made it clear that there was something wrong. In just a few more moments, the flying tamers, demi-humans, and the golems began to return. The merfolk also made their own guesses about what was going on. But they all trusted Walker's appraisal. They heard him say retreat and that was that.

Before Walker's lifeboat had reached the ships again, Scylla was already off the ship and in the air to meet him. "Tell me what monster you found. Will we beat it or should we retreat?" Scylla had the idea that the island was home to monsters and that was the reason for their retreat. They didn't have enough forces to defeat the monsters living there.

"We retreat. The entire island is alive. That's why there is nothing living there. None of the plants are real. They are all part of its body. It's asleep-"

A massive groan and the sound of cracking stones rang out. The waters began to bubble around the entire island. The groan that followed was from the massive area changing before their eyes.

The island stretched out slowly before their eyes while the beaches rippled. The stone that has been underwater had broken off and was rising up to meet the rest of the living island's body. Seeing that the island was no longer dormant was all Walker needed to shout out again. His roar of warning put even more urgency on retreating.

The other lifeboats had luckily already left the island. They were all using their utmost strength to escape back to the ships. The merfolk in the water swam to push the boats along as well. They could tell this was something they had never encountered. For them, this was a living nightmare coming true from storybooks they were read as children.

"The living island is real!" This was shouted out more than a few times by those on the ships that had heard tales about them.

The island's movements seemed blind as it changed shape and started to drift in the waters of the ocean. Whatever they had done had made it wake up but it was not moving toward them. It was not something with ears as a human had. It couldn't hear their shouts but had felt them on it before. Now it was trying to find the food that had woken it up.

The moment Walker was close to the ship he jumped using the wind to get aboard. "No one attack it, no one even sneeze toward it. If it feels us it will come this way to eat us! The entire island is alive and trying to find food!" The warning made many shudder. They couldn't imagine how such a large living thing would go about eating them. But it was clear that it had done worse before.

There were parts of wood that had been trapped in the sands. Everyone could see them now from the ships. Pieces of wood that had once been a ship. It may have only been enough for one but that was enough. Enough to show that the island did not discriminate about what it ate.

The other things seen as the island moved in the distance were less clear. But the white shapes were clearly sun bleached bones. Many things had been consumed by this monster. None of them had managed to escape their fate. They had only become nutrients for a monster that was nearly impossible to deal with unless its core was found.

"That thing is basically a golem. It might have a flesh and blood core, but its body is made up of sand and stone. It's not something we should face. Next time we see an island, we will appraise the entire thing first." Walker was firm on this. Scylla just stood next to him and nodded. She had already made an order for the harpies to transfer this information to every single ship captain.

The moment that the last lifeboat reached a ship, every single ship was moving away from the living island. They were thankful that Walker had caught the all around appraisal from the air. Many had attempted to use all around appraisal scrolls on things while exploring the island but found they didn't work. It was a common report being made to all the captains at the moment.

"So that was alive?" Gil was more stunned than anything. He was completely fooled in to thinking that was just a random island they had come across.

"I am just a surprised at you. I didn't think that was a living thing until I went up to the clouds and used my all around appraisal. It was just a shot in the dark to see what was going on since I couldn't identify much of anything. But now we know why the island was so clean and perfect. It ate everything that touched it."

"How would I even punch something like that? You said it had a core right? Do I just dig it up and hope I find it like a buried treasure?" Remey wasn't too angry. She knew that some materials had been taken from the parasitic plants on the living island for alchemy. She was very happy with that but a little defeated that the island had woken up and left. Not that she would have been happy if it woke up and stayed.

"This puts the ship in a bad position. We might need fresh food sooner than later." Su made it clear that this was not a good thing. Stopping for nothing earned was bad all around since they were not closer to their destination but had become hungrier.

"We can make it." The positive response from Alice made them all wonder what she had in mind. They knew that the healers might have some hidden tricks to treating certain illnesses but they wouldn't be foolproof.

"Before things get that bad, we will figure it all out. I won't let it come to healers having to take action." Walker's promise was mimicked by onyx who was watching Alice carefully. He was certain that she was considering using light somehow to supplement others. That was the basis for most healing. It just depended on the way it was used.

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Chapter 1672 1672. Train A Little

The energy that everyone had spent when they were worried about the living island left all the crew a little extra tired. They had not expected that they would be dealing with such a situation. They had been told about the monsters of the oceans that might never have been seen before, but this was too much. It was a monster that was thought to be fantasy.

We should stay moving tonight. The more we can make up for the time we lost the better." Walker was sure that they would not have to deal with the lunar algae tonight. He could see the clouds blocking the sun slowly. It wasn't a storm but a soft misty drizzle. Much safer than a storm. There were also no winds and waves building which reassured him.

"I agree with that, we will make up the time and try to find a current. One of the water mages we brought with us had been monitoring the deep ocean currents. She has struggled to find one that keeps us on the path we are following based on the stars until now." Scylla had been skeptical when Leon told her to follow this water mage's guidance. Now she fully accepted it.

"That's good. I want to help us too but I doubt I can sense the water currents like that." Walker wanted to ask Current about this but found that he was long gone. Apparently, after the living island had appeared, the dragons had all been convinced that they might find worse soon. They had all gone in to seclusion in some form or another to strengthen themselves.

This had left Remey with a harder task to make more potions for them. Not that she was going to do anything else, she had the desire to perfect some potions after the last breakthrough with the dual water and fire affinity potion that had surpassed low tier quality.

Knowing this, Walker didn't want to ruin any chance that Remey would be distracted he was sure that this would help them all in the long run. The dragons getting stronger, the potions being better developed, and whatever else came with these two things coming together. Therefore, he volunteered to take the night watch with Gil instead of Remey joining Gil.

The others that were watching the sun set and the ships light the beacons that would help the stay in formation were also taking the places of others. Many had the same feelings after seeing the massive threats in the oceans. They had the desire to get stronger. Especially the mages that had come with. They felt the weakest.

Many of the mages had seen the growth of the warriors that came with them. They had already faced multiple monsters that they could only throw their s at. The warriors were able to train with one another on the top deck of the ship without damaging anything. If the mages did that, then they would cause damage that could ruin the runes all over the ship. If they did that they would be known as the ones who ruined the chances of saving many lives from the demon king.

"So, what should we work on while we keep watch? We can only see so much under the water. The merfolk are mostly resting too so they won't be anywhere near the water." even the golems had been set back in place for the night since they had used a lot of mana to search the waters around the living island before it had woken up. Gil knew this.

"I have no idea. I keep thinking that I should try and learn more about the water. There is a water mage that is able to sense the currents below us. That's pretty amazing. That's why we are able to stay on course all through the night and even keep ahead of schedule." Walker's ideas were simple. He knew he should work on other elemental manas, but couldn't justify it after hearing how amazing this one mage was.

"If she is able to do that, then it's her place. She is helping everyone so let it be. You don't have to do it all. But you also can sense other things. Without Rise and Ventus in the air, we will have to figure out other things to keep watch around us." Gil had a good point that Walker could not argue with at all.

"Then I will take to the air. If I am above the ship then that will be good." Gil also knew that Walker needed a little encouragement. That was why he gave Walker a push after Walker had said this. He knew that Walker was worried about what could have happened to all of them when the living island woke up.

With this, Walker left Gil on the top of the ship to keep watch. He had a feeling that Gil would end up finding some way to train his dagger skills or archery while also doing the watch they needed to be on.

The goal that walker had as he stepped in to the air was to mix other elemental manas from the air. He was sure that he could mix the wind and water all around him easily. But what about the darkness mana and the water? What would dark influenced ice look like? This wasn't something that he had tried before in a pure form. He also was training his ability to focus on multiple things by using mana to walk through the air and not use the wind ripple skill exclusively.

This was the ideal way to train his mind more while he used different elemental manas. It would improve his control and hopefully, help him make a better natural mana manipulation in the future. He would be relying on natural mana more and more, this he could be certain of. There was no way for him to argue against this feeling, it was too strong.

The water he pulled from the air was simple. It was easy to make it freeze, turn in to a mist or mix with the winds. But as Walker stepped forward, he found it harder to pull at the darkness elemental mana around him. This was partially because Mordant had a decent hold on it with Shade while he meditated somewhere. But also because he wasn't used to splitting himself in to three trains of thought at once.

As the shadows finally started to condense, Walker found that they were very resistant to mixing with the water in his other hand. The small ball of water and shadow seemed to be the same when he had mixed light and darkness or fire and darkness. They needed additional mana to force themselves in to a balance.

Luckily, Walker had done that before with other elemental manas. He could easily do this with the additional help of natural mana and the eternal orb made in to a staff for him to use his own mana through.

The two balls of different elemental manas floated in the air moving with him. All of this strained his mind. But for Walker, it was like stretching a muscle that he had not been training lately. After a few moments, a fog lifted in his mind and the feeling of openness surprised him. Walker was better able to grasp the manas easily. It was just a matter of warming up so to speak

When the two manas collided, they resisted each other. The darkness and water tried to swirl around each other until Walker began to force them to condense more. To get closer. The water started to freeze in to ice. This trapped little bots of darkness elemental mana.

The frozen darkness elemental mana was odd. It was dyeing the ice black but still left it somewhat translucent. It was the same as coal colored black glass that some of the cathedrals used to create characters on glass. An odd technique but a very beautiful creation when seen as a whole.

The ice crystals started to crack meaning that Walker had lost the balance he was forcing. He had to excerpt more mana which caused him to slightly stumble in the air while walking. Gil had a close eye on this and wondered just what Walker was doing that would make his steady pace falter.

Since he was cleaning his bow and arrows, Gil had decided to keep an eye on Walker just in case he started to wander off toward another ship or the ocean in general. It wasn't that he didn't trust Walker but that he would worry no matter what. It was the same for any family member anywhere. But when Gil saw that Walker was fusing elemental manas, he could only grin in anticipation. It was always a sign that Walker was going to be learning something interesting.

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Chapter 1673 1673. Darkness In Ice

The shattering ice was the challenge that Walker encountered over and over. For whatever reason, he was losing the balance. But it could all be added up to the division in his attention. Having to walk through the air to keep his pace and also to maintain the balance between two different elemental mana that would prefer to be separate was taking its toll.

However, he would not be giving up. He knew that the more things he could do the better. The more fusions of mana that came naturally to him would be more means to defend those he cared for when he was in danger.

This desire only grew the more he forced the two elemental manas together. The falling black ice crystals were like a shadowy snow falling around the ships. Unknown to Walker, many of those on watch had noticed this and were wondering what was going on.

They did see that they were slightly more covered than before though. The shadow ice crystals falling were covering them from view to a small degree. In their eyes, they saw Walker doing his best to protect them in case anything out in the ocean spotted them. It was just another reason why they had to praise the heroes that had already helped create a new home for them and show them the beauty of the other races.

After another slight stumble in the air, Walker wondered why this was so easy when he formed the dragon wings on his back. The elemental mana always came together with the skill no matter what he did. It wouldn't fuse but even though it was in battle with the other elemental manas, it did not react so negatively. It remained balanced and somewhat combined.

The idea that the natural mana and his mana coming together in those skills made the most sense. But that was what Walker was doing at the moment and having no result. Why could he not fuse the shadows that came with the darkness elemental mana in to the ice?

'The skill shadow snow has been taken from the dark snow queen system. The user has learned the skill shadow snow through the constant creation of ice crystals bonded with the darkness mana linked to shadows.

Shadow snow- 10 mana per hour

The shadow snow is ideal for cloaking things in darkness when in the icy cold parts of the world. While only effective in the night, it is an ideal way to hide something larger from prying eyes. It has a higher mana cost but can work very well with the environment to cut down on the cost of mana.'

The system responded with exactly what Walker expected. He knew he would end up with some form of skill but for now, it was just a shadow snow skill. His efforts to force the shadows in to ice was not working which led him to this. A skill that had a very specific usage in very specific situations. It would even cost him more mana if he wasn't in a snowy and icy area.

"wait...I keep fusing the darkness mana inside the ice and not the other way around..." Walker's ideas changed as he read through the skill and thought of his process getting to it. The shadows that he manipulated with the darkness elemental mana were causing the ice crystals he made to shatter. That was the reason for failure, the darkness was not something small.

Walker was taking the shadows and darkness elemental mana that would naturally spread out all around in nature and forcing it to condense. This added pressure to the ice and water he used. Naturally, the shadows would expand immediately after losing Walker's control so that they could return to their spread out state. It was the same when trying to control the wind. It was not easily bound.

The larger amount of water that came up to Walker now that he was confident in what his mistakes were made many look back toward him again. They had seen the falling shadow snow end and wondered just what they would see next. But they were shocked to see the shadows wrapping around Walker even more as well as the water.

The ice and slush mix that formed reminded Walker of the time he first made the frost whip. It was an interesting skill that he really liked for its versatile battle uses but also for the fact that it used two forms of water. Now, he did the same with the water as he let the shadows surround it.

As the darkness mana condensed slightly, it did not immediately spread out. Walker was no longer forcing it in to a certain shape. Instead, the dark mana was being the holder of the ice and water that Walker added to it. Instead of translucent dark ice being formed, Walker saw that the shadows themselves seemed to wrap around every piece of ice, dying it darker than coal.

The ice was somewhat sinking in to the shadows. The odd way that Mordant had helped Walker travel through the shadows came to mind. The biggest problem that Walker had was that he treated the darkness mana and shadows as if they were a flat thing. But they had layers. Many layers. How could there be an entire plane of darkness mana if it was only a flat thing!? He had been too naive.

This realization caused Walker to double down on what he was doing. The icy shadows that rotated around him like strands of black ink were standing out in comparison to the sky. The mist that fell from the clouds only made the scene more dramatic to all those watching. They witnessed the birth of crystalized darkness which could still flow.

'The skill abyssal ice has been taken from the shadow wyrm system. The user has learned the depths of shadows and used it to fuse with other elemental manas to create a skill unique to the plane of darkness and the plane of water's overlapping edges.

Abyssal ice- mana cost depends on amount and environment

This ice is known only to those that have mastered the use of both water and darkness. Those born in it can control both to come together within their bodies and be used to attack, defend, and many other things. There are even some creatures that can be born from it if in the correct place in existence.

The ice is as dark as the abyss of the dark elemental plane but has the form of flowing water and ice. It can be used in many ways and is a skill only made to facilitate the easier creation of this abyssal ice. The uses depend on the creativity of the user.'

The moment that the shadows flowed around Walker creating pitch black crystals, he knew that he had succeeded. His thinking had been wrong in the beginning. He should have looked to bring the two together instead of forcing one to merge inside the other. It was a simple mistake but one that had stopped him from gaining a new understanding.

But the system had given him the abyssal ice skill nonetheless. It was interesting since he was stepping in to another realm of understanding. The pure elemental planes overlapped. That was new news to him. It was surely news to others as well since the plane they lived on was separate to a degree. However, just like Ibis, it was possible to call the monsters from the elemental planes to them. It was just a matter of understanding how this all worked.

The theories and potentials for these things swarmed Walker's mind. If he put too much more thought in to it he would end up melting his brain. For the time being, it was better to shackle these thoughts away from his mind and focus on the main fact before him. He had finally succeeded in fusing darkness mana and water mana by changing forms to ice and condensed shadows.

"Hey Walker, want to come down here and tell us what you just did?" Those watching were very curious. Walker had not realized that he had become the focus of many on look out for the night.

"Sorry, I was probably a big distraction. I fused darkness mana and water mana. I changed the water in to ice and used the shadows as the carrier of the darkness mana. Then I tried to put the darkness mana inside the ice but that made weird snow. So I did the opposite and made the shadows wrap around the ice. Now I have abyssal ice which is found in the darkness and water elemental planes. Kind of cool, right?"

"You say that like you just threw together a simple sandwich. Do you know how many water mages you woke up? Even the dragonkin with darkness affinity came to see what happened." Gil just shook his head at how oblivious Walker was at the moment. It was altogether stunning.

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Chapter 1674 1674. Work Together For Once

"Well, I kind of just did throw it together. I might have used my skills but it's not like I had these things already. I just get a feeling and follow it." Walker really wasn't sure what to say. Gil might tease him no matter what just for fun.

"So that ice. Umm, abyssal ice, what can it be used for? Do you think I can make anything with it?" Gil was always focused on arrows. It was normal for any archer.

"If you want arrows made of it, then give me an arrow to copy and I will see." Walker watched as Gil handed him an average wooden and iron arrow from his quiver. It was nothing special but the easiest arrow to make that he knew Walker had seen many times before.

Having some abyssal ice that Walker was already maintaining, he started to shape it. The process brought all eyes back to him on the top deck since he had already gained the attention of a few water mages and dark affinity dragonkin.

The crystals that had been formed in the shadows of darkness mana were hard to shape without manipulating both manas perfectly. Some of the crystals shattered as they appeared from the shadows. Others were able to mold themselves in to the shape of an arrow darker than coal.

This was the second time that Walker was making waves with the water and darkness mana. Enough to finally draw the attention of Mordant and Current who had been studying their own affinities for mana.

"Shh, he just fused water and dark manas. It made some abyssal ice thing and he is making it an arrow for me." Gil saw the two dragons coming and warned them of Walker's concentration. They were not at all offended since they were interested in what was happening in the first place.

Seeing the fusion of the two elemental manas gave the two royal dragons a strange feeling. Mordant understood it better than Current though. He had touched on the plane of darkness mana. He knew that this skill had to originate there from the density of mana and how it did not flow the same way as the usual shadows.

Current was more confused though. He could feel the odd way that the ice froze and how the water elemental mana was denser than usual. But if he tries to prove and take it to understand it, he would ruin the skills Walker was using. This wasn't normal for him, he had always held the highest understanding of water, now he felt a little lost.

"It's kind of rough. The arrow doesn't want to stay a solid shape so the shadows are being affected by the extra darkness mana in the abyssal ice. But it should still fly true. I would say it will cause some decaying and very cold freezing effects on whatever you hit."

Walker came out of his focus in a slight daze while explaining. He hadn't noticed Mordant and Current arriving since he dedicated his full focus to manipulating the abyssal ice that he was still a little lost about when it came to manipulating and using it.

"You haven't been to the true plane of darkness or water?" Mordant didn't even wait to ask. He was sure that Walker had not but he needed to hear it.

"No, but this is a skill that some monsters have that live on the overlapping areas of the darkness and water plane." This confirmation made Mordant more excited.

"I stopped my elemental absorption at the right time. This is much more worthy of my focus. Can I have some to watch it?" Current looked at Walker too and he knew that both wanted it but Mordant had just asked first.

"Let's make a little pile here. The three of us can try to understand it as the ice melts and breaks down. And Gil, that arrow won't last. The mana is escaping it."

"Well, I knew that. I just want to see if you can make an arrow with it. If you can...we can use it in battle too." Gil was sure he could have Walker make him plenty of unique arrows. He wouldn't have to use his stash of arrows which he spent a lot of effort on at all.

The water mages and the dark affinity dragonkin saw the three sitting down and Gil leaving. They understood that those above them would be learning a lot from the fusion of darkness mana and water mana. So they decided to find others to take their positions from them and learn as well. Just being in the presence of other elemental s could help them improve. That was why it was important to train under a mage with much more experience or a better system.

"Did you make this so that we would work together more?" Mordant stopped what he was doing for a moment. He had been trying to feel the depths of the darkness in the abyssal ice until this thought had occurred to him.

"To be honest, no. But since you mention it, yes. We should get all the royal dragons working together more. What had you accomplished apart lately? You are better together. If the earth and fire dragons worked together, then the armors you all want can be made faster. If the wind and water dragons work together, then the affinity potions might become higher quality from the herbs being grown better. Those are just a few examples to follow."

"You understand that you are asking us to change our ways again. I am like the water, I flow with what is happening. But it might not be possible for me to flow in that way.' Current had accepted a lot of what Walker had said. But he had also understood that there were lines he did not want to cross.

"Then why are you sitting here? There is a perfect example of what can come of fusing your two abilities. The condensed manas that you both nourish can become this. Something that both of you can't obtain on this plane. What would happen if you both encountered a monster from the elemental planes? Would you win? Or would you lose?"

The way that Walker went around this was harsh. He understood that Mordant was already more open to changes. He would definitely work with other dragons. However, he had not imagined that Current would resist. It was a strange change in personality. Yet, it most likely came from the fact that so much was happening and none of the dragons were in their comfort zone any longer. They had left their villages for the first time in a long time. Even Terron was braving the ocean depths.

"You think that I would lose to-"

"Yes, we would lose. You have not yet touched the ideals and values that come with the water elemental plane. I have touched upon the shadows that shift in and out of the darkness elemental plane. I know what resides there. We are weak by comparison. Have you not understood why I am so accepting of everything? My pride is worthless if every dragon perishes under my orders."

The angry side of Mordant never showed. This shook many around him. The waves of shadows seemed to shift in turmoil while Mordant glared at Current. This wasn't just for show, it was the complete accidental release of power while Mordant became angry.

"That is why I want you both to work together. You already know that nature dragons were the most powerful of all of the dragons. They are rare, but they are a fusion of all elemental mana. If every single dragon works together, then you can all have the power of or even above the nature dragons of history." This seemed to calm Mordant and little and stop Current from reacting with anger.

"If you believe that to be the case, I will give it a chance. You must convince the others. I will take no part in that. It is not something I wish to bring down upon others." Current was stalwart in his beliefs. However, seeing the reaction that Mordant had made him realize that he was not necessarily in the best shape. Mordant had definitely believed every word he said. That being the case, it would be foolish not to take caution.

"I will talk to them too. I might not have seen the elemental planes... but I know there are monsters there that use this ice. And they can't be the strongest there are. I have seen a few from the light elemental plane. Maybe I should speak to Rise next. She is the oldest out of all the royal dragons. She might have already touched the plane of light too." Walker made this his goal for later before the two royal dragons around him calmed down for the time being.

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Chapter 1675 1675. Fight Three

"Why? For some potions? I know you think they will make a lot of difference, but I am here. Trapped by this place for now." Terron's mood had turned more and more sour as he was in the ships. He had found that he could not take any more earth mana crystals or else there would be a deficit in the ship.

The earth mana crystals were needed for the ship's runes and a few other things. Not to mention potential repairs if there was damage to the ship during the journey. Therefore, there had been those that stopped Terron from going to get more of the crystals from all the ships. And as a result, it had put him in a worse mood.

It wasn't just the fact that the other dragons were able to use their elemental mana freely. It was the fact that the affinity potions for earth were made for him and left there, taunting him. Terron could not drink them and improve by leaps and bounds as the other royal dragons were. Even the island they had found was proven to be a monster and useless to him.

"I know that you want to keep gathering mana. I do too. My partner is in the same state as you. That is why they are resting and waiting. But I still want to learn from you. If I can become tougher like the

earth, like you, then I will be able to defend more people I care for. Stop more from even nearing my family." Su didn't hide a single thing.

When it came to training, Su had maintained her own training. She had told the others that she had somewhat trained with Terron, but in reality she had just trained nearby since he had been so stubborn. Now that she had grown sick of not improving in the ways that she desired, she had pushed him. Her stubbornness against his.

"And why should I agree to that? Train someone weak in a skill that will cost me? I think not!" the growl resounded through the part of the ship that Terron had taken residence in. his eyes closed again as he tried to pretend he was nowhere near the ocean.

"Because if you help me, I can have Walker prioritize things for you. I can also use my title as hero to get you things you need. Haven't you been to the desert elf city? That place was where the mage tower came from. There should still be many earthen treasures there. It's only right that someone goes to collect them for you.' Su also had this card in her back pocket.

The reason that she went with the desert elf city that had been built over the ancient ruins was simple. It had many things left behind by the elves and even those that came before them. But since it was in the middle of the desert, there was a high chance that the plentiful earth materials they would have had stored were still there. They would not have decayed or been snatched up.

The reason that theft was not a thought in Su's mind were the monsters. They had been trying to get in to the deepest part of the ruins, yet, they had been unable to do that with the mage tower or any other part. That meant that the vaults and treasures would most likely be safe for her to take things from. They would be full of what she could use to appease Terron.

"Treasures are what I have. I am a royal dragon, I have collected many things in my life. What could they have that I do not? Why do I need old and useless things?" The rebuttal was not what Su was hoping for.

"Then what about what Current and Mordant are doing right now? You haven't left here, right? Do you even know what they are doing and what that means for them?" This was like a slap in the face. Terron's eyes opened and glared right at Su. she could feel the pressure he radiated as a royal dragon who had lived many more lives than she had.

"I went to the top of the ship for water and food before I came back here. Walker was mixing water and darkness to make ice. It didn't go as planned though, he messed up and made some skills that brought the mages out to watch. Now, he has a skill that is from the overlapping darkness and water elemental planes. A skill that is unique to beasts that can fight against dragons."

If anyone could walk in the room at that moment, they could feel the sinking feeling in Terron's heart. He had not touched the earthen elemental plane. He believed himself too far away currently. But Current, who had also not touched the water elemental plane was studying from it? How ridiculous was that? How insulting was that?

There was a lot of frustration and anger in Terron. He felt like he could blow up at any moment. He wanted to flap his wings and bring up an earthquake to deal with the problems he faced. Not that it would solve a single thing. At most, it would make a few waves that trapped him in the ocean forever.

"But what if Walker focused on earth next? He manages to find a new skill fused with wind or another element so you can study how the overlapping elemental planes work. So you can see a different purity of earth and mana?" Now Su knew she had Terron's full attention. She could feel it in his gaze. It was no longer angry and frustrated but it was hungry.

"The skill most of my dragonkin learn is called the metal scale. They grow with their training. Spending time with metals, ores, and earth. This is the essence of where we live and what we dig through the caves for. My scales can not be pierced by average metals. They are toughened by the earth as I dig through it. So why would my dragonkin not desire to be the same?"

There was a moment when Su thought her heart had stopped. She was very excited that she had finally found something that Terron wanted and that she could learn. "You will find my dragonkin and defeat three of them while they use this skill. If you can do that, I will let you see me use my own version of the skill. If you can not deliver the price you have offered..."

"Then I will be failing you as a hero. It would be worthless to say I am a guardian if I can't even learn a skill that would help me protect others." Su made sure to finish what Terron was saying. She didn't want to hear a threat of destruction. However, it appeared playing on the pride as a draconic guardian made Terron happier. Dragons and pride were hand in hand.

"Leave before I have changed my mind. My dragonkin will report to me after you have managed to win if you can." Terron knew that if Su failed, then he might lose out. However, this was also a challenge for his dragonkin. They had remained idle for this trip so far. They were doing small tasks and he hated it.

He wanted them to fight and show how indomitable they were. He wanted them to represent the mountains he had eaten hollow, the true strength of earth and stone.

There weren't any more words to be said. Su ran from the palace immediately. She had to come up with theories about how to beat the earthen dragonkin that had come aboard the ships. She had not fought with many of them or even seen many fight. The moment that they had come on board the ships, they had become very downtrodden since they were not in touch with the earth as usual.

"Where are you rushing to? If I have any sense, you are looking for a fight." Of all the people to run in to, Su nearly ran right in to Scylla who was finishing up a walkthrough of the ship with a few of the blacksmiths and rune carvers.

"I need to fight three earth affinity dragonkin to get Terron to teach me how to use a skill. If I can't win then I will fail to get stronger before we make it to the unknown continent." Su knew that hiding this would just draw Scylla in more. The best method was to be honest and hope that Scylla didn't want to fight her too.

"Good! I like that Terron! His ideas are grand. I will watch your fights then. You might learn even more!" Scylla was feeling like she had just found a seat in the arenas back in the demi-human city. It was just like home.

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Chapter 1676 1676. Roaring At The Earth

There was no effort spared as soon as Scylla had become involved. She knew that she was going to see a good battle between the earthen dragonkin and Su. But she also wanted to see what the skill was that they knew and Su did not. That would be a very interesting addition to her battle knowledge for when she directed all the soldiers under her.

Naturally, the change in the top decks set up drew a lot of attention. While a lot of the soldiers remained on lookout, there were more than enough to end up coming toward the top deck to watch. Before Su knew what was going on, there were many soldiers that had formed a ring around a large open area for her to battle.

"Here and now, we have a challenge issued in the name of battle knowledge. Su, the hero had challenged the dragonkin of the royal dragon Terron. They shall battle their way through intense combat

for the chance to learn from the royal dragon himself. If they fail, they will prove that they have mountain to climb before they can look back up at the sky!"

As much as Scylla wanted to just watch, she had fallen right in to her favorite activity. She loved the arenas of the demi-human city. The entire act of battling, announcing, and challenging were ideal to her. They were the best activities for growth. Even watching a battle could bring someone from a full stop to a complete revelation of where they should be in their battle style.

"This has gone too far." Su was incredibly embarrassed being put on the spot. However, she couldn't hold back her blood. She could feel it starting to heat up at the thought of battle. The dragon blood that was affecting her was truly stronger than she gave it credit for. Even though her emotions had not caught up with the situation, there was the fact that her blood was already preparing for a battle feeling the energies around her.

"Sister Su! You can do it!"

"Fight! Win!"

The two cheers surprised Su a lot. She had not expected that Midnight and Onyx would take a break from their own training to watch her. But when she looked, she saw that it was more than just them. Rise was looking down at them with Ventus nearby as well.

The reason that they had come to pay attention to this was simple, they wanted to watch the human draconic guardian improve. While Rise may have been more stiff when it came to the reasons she wanted to see Su improve, Ventus was more relaxed.

Sicenvetus had seen so many unique things and even trusted her children to learn around the human heroes, she wanted to see more. It was like a curiosity that couldn't be sated. She wanted to see just what more could happen. How much more the humans with these never before had positions could do? They were so amazing already that they could step in line with dragons, what else could they show her?

"Why am I so in my head? I need that metal scale skill. Or even better, I need a skill above it." Su started to let her greed win a little. She wanted more than just the basic skill that the dragonkin used. She wanted the direct skill that Terron used when he fought. She wanted to be able to have defenses that

rivalled a real dragon's defenses. Who cared about having the second best, she wanted to be the best guardian there was.

The sudden slamming of the twin shields made everyone draw focus on to Su. she had finally warmed up for the fight and all the earth dragonkin that could come were facing her. They had not chosen who would be the first to battle, But she was already facing them.

"Come and show me what dragonkin that hide under rocks can do! Can you deal with a real fight? Or will you go back to hide in your caves!?" Su's taunt was enough to rile anyone up, but for the moment, the dragonkin were incredibly incensed by it.

Before they could step forward, Su took a depth breath. Everyone saw it and wondered just what she could be doing. If they thought for a moment., they would remember that S had been growing and changing over time. The dragon blood shared with her through a proper ritual had affected her greatly. It had altered her body and she could even breathe small flames if she wanted.

But these were flames. This was a thing any dragon could do. And any dragonkin could do too if they were strong enough.

The large breath Su took ion was released with a higher pitched roar. The echo never returned since the sound went around the ocean. Every ship heard it along with the clanging of metal as the twin shields slammed back together. Those that were not ready were stunned but the dragonkin were immediately hyper focused. They had been challenged. Slapped in the face and challenge for their territory and pride.

"The roaring guardian calls for your first fighter, earthen dragonkin, send your warrior!" Scylla was nearly shaking, she was too excited. She had never imagined that Su would be standing out so much. She would be putting on such a spectacular showing of her current strength. There was not a doubt in Scylla's mind that she would be seeing Su crush three dragonkin before the night was out.

The first dragonkin warrior took a stand ahead of Su. he had a long sword with him and a small buckler shield. It seemed to be an odd pairing. However, he also had longer limbs making him tall for a dragonkin warrior. The added height would definitely give him a unique battle style that would make him harder to face. Su saw this but she looked at him like he was a bug. She knew that she had to enrage them more. Knew that it was a key to victory. But her blood also screamed at her, she had to be the best of them!

The longsword lashed out toward Su but her shields slammed together. The larger defenses from the twin shields when linked made the attack completely useless. It didn't even make Su budge. However, when she pushed back, the larger shield coming at him made the dragonkin take a slight step back. It was another provocation.

The earth affinity dragonkin should be as stable as stone. They shouldn't be pushed back. Yet, they had in just a moment of battle. They had already been beaten in a small matter. The next attack had to hit and defeat Su.

That was why the buckler was abandoned completely. Why defend when they could attack? They were earth dragonkin. They had tougher bodies than all others, which made them able to defend a human's attack with no problem. So what if this human had already proven that they were strong? They had trained longer, they had worked under a royal dragon, and they were not willing to lose!

The long sword came down with double the force as the dragonkin used both hands in his attack. The attack made a loud metal ringing when it came in to contact with the twin shields, But what surprised the dragonkin was how Su countered it. She split the shields letting the sword fall down to the deck. The force had been perfect to deflect the sword to the ground and make a perfect opening.

Using the split shield, Su turned her left and blocked the long sword from being able to be brought back up. The right shield slammed in to the shoulder of the dragonkin completely throwing him off balance. She didn't stop there though.

Su had the advantage to keep this energy rolling. She was setting the pace for the battle, not the dragonkin and she was going to make sure of that. Therefore, Su used her momentum to charge forward using as much force as she could. The downward momentum and the shield slamming back together in to one large shield ensured that the dragonkin could not move fast enough to block it.

He either had to drop his sword or he would need to take the full attack. But he had another option. In a flash of silver and brown, a metal like skin seemed to form over his scales. This was the metal scale skill that Su wanted to learn about as soon as possible, the skill that would make her defenses reach another level.

"Let's see how tough you are!" Su growled out her will to fight more. She knew that the real battle had finally started. She was going to test out every aspect of the skill she needed. Every single little detail.

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Chapter 1677 1677. Taken By Emotion

Su seemed to only be improving with every attack she blocked or used a shield to deflect. This battle was against a much tougher opponent now that the dragonkin was not taking her lightly. It had trained for a lot of time and was certainly better when it came to battle instinct. If that was all that decided the winner, then it would be an easy win for him.

Unfortunately, Su was not simply a human fighting him. She was a draconic guardian that had accepted the ritual and pledge their life to protect a dragon champion. The blood and the system had been connected from the start. It was not just some small symbolic gesture that someone would use to show status. It was a key to a draconic guardian truly awakening who they were.

This fact was making the blood boil in Su's body. She was feeling more and more instinctual pulls to dodge, attack, and withstand the foe she faced. It wasn't so much the pressure that was tempering her, but the fact that she was properly using the mana that she had not used yet.

The water that had started to splash on to the deck around them was not fazing her in the least. Even the wind picking up around her was considered as more encouragement. The earth elemental mana that radiated around the dragonkin just exacerbated Su's focus on gaining the metal scale skill.

Furthermore, Su had not been holding back. She had already adapted and changed with the dragon blood within her. It was calling her to use the flames that she could use. The flames that she was unique to using as a draconic guardian. The flames that made the opponent she faced retreat every time she managed to fit in in to her movements.

This wasn't all though, Su already had the ability to make a light shield around her that was recovering her bruises and small scrapes while battling. The glow of light caused the shadows around her feet to lengthen and whether she noticed or not, those shadows were slightly wrapping her feet.

This all came to be attributed to the fact that Su was no longer just a single elemental affinity being. She had accepted the ritual and been welcomed by the blood she bonded with. Midnight had awakened her true dragon champion and bonded with Walker very closely. The natural mana had stimulated the blood in her to fully awaken every elemental mana affinity. Since Midnight had that, so would Su, it was only natural that under such battle and emotions, Su would start to show that she subconsciously used these elemental manas.

This was what Rise and Ventus wished to see. They wanted to see just how a human would defend a young dragon champion. How it could be possible that someone they had thought of as weak because of their race was able to adapt and overcome the barriers that would limit them.

It was a sad thought that Terron's dragonkin were being used for this. However, in their eyes, it was worth watching. Those that were fighting here were just acting as stepping stones to bring up a truly respectable draconic guardian. Every dragonkin would feel pride to see a guardian born even stronger due to their training. Due to the fights that they had to guide them.

That was why the next two dragonkin were already itching to take the fight to Su. they wanted to drop the act of waiting and charge right in at full strength. As any good host would do in the arena, Scylla noticed this. She saw that Su was under enough pressure but was pushing to a whole new level. Was straining herself to break the mold restraining her.

This wasn't just about getting a single skill to help her defend everyone, it was about the stagnant feeling that many of them had by sitting on the ship. Sy couldn't just jumbo in the water and defend the ship from underwater monsters. Like many, she was forced to sit and wait.

This was the same feeling that many tamers had. They couldn't fight like the monsters they tamed. Their partners often held a lot of the negatives. Some were able to learn to fight but most were stuck as just a tamer in the background. That was why they had also been attracted to the fight that Su was in. they could feel her emotional energy as well.

"You! Join the fight. Let the pressure rise and show them what our great guardian can do!" Scylla shouted above everyone for the next dragonkin to join. There was not a single second of hesitation as they entered with their ax.

The pair of dragonkin easily adapted to fighting together. They had done so for many years already. The second dragonkin did not hold back in the least. The ax slammed down on to one of Su's twin shields forcing her to step back. It was a sign that she had to adjust and overcome or else she would break, just as the ax wanted her shield to break under its blade.

The additional stress of being attacked by both a long sword with great weight behind it and an ax with great weight behind it made Su a little angry. She wanted to look at Scylla and fight here. The blood inside her wanted to fight the source of the issue. However, Su was still able to hold her emotions. She had once heard that the most powerful people could accidentally crush a mountain in a small swipe of anger. That was why they trained their minds to resist everything.

That sounded exactly like what a guardian should do. Train to resist everything. Taunts would be useless. The elemental attacks of and physical attack of nature would be nothing. That was what Su strived to be. Unaffected in the face of any danger so that all behind her could keep living safely.

When the two attacked at once, Su was unable to slam the twin shield back together, there was no if ands, or buts about it. She had to change the way she was fighting. The defensive battle she had going would never work. She couldn't just retaliate. But that in itself was the issue, Su needed to change.

Without thinking much, Su held the shields tighter and let them fall closer to her arms so that she could use the pointed edges of them. It was something she had already thought about doing, but she had not wanted to turn the shields from their defense to attack. The point had been made so that when the twin shields were together, they could be forced in to the ground and defend a spot better. So that she couldn't be pushed back.

This drastic change was something unexpected. In battle, having something so unexpected would throw anyone off, especially the two dragonkin that had just gotten used to how Si had been moving. There was a moment that the two couldn't move after Su had let their sword and ax deflect off the shields with a loud scrape. This moment had left them open to the stabbing attack of the pointed shields. '

"And now, you! Join the fight!" Scylla had shouted the moment she saw Su adapting. It was the perfect chance to see the limits of what Su could do.

The third metallic skinned dragonkin raced in and used the fallen buckler to deflect Su's shield. The other he managed to knock to the side with a short sword. The third dragonkin had perfectly filled in the new gaps that the other two had. And it perfectly showed Su that she had to fight even further if she wanted to win.

What no one saw coming was that Su would be even angrier after this. So much that she let her emotion take over for a second. Just a second. In that second, the thicker skin she had developed showed the scale patterns it had gained. The dragon eyes that had appeared were seemingly glowing.

Su's nails seemed to elongate and mimic a dragonkin's even more than anyone could have guessed. There were even small spots on her head that made it seem that horns may sprout to mimic a dragon's horns. Su had unknowingly awakened a similar skill to Midnight's dragonkin transformation skill. She had awakened the draconic battle form known to many of the draconic guardians.

While this form was based purely on their emotions, mana, and situation, Su was using only the most basic of this skill. It was like putting a single toe across the line, but a toe was all she needed. Su had already taken a deep breath and released a wave of flames that hit all three of her opponents. Perfectly masking her actions as she charged and began to unleash a fury of attacks.

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Chapter 1678 1678. Incoming Waves

Seeing the changes in Su made every single dragonkin watching want to kneel down. They weren't sure since only a few had seen the draconic battle form, however, they could feel it. This form was higher than them. It was much closer to a dragon than they were and it had power.

Unfortunately, after just a few seconds, the dragonkin fighting Su had been radically slammed back. Her mana had been burned up and Su had started to return to her normal state. The only issue was that she was barely conscious and was close to being completely unconscious.

Scylla jumped in between where the three dragonkin had landed and Su with a gust of wind. Her face was much more serious than before. She had seen the strength that came with Su under pressure. It was incredible. But the reason she had jumped in between the two parties was that Su had managed to deal damage through the dragonkin's metal skin.

They had been pushed farther back than anyone had expected and the metal layer of scales was cut apart. While the dragonkin were still breathing and conscious, they were injured much worse than one would have expected from a shield. That was what the incredible burst of strength had done. That was what just having a toe across the line to using the draconic battle form was.

To a draconic guardian, this was their most powerful trump skill. Their last ditch effort to protect their dragon champion. For Su, the only reason that she had just stuck a single toe over that line was her inexperience. She was too far from being able to understand and master the elemental affinities that she now had. She needed to find more skills and more ways to train them. Eventually, her body would catch up and she could truly start to use the skill when in need.

"The winner today is the indomitable Su. An intense performance showing the polishing of a mighty diamond! The top of the food chain! The sole human draconic guardian known to man that brings comfort to all that need protection!" Scylla spoke and there was a collective cheer. Everyone that had watched could only agree they had witnessed something amazing.

Meanwhile, there were already healers helping the dragonkin that were injured. They had enough strength to bounce back from such an injury. However, that didn't mean Su hadn't realized that she had managed to cut right through their metal skin skill. She had felt it. The feeling of her pointed shields hitting them.

"What abou...are they..."

"Sister, you are strong. They are safe." Midnight leaned on Su. she had felt everything from their unique bond. Every small desire to get stronger. It had made her blood boil. It had made Midnight rush to Su and be there as her support.

The relationship between a draconic guardian and a dragon champion were not so small that they were just one way. This was their closest bond other than the dragon champion to the royal dragon. They were linked closer than siblings would be. That was why Su could also feel how proud Midnight was. How happy Midnight was to have a sister that was so strong and could easily protect everyone around her naturally.

"That's more than enough. I will show you a thing or two when you can stand. I will share it with your champion as well. I don't want to see such a young dragon harmed." Terron made the excuse to also show Midnight, he had silently arrived without anyone else noticing. It was a surprise since he had done so in his dragonkin form. Not many people would expect the earth royal dragon to be stealthy.

"Perfect." Su heard what she had desired and fell heavily on to Midnight who was more than happy to help carry her to bed.

"So you felt that too. A draconic guardian for less than fifty years just started to use the draconic battle form. We have never had such a true born guardian for a champion before." Rise was high with praise. She had never seen nor read of such a thing. How could she not give credit where credit was due? Especially after history was clearly made.

"You are correct about that. I did not expect to see such a thing in such a place. Especially with the storm brewing like this. Maybe that was a reason. The stress of an incoming storm affects everyone at every level." Ventus looked in to the dark clouds that had begun to roll in with the wind and the waves.

"You both should mind your own business. This was a challenge issued by me. I was testing her to see if she would be worthy of learning the skill I use to defend myself. The metallic skin skill is nice. But that is a child that could learn the diamond skin skill." Terron said that before returning below deck. He only needed a look for his dragonkin to know that they needed to go with him and a few needed to remain with their brethren who had been injured.

"Since you are here, Is it possible to use your wind to block the winds against us?" Scylla knew that this would be tough, but if anyone could do it, it would be Ventus.

"This storm is not large. I can not change nature though. I can only block some of it from the ships. Remain on course and take measures to prevent the worst." Ventus saw that Scylla was being honest with her and could only say she would help. There was the added bonus that a lot of mana would be around them during a storm. It was one reason that Su had reacted the way that she did. Higher mana in a chaotic state would always affect someone with multiple affinities.

"Are all of you prepared?" Leon ran up to them he had seen the battle but had focused on getting the merfolk out of the waters. He had also told the dwarves that it was best to keep the golems out of the waters under any circumstance possible. They could easily be swept away from the ships and be lost forever.

"Yes, we are preparing some maneuvers. I have asked Lady Ventus to help us prevent the wind from throwing us off course. I was going to ask you to organize the water mages." Scylla was already working well with all of them. She had taken the lead against the storm even during the battle that Su had been doing. No one had noticed the demi-human soldiers moving around to alert and awaken anyone that needed to be woken.

The change in the ship were also clear. There had been things set up for the ships to battle against storms. The runes were activating at higher levels since they had been set up to use the manas around for this instance. There were also preparations to keep the sails from getting torn in the storms. The sails were partially there to help the ships move, but right now they were going to be harmful to the course and making it through the storms.

The issue that they all encountered was the fact that the waves were growing. The water mages would be key in this. Naturally, it had already started to alert Walker, Current, and Mordant. They felt that changes around and had started to join in the preparation themselves. Mordant had specifically set his dragonkin to be on watch for the rails. He trusted that they could use the shadows to react fast enough to capture anyone falling over the railings.

Current was in a different position. Just like Ventus, he had been asked to help. Walker had started to ask right away as soon as he felt the changes in nature. He wanted to make sure that there would be someone with very powerful water skills to save them if a major wave came at them.

The large waves were the true tests that would potentially flip the ships or sink them. The ships had not been tested in storms yet, they had been designed by the best of the best. However, the ships were still the top of the line. Those that had worked on them had a lot of knowledge and had contributed everything they had to offer to them.

There was also the issue that the storm clouds brought themselves. Mainly lightning. No one knew better that there was always one thing that lightning liked to strike the most. It would go for the heist point. But it also liked to strike metal. People knew not to walk through fields during lightning with metal on their bodies. They would be a target. Right now, the ships were metal in an open space. Only water was around them.

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Chapter 1679 1679. Issues In Storm

"Water mages! Wave is coming!" The warning went out and the water mages sprinted to the side of the ship. They used their collective strength to hold off the majority of the incoming wave.

This had been the way they had started to resist the small and medium sized waves. The person responsible for the large waves had been Current. He was flying without any trouble through the wind. Ventus could easily keep the ships from being buffeted by the strongest wind and no dragon would have trouble flying during the storm.

Between Current and Ventus, the largest threats were being resolved or at the very least, reduced. However, this had just been a few moments in to the storm. There was still a major issue of the lightning. That was what the others needed to figure out.

Most people that could not use were forced below deck or were paired up with the mages. This was to ensure that the mages did not fall overboard during the jostling of waves or wind. However, there had already been three close calls. The merfolk had already dived in to the water to pull someone back on to the ships since they had been knocked overboard.

The keen eyes of archers and the tamers were watching like hawks. Between the beasts and the archers, there had not been a single thing that escaped their watch. It was a great way for everyone to rest slightly at ease while the storm only seemed to get worse.

Communication had become rough. The ships were close enough that they could use light and a few other unique methods of communications. The real issue was the fact that the roaring of the storm winds and waves stopped the ability to hear properly. That meant that every single time that Scylla, Leon, or the king of the surface shouted an order, it was missed.

That was where the dragons came in. they had the sheer size and strength to shout over a literal storm. Since Current and Ventu had taken their dragon forms, the other royal dragons had taken roles elsewhere in their dragon forms. Even Terron had come to the top ship and was roaring orders to others after seeing what was wanted. He wouldn't pretend to know what was going on with every ship or how they worked. He was stubborn, not an idiot.

Walker found himself with the water mages. Every wave he saw coming he felt to some degree. Every gust of wind, he could feel on his arms before it actually came. This storm was proving to be his kind of place. His kind of environment.

For whatever reason. The natural mana within the storm was fairly powerful. It was causing the elemental manas to mix and build causing many different effects. This was very similar to how Walker had to balance the manas to stop them from going out of control. If they did go out of control, Walker believed that he was seeing a large scale version of the risks he took fusing elemental and natural manas.

The real thing that he was focused on was the lightning. He knew that to be the main issue in this situation. It was clear to everyone. No matter what they all did, there was nothing to resist the lightning that could come down. It was destructive and fused elemental mana that could easily ruin every rune on the ships with one strike if it was powerful enough.

Yes, there were earth ruins to reinforce the ships. That was made just to prevent stress from warping the metals badly. Unfortunately, they were not made to resist lighting of all things. Earth was the most resistant elemental mana to lightning since it was not mixed within the lightning at all. It was not conducive to the same degree and everything else.

There was a sudden growth of green seaweed in front of them. Walker was sure that Alma had acted to protect the ships from a larger wave for a moment. It would not do much but it was already a lot. The downside was that Walker knew that Alma would be under a lot of stress doing this.

'Wild Bull kelp

The wild bull kelp is a hearty and dense seaweed that doesn't need to set roots to grow. It can grow large and rapidly in the middle of the ocean if needed. It is known to be food for many monsters. It is very tough and some people without much gold can make armor out of if dried wild bull kelp. Otherwise, it is just known for being long lasting and tough.'

The all around appraisal was somewhat helpful. Walker had seen pieces of this floating in the ocean so it made sense that Alma would have taken the seeds when she saw them to use. She was always on the look out for new seeds to use her plant growth skills on. However, the massive wall of wild bull kelp that she had made was too much.

However, it had inspired Walker. The bull kelp had grown very tall and was very tough, since it was controlled, it had the guidance and strength to remain upright without bending. That being said, Walker knew that he could make it taller than the ships. It could be the perfect way to redirect the lightning that appeared because of the storm. So far they had just been lucky that the lightning had remained in the clouds.

The ships were close enough since they were in formation that Walker could run through the air and get to the ship that Alma was on. She had been using her skills here and there while directing other mages to work on the waves and win. However, she saw Walker and was clearly pale. She had used a lot of mana to block an entire wave with the wild bull kelp.

"Listen! I need your help to manipulate that kelp. We will use it to block the lightning and direct it to the ocean around us to lessen the damage!" Walker's shouts were loud enough to be heard since he was using the wind manipulation to make his voice heard.

"I am out-"

"I have mana potions and I will reinforce you with my mana and the natural mana. Just give me the seeds and use your skills since you have them and I do not." Walker was going to fuel Alma's skills. That

was the goal here. Instead of Alma using all of her mana, she would be using her mental strength and skills without her mana. The mana would be nearly all Walker. Especially since he would be using natural mana.

The additional natural mana always worked better with nature. That was a fact. Natural mana and plants were hand in hand since it was part of nature in elemental and could contain all sorts of mana. That was why alchemy and elemental herbs were a thing. They held mana easily because they were a mixing of mana elemental manas in to one thing.

"Are you sure that will work?" Alma had her worries. She knew that Walker could do many things, but provide her with large amounts of mana didn't seem right.

"The storm is a mix of a ton of manas. I just need to pull on the natural mana to make them work for us than against us!" This was the plan he had. Since the mana around him was chaotic and full of natural mana changing forms, he could use it. It would take a lot of focus to bring the mana to him then channel it in to Alma's skills. It would also use almost all of his mana to do. That meant a lot of mana potions would be used in tandem with him.

"Fine! Just don't go too far!" Her worries were justified, but the situation was not light. They had to make a solution to prevent anything back from happening. As if to mock them, the lightning struck the ocean in the distance. An arc of lightning spiderwebbed out across the surface of the ocean and touched the ships.

A slight jolt of electricity hit everyone but did zero damage. It was the extent of a static shock. However, it had been enough for every single person to realize the situation they were in. the waves were annoying. The wind was brutal. Yet, the true danger was the bright flash and boom of lightning and thunder that could tear them and the ships apart. It would leave a metal hull floating in the water without any life on it. A true danger. A true fear.

There was a reason that most beings feared lightning. There was a reason that most lightning affinity monsters were. Having the triple elemental affinity to make lightning was very rare and Walker understood why he had only seen one monster with it so far.

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Chapter 1680 1680. Caged

Manipulating the mana around him proved to be a tougher task for Walker. He was trying to pull at the natural mana around him and found that it was not allowing him easy control. Since Fleur had gone in to rest, he was completely alone with this. It would have been nice if she was awake, however, Walker had felt her begin to slowly absorb natural mana.

This alone meant that Walker would be having a harder time with this. But it was also good. The natural mana that Fleur needed was much higher than the other elemental spirits. That was because she needed the mana of all elements formed together to create natural mana. There was rarely dense natural mana around.

The storm was different though. The changing of manas left a lot of dense natural mana. Therefore, Walker could sense the manas changing and moving around him. The water elemental man was the most prevalent. That was followed by wind. They were both being pushed up, down, left, right, and any other possible direction. Every time the water sprayed in his face, it was blown away by the wind.

There was also the fire elemental mana. That was the surprise. Walker had always wondered how storms were made. He had forcefully mixed the manas before and even found that when he used a lot of his mana to use the lightning sword styles, he was creating small arcs and sparks. But that was just it, that was not real lightning, it was just a mana reaction to his actions. He could not control that.

This meant that Walker was seeing the natural creation of lightning for the first time. It was a perfect storm for him to learn. Unfortunately, this was not the place to learn. Not that he would miss the chance to learn something. Just by extending his senses he was learning.

The fire elemental mana was coming from the top of the clouds. But reaching out with his mind, Walker could feel that the fire mana was built up from the sun hitting the dense dark clouds. The wind generated was making the wind react and in turn the wind made the water react. All of these reactions mixed the two and made lightning form. It was a wondrous feeling.

Just understanding this movement all around them made Walker better able to grasp some mana as it came by him. If he couldn't mobilize all of the natural mana, he would mobilize parts as the mana shifted around him. He wouldn't be in complete control, but he would be able to change the course of things.

"Are you ready?" Alma felt Walker place a hand on her shoulder. He was starting to pull mana toward him and make it condense around them. The contact with Alma allowed him to sense her mana flow so that he could add the natural mana behind her skills.

Since Alma had consumed a few low tier mana potions. She was looking a lot better. The mental stress was being ignored for the time being. The water elves had also moved around them to prevent any accidents. It was a collective feeling that they were needed at the moment while the two prepared their skills.

"Make a cage to redirect the lighting. We can take the secondary arcs, but not the strikes." Walker made sure that Alma heard him over everything. She had already figured this out though. If she were to make a complete dome over every ship, then there would be a major issue. It would burn her mana and fall right apart. It would not be maintained.

"I am going to channel my mana in to these seeds. I will send people to place them around all the ships!" This was the small caveat to the entire plan. It depended on everyone moving ship to ship through the storm. Not many people were able to do that.

The harder grasp on both Alma's and Walker's arms made them look over. They found Scylla who had Leon right with her. She had seen Walker moving and knew that he was working on a plan. Without a single second of hesitation, she had grabbed the strongest to help too. Behind her were Terron, Mordant, Ignus, and Rise. It was completely unexpected.

"Take the seeds. Alma has added her mana to them. We will make them grow. Just spread them ahead of us. We are making a cage!" That was all they needed to hear as each took a handful of wild bull kelp seeds. They had no intention of letting these ships sink.

Other than the fact that the dragonkin that followed them were on these ships, the dragons were prideful. How could they fail to defend against a simple storm? How could they be so weak that a storm at sea would defeat them completely? That would make them the lowest of the low when it came to dragon history. That would make them just pathetic worms in comparison of the greatness left behind for them to follow.

The royal dragons were tough enough to fly no matter the wind. Even if they pushed themselves a little, they could tough out the hardest gusts and the larger waves. Even Terron knew that he could fly through it all. He was a dragon, even though his affinity was earth, flying was a natural aspect for them. His wings had formed before he could even understand what they were!

The seeds left Alma and Walker in their hands. But through the connection of her mana, Alma could sense them all. It was like they were an extension of herself. But that was the nature of her skill at the end of the day. She could mix her mana with the plant she chose and make it grow rapidly. That wasn't just temporary though, she could leave them living in the state she altered them as she wanted. She was truly part of nature herself.

"Walker, they all just hit the water. As long as the ships stay in formation I can keep the kelp here." Alma felt a reassuring squeeze. Walker had no mind to speak right now. Before he had been training, he had been able to split his attention. That was all and good, but now, he had to focus everything he had on the mass of natural mana he had gathered.

The storm seemed to be trying to tear away the natural mana again. It was still changing the manas around them. The water, fire, and wind manas were pulling at his attention but completely blocked every time they tried to break up the natural mana. The major effect that Walker had over everything was purely from his training and skills. If he lacked a single one he would be lost here in the ocean.

"Guided overgrowth!" Alma shouted the skill she was about to use. She wanted every single person around her to be warned that she was using a skill that would have a large effect. It was a warning so that they avoided any issues that came with it. To make sure that they avoided the lightning that might come off the wild bull kelp.

Feeling the influx of natural mana around her made Alma grind her teeth. The seeds soaked up every bit of mana that suddenly hit her as if they were endless voids. The skill would normally be used as a last result since she knew that overgrowing a plant was risky to its life. Yet, what was the point of holding a trump card here? Never using it to protect others meant that it was a waste to have.

The waters churned in the waves around the ships as they reached the locations of the wild bull kelp seeds. There were tendrils of watery roots that snaked out away from the ships to direct the lightning toward the outer ocean around them. The long and large wild bull kelp stalks shot up with unparalleled strength. Normally they would flop over, however, they were braiding around each other forming a massive framework cage. It covered the entire area of the ships' formation.

Everyone knew who was using this skill. There was only one person that could manipulate plants like this on any ship. Their respect for Alma had always been there, unfortunately, Alma had never used her skills like this in front of so many. She had always used smaller scale skills and kept herself with some mana to ensure that she was able to give orders after.

"You have all the mana you need! Don't stop!" Walker roared out and forced more control over the natural mana. He would not let the skill drop until the storm blew over. Even with the rumbling from the sky, he didn't blink. Even seeing the first flash of lightning getting closer, he did not hesitate.