

Master 1681

Chapter 1681 1681. Growing Through Lightning

"Lightning!" The shout was from those that saw the distant flashes getting closer. It was the warning that more of them would feel the small zaps that were currently hitting them now and then. It was still not enough to cause anyone damage, however, it was worrisome.

Walker felt that the air was becoming more energetic. The manas were changing faster and faster around him and Alma as they worked to maintain the newly risen wild bull kelp cage around the ship's formation. It was of the utmost importance that this remained.

Many people saw this, especially the mages. They knew that they had to maintain Walker and Alma's safety. That was why the ship formation began to change. The king of the surface had made the ships come together a little more with a focus on keeping everyone steady. The cage was their protection while the ship with Walker and Alma was the new center for the formation.

The water mages worked even harder to keep the waves from displacing a ship by a single inch. It was the only way for them to maintain that the ships would not be damaged at all. It was also the best way to keep Alma's skills working. The less stress she had, the higher the result that the wild bull kelp would be strong. Especially since they could not add to her skills in any way other than blocking the waves.

As if to mock them, the sky flashed with a bright light. The ocean was illuminated showing the rolling waves and the water caught in the winds. Some would see it as an apocalyptic sight while others might even say it was beautiful in a chaotic way. But when all was said and done, it was nature at its finest. A display of mana coming together and changing the very world around them.

"Brace!" Walker roared out loud enough for everyone to hear. He had used a small amount of mana as a warning. However, they all felt the hair on their arms stand up. Some even felt the water they were touching become slightly energized before a massive flash of light hit the wild bull kelp cage.

The following boom was full of the smell of air itself burning. The wild bull kelp sizzled and blackened as the lightning traveled to the water. Alma flinched as the roots in the water were burned up. The dissipating lightning was causing the wild bull kelp to die right there on the spot. Yet, that was not all Alma could do. She was stronger and had raised many plants higher than this. She would not raise a plant to just lose right away.

With the influx of mana that Walker was still working hard to gather, Alma pushed life back in to the wild bull kelp cage she had made. It reacted with vigor and wrapped around itself more. The burned ends becoming a guide for the new growth. Even more roots spread away in the waters around while the stalks continued to intertwine.

The next flash of lightning came all too soon. The sizzling or wild bull kelp made everyone hear and smell the danger they were in much more than before. The blackened bull kelp appeared even stronger than before. Walker and everyone knew that they were crossing through the center of the storm now. The winds and waves had reached much higher strength and the lightning that had been in the distance reached them.

There were arcs of lightning in the ocean as more strikes rained down over the water. Current roared in retaliation as he used his body to break through the largest waves. He could feel the remnant lightning in them and didn't even flinch. It was proof of his dragon might over others.

Ventus was much the same. The largest gusts of wind brought familiar lightning toward her as well. She had long been in the sky and had fared through many storms. She was not unfamiliar with lightning, she had more resistances than many did to storms. However, she had to avoid direct strokes, the secondary arcs were all she could handle without actually taking damage.

The roaring of dragons and the extreme growth of kelp. No one would have imagined this to be a sight that appeared in the open ocean. Yet, if someone were to look closely, there was a boy gathering mana like a mad man. A boy grinding his teeth with a furious smile.

While Walker did not realize the expression he was making, he was filled with energy opposed to being tired or strained. He had been feeling more and more energetic as he pulled at the mana around him. Even the shocks of residual lightning made him feel better by the second.

'The skill lightning apostle's cloak had been taken from the lightning apostle system. The user has learned the lightning apostle's cloak but creating lightning, being shocked by lightning, using related lightning based or inspired skills.

Lightning apostle's cloak- 30 mana cost, dependent on lightning hitting the user

The mana cost is very high to begin with, however, the cloak does not actually generate lightning. It attracts the lightning around the user and makes it in to their protection. The stronger the lightning, the less it will harm them. There is also a mana and stamina replenishing effect when attacked by lightning. This skill is very dependent on the situation, if used when there is no lightning, it is basically useless.

This skill is part of the lightning god's blessing. Those who can use it are always limited to the ones blessed by the one with the lightning god system. If achieved without the blessing, the skill may be weaker or cost additional mana.'

This was not anything Walker could read at the moment. He felt alive. His blood was roaring along with every stroke. As if to challenge the thunder and call down more lightning. The yellow arcs that wrapped around him appeared to be a protective cloak. It even extended to protect Alma as well.

The next strike of lightning around all of them caused a larger cloak to appear around Walker. He could feel it in his blood. The relationship with Midnight and Fleur was showing its true colors. Walker's body had been advancing without him knowing. He had dragon and nature mixing together within him. His human status was still there, however, he was not entirely that any longer.

The sheer amount of mana that was flowing through him was proof of that. Between the lightning apostles cloak giving him more stamina and mana, he had the natural mana that had begun to flow in to him with higher density. The chaotic mana that had not wanted to cooperate was now following his orders much better.

This had all come to be with the fact that he was grasping a better understanding of lightning. The storm's ever changing state made Walker focus on these things. Yet, it also made him try to understand the exact fusion. It was a rush of understanding, awakening, and even more all at once. That was why he could only grow more encapsulated by it.

Every bolt of lightning that flowed down was redirected, was taken away from them. Even Alma felt that she was being recuperated by Walker's skill. She had no idea what skill it was, but she felt somewhat refreshed because of it. Especially as the lightning began to move further away and stroke less often.

The winds began to shift and the waves were already falling. The storm that had come on in a flash was dying away in a flash. By the time it was a distant show, all that was left for everyone to look at were the small damages and Walker who was standing still releasing dense natural mana in to the air.

Alma felt her mind finally release the wild bull kelp and the overgrowth skill she had been using. As she stepped away from Walker, she knew that he was in a strange state. He was completely focused on the mana around and within him trying to understand it. But the spirit marks on his body shown strongly since Fleur was also gaining a lot from this storm.

'The skill lightning surge has been taken from the lightning mage system. The skill lightning surge had been gained because of related lightning skills and the direct experience of lightning to the user's body.

Lightning surge- 15 mana cost

The user can fuse elemental mana to create lightning in a burst. The surge will send small arcs of lightning around the user. The lightning can stun and cause damage to others depending on how much mana is used at once. The better the understanding of the fused elemental manas that create lightning, the better that this skill can be used.'

Walker just smirked as he closed his eyes and his face softened. He was going to meditate until Fleur and him dealt with all the excess mana around him. He could not move an inch until then.

Chapter 1682 1482. After The Storm

If Walker had not been afraid of falling asleep while he meditated. It was actually expected since he had used so much mana and stressed his mind greatly. Fortunately, everyone on the ship had seen him sit down and start meditating before he had fallen asleep. It was fair to let him be after what he and Alma just did.

The elves rushed to Alma after they had seen her also sit down. He had been pushed to her limits and beyond. No normal person would have as much mana as they had just used. The single reason they had been able to was that she had barely used her own mana to make the plants grow. It had all been natural mana from the storm.

The fact that this was the case allowed Alma to reach a higher usage of a skill she was not able to use all the time. She had felt the minute changes in the wild bull kelp as it had grown, been destroyed, and recovered. All these things pushed her mind to a new way of guiding both it, and other plants in the future.

That was the sole reason that she too had to sit and think. It was a great change in her understanding of her own skills. The elves knew how valuable an opportunity this was and took over their duties after

helping her to her room to rest. Gil had also rushed over after he had done his due diligence around the other ship.

Meanwhile, the royal dragons had all taken up places on the ship Alma had been on. They were there since Walker had been using so much natural mana. They had also seen the skills that he used. Current and Ventus had missed a lot of it since they were blocking waves. Small patches of their scales had blackened a little but were unharmed since they were very tough in their age and strength.

The lightning had been unable to harm them truly. It had made marks on their scales which felt like an attack of nature. Yet, they did feel when Walker had begun using related skills. The lightning had literally wrapped around him and the ships to such a large degree before suddenly ceasing all together. No one could miss that.

The remnant natural mana also kept them around. They knew that Walker was using it and releasing what he and Fleur didn't need. Just being around the denser natural mana was beneficial to them. They could sense their elemental affinities within it. How they mixed and how they could not grasp it the same ways that Walker could. It was both frustrating and amazing.

While Walker sat cross legged, he had felt the mana in his body. The natural mana and his own mana seemed closer than before. It was as if they were friends greeting one another. Using his own mana and using natural mana was close to the same thing for Walker.

The changes in his body were also very different. Walker remembered that he had suffered from losing his mana, to being able to store access mana in his body to train himself, and finally to fixing some problems by understanding natural mana. These had all been side effects of what he had done to himself.

Using the mana and forcing it out or to be used over and over was rough on any body or any race. A body needed to grow naturally, Walker had definitely not grown naturally. That was the main reason behind him having so many issues when it came to mana being within him. However, that had begun to change.

The closer that Walker had gotten to the bonds that he could sense between him, Midnight, Onyx, and Fleur, the more he had changed. It was normal for a tamer to take on characteristics of their tamed monster and vice versa. It was just how they communicated and became closer. However, Walker was bonded right to the soul. A perfectly equal bond at the deepest level.

That meant that he shared more than just a bind. He shared everything. The dragon aspects he had taken on that made him the new nature royal dragon would show more as he grew. It was also why he was getting closer to Fleur and being able to control the natural mana and other manas better even though he was not actively training them to a high degree.

This storm had shown this. He was able to condense so much natural mana for Fleur to take and for others to use through contact with him. These things were hard to understand. Furthermore, he had gained valuable knowledge about elemental fusion. The fusion to make lightning but also how fire, water, and wind interact in general.

The bond with Onyx had further helped Walker. He had sensed the shadows and the light in the air as well. The lightning would cast light around that had been sitting at the top of the clouds. This in turn had cast shadows and brought out the darkness elemental mana. All of this had been a great way to stimulate this bond and further push Walker to understand it. The mysteries of an ancient abyssal serpent. The strangeness that would come of it was definitely going to be showing itself more to him.

It wasn't hard for Walker to find that Midnight, Onyx, and Fleur all sensed this too. They were connected to him and were also going to learn from this. Midnight would sense elemental manas better while Onyx was sure to see where his affinities fit in to the storm. But out of all of them, Fleur gained the most.

She had been gaining a lot more lately. The knowledge she gained while her intellect improved stood out. She had been resting and exploring the ships constantly. That helped her have deeper reserves of natural mana, solidify her body, and learn new things. That was why she would be able to speak better and also understand what was happening better.

Fleur was filled with mysteries. The world and nature itself were present within her consciousness. That should be clear to anyone how much was left to her in life so far. She had to understand it all just as Walker had to learn to understand all mana around him.

But it all was a drop in the bucket. All the condensed natural mana that she had soaked up while the storm was around was just a little thing. She had so much more that he needed to become a full fledged nature or world spirit. It would take a lot more time unless she was pushed as well. The world was sure to see this and issue challenges. It was only a matter of time before she would need to show her own strength as a grand nature elemental spirit.

"He really fell asleep like that. Meditating." Ventus had not cleaned up yet, but instead sat looking at Walker trying to grasp more understandings about the wind in natural mana.

"Yes, he is just like us. Who of us has not had a great breakthrough and found themselves asleep after it? Mental stress is greater than physical at times." Current smiles. He had fought the ocean, a great body of water. He had broken waves and faced lightning. He felt greater than ever.

"Making us throw seeds like human farmers. It was degrading. But powerful." Terron was glad to help but had believed it to be worthless. He kind of liked being proved wrong at the moment. But more than anything, he had liked being useful instead of hiding away from the storm.

"You are all talking too much. He used fire elemental mana in his mix to make lightning. I need to focus." Ignus was just annoyed that the others were not meditating themselves.

"He did more than that, Ignus, he managed to use more mana than he could even store. He definitely just became a lot stronger. I just wonder if he realizes that he has a different look when he does that. If he even realizes that his eyes and skin looked a little more like us." Mordant didn't look too closely. He was sure though, that he had not seen wrong. Walker had been just a little more like them through this.

"I should expect these things. He has already shown me enough." Rise was the only one that did not look in to things too much. She wanted to fly to the sun and see what light she could feel. However, the temptation of learning more just now was too great. She had to understand more about her own mana and the relationship it had within natural mana.

There were too many tempting things within their meditation now. She was missing too much. There were too many things, too many fusions, and too much they lacked. For the first time in a long time, Rise felt like a young dragon again. The world was new.

Chapter 1683 1683. We Can Do It Too!

"Brother has been working hard." Onyx could see the other ship and had gathered what had happened from what others had told him. Midnight and him felt a little left out. The two had wanted to help more, but found themselves at a loss.

Onyx was limited to staying on the ship. He knew how dangerous it would be to risk swimming out even with his largest natural size. Midnight on the other hand could not have withstood the waves and wind.

She was still too young for that. It had been why she was left to just help hold some mages from falling overboard.

"Not strong enough." Midnight's response was exactly how Onyx felt as well. The two didn't feel strong enough. They were up close and personal fighters. Even with Onyx using light and shadow to make blades from a mid ranged distance, it was still not much at all. The same could be said for Midnight's flames breath attacks.

"I know you want to ask the other dragons for more guidance. I'm sorry that they are busy now sister." Onyx could feel that Midnight was annoyed by this. However, she did see that they were also training to get stronger. It was just how things would be for now. There was a lot to learn.

"Brother used lightning just now. I saw it wrap the ship. And Alma redirected the rest of the lightning. They did so many things..." Seeing his older brother do so much had made Onyx truly feel small again. It was the same feeling he had when he hatched out of the egg for the first time. Small and weak, but with powerful guardians.

Naturally, Midnight had felt that way for much longer. Walker and the otters had appeared out of nowhere to find her when her mother had left her to protect her. In a way, Midnight had been feeling just as small even though she was gaining the strength of dragons more and more every day.

"I bet you can mix your dragon breath attacks to make a lightning attack like that too." Onyx had no sooner said it, that he regretted it. Midnight had already jumped in to action and was looking to start practicing. Even after the storm, the two had enough energy for a little training. Onyx had just wanted to rest though since they had no idea when the next thing would happen.

What was scarier, was the fact that both Midnight and Onyx had sensed what Walker was doing. They had had a strong bond and as much as Walker sensed things, they did too. This was something that Walker often forgot about since he was focused on what was coming through to him and not what he was sending them.

That meant that Onyx and Midnight felt every single moment of Walker learning how to manipulate all three manas to create lightning. How he was using natural mana and understanding his control of it. And how he had been able to constantly let mana flow through his body to more or less forget that he had a limit on the mana within his body. A true way to use the bare minimum of his body's mana to manipulate mana around him.

While using natural mana was not something that Onyx could achieve because he had not even figured out how to manipulate anything other than light or darkness, Midnight had already grasped skills that were related to all elemental manas. She had the true dragon champion bloodline that allowed her the affinities naturally. Onyx was limited to his bloodline as an abyssal serpent.

However, that was not a reason for anyone to look down on him. Onyx had already figured out a few things about his ancient origin and how his species was split in to two versions. He had also understood how to use the light elemental affinity he had without learning that he had that ability as a species beforehand. It was already considered something great for him and naturally, Onyx wanted to pursue this further.

Midnight suddenly huffed out a large puff of smoke making Onyx worry. He had been too distracted with his sudden thoughts that he did not realize that Midnight was trying to mix elemental mana inside her body to make lightning breath.

"Sister, you should try it in very small amounts. Brother does that when he starts to mix things as well. He does it outside his body too, not inside!" The worry that Onyx had for his sister was the same that she had for him. Even though she was technically the older sibling in their family, he worried about her much more. She was a dragon that could fight head to head with other powerful beings, it would be wrong not to worry.

"What if you made a flame breath stop in front of your mouth then let it shoot out?" What Onyx was thinking of was when Walker used the fire bolt attacks. They seemed to make a small ball form first. But if Midnight did this at a larger size, then she might be able to have the time to mix mana. If there was an explosion or anything negative when mixing them, the damage could be healed better than if it happened inside her body.

"Try it will just fire first. Then move on to mixing fire and wind if it works." Onyx was like a teacher. Between the two, Onyx was definitely the smarter. He was a scholar of sorts because of his goals. He was trying to find his past and his species' future. Midnight on the other hand, was carving a path herself. She just used her natural skills and bonds to do it. She didn't need the hyper focused intellect that onyx did. It wasn't that she lacked it.

"I can try!" The following growl was not just Midnight's additional approval of the idea. It was her determination and clear happiness knowing that she was not alone in this endeavor. However, she was

even more surprised when she saw Onyx start to manipulate his shadow to form a ball of moving shadows.

"Sister, I can do this with my shadow, you can easily do it with your fire!" Onyx's guidance was even better. He had a very close control of his own shadow, let alone darkness mana. He had purely focused on it and light so it was easier to show than just tell.

The fires that normally built up in Midnight's heart were slowly released from her maw. She had done similar things when forging and training. She could make slow flames and they could be used to deter things. However, they were better in forging because they maintained a constant pressure and heat.

Since Midnight had not worried about controlling the flames after they left her maw, she had not realized that she couldn't do it first try. The flames just moved away from her and dissipated. It stunned her. She hadn't expected it at all after seeing how easy it was for Walker and Onyx and many other mages.

This made her a little angry, but as she saw Onyx slowly observing and looking for any tiny thing he could do to help, she calmed down immensely. Her heart even beat steadier after feeling that he was right there supporting her. She was his big sister and he was her little brother. They were family and couldn't get angry around each other if they were both working to make the other stronger. This was something she had seen and was glad to be able to live up to.

This reassurance made Midnight reach out with the mana that normally stayed close to her body. She used the same feeling of when she formed the bone armor around her and when she used the shadow wrapping skill. Instead of focusing on her whole entire body. She focused on her mouth and right in front of her.

The flames acted like soldiers pulled back in to attention. Midnight had the control, she just hadn't exercised it correctly yet. Now that she had kept the flames from moving forward, she watched Onyx move the shadows out of the corner of her eye and copied him. The flames obeyed her quickly.

A small ball of fire grew larger in front of her. But it was also growing more dense. The moment that Midnight felt it had reached a strong level, she released it in to the ocean and watched it fizzle out. There had been no reaction yet.

"Sister, we aren't filling the center of it! I completely missed the feeling. The entire thing needs to be solid!" Onyx felt like a fool. But Midnight just nudged him with her snout and reassured him. They were learning together. Onyx would use light and darkness and she would use elemental flames. They would be using the same attacks together.

Chapter 1684 1684. Teach Themselves

The moment that Midnight and Onyx tried this, there was an interesting reaction of all the mana around them. Onyx had forced the darkness mana he was bringing together to create a dense ball of swirling darkness mana. It made all the other darkness mana around him want to come closer. However, it had also released a small pulse of darkness mana.

Midnight had done the same with pure fire elemental mana. The flames had condensed to fill the center of the fire ball. It was the same with how she had acted before, she felt that she had just changed the way she used her mana to manipulate fire. But it also caused a small pulse of fire elemental mana to leave her.

The two had the attacks prepared and naturally shot them in to the open ocean. The results this time were not small. Before, Midnight's fire had just fizzled out and Onyx hadn't tried to use the darkness in this form at all.

Onyx's attack had hit the water and caused a burst of shadow in a large circle. The water even took on a darker coloration as the small piece of seaweed corroded. The decaying effect had surrounded this entire spot causing everything to decay. It was a dangerous but also a clear demonstration of the negative effects of darkness mana.

Since Onyx had intended for the attack to be an attack and not to just hide away something, the darkness mana had been the same as any other mana, violent. This alone was enough for the mana to cause a heavier decaying effect. Along with the darkness mana being condensed, Onyx saw it double the effectiveness. The attack would surely be a great long ranged attack on a small or large group.

Midnight's attack had been similar. However, the flames had reacted violently with the water. The saltwater had immediately evaporated as the flames burst out from their condensed ball shape. The steam covered an area double as large as the flames had covered in the blink of an eye.

The violent force would easily cause someone severe burns or even turn parts of them to ashes. Since Midnight was a dragon, she could do this with many different flames or manas. It would be a violent attack that could freeze, decay, slash, burn, bury, and pierce with light.

There might be the potential to develop a less violent attack using elemental mana like light. It could be a group heal, that would make this the first healing skill Midnight had. However, that would be an incredible challenge. Changing the form of a condensed mana like this would take a lot more strength and knowledge. Both of which Midnight lacked at the moment. Not that she lacked the ability to use this attack violently.

"We made a fire ball and a darkness ball attack. They were perfect. But they can be better!" Onyx was curling up in joy. He wanted to shoot up in joy but kept himself in one spot because he had no reason to surprise anyone by leaping out of his curled position.

Since Midnight also felt happy with this, she was leaping around side to side. She didn't hold herself back much and directly tackled Onyx. She rolled with her little brother celebrating the victory they had. A few of the mages around saw the two and their actions and knew exactly the joy they felt. Many would run and hug the nearest mage to share their breakthroughs. It was the same with any family or colleague making a major breakthrough, pure joy.

The mana did not go unnoticed. Mordant and Ignus both felt the darkness and the fire mana being used. They knew the feeling of condensing mana and were able to understand that there was someone training a new skill. There was too much mana lost as the skill was being used which meant that it was untrained.

That was the reason that Onyx and Midnight experienced the small bursts of mana from forming the darkness ball and the fire ball. They had not properly captured all the mana as they made their attacks. They did succeed in drawing Mordant and Ignus's attention though.

The two had already sensed the natural mana and had some insights on what they could do with the respective affinities in relation to natural mana. The main thing they had learned was how they would be able to meld their skills and manipulation of mana with Walker. That had been very clear since Walker had already shown and acted on the ability to provide natural mana to others. The dragons all saw this potential.

"I will go and see what that is all about. That little champion isn't doing it right." Ignus sounded a little unhappy, however, he was interested in how Midnight had happened upon a fire ball skill without guidance. Mordant was much the same. He could tell it wasn't Midnight that used it since she couldn't use two skills like that at once. So his mind went to Onyx since he had seen him before but not interacted too much with him.

"I believe that it could be interesting. Maybe just as interacting as this." Mordant knew that Onyx and Midnight had a bond with Walker. That meant that the two definitely had some insight after Walker had used so much mana. The two also had to have had some breakthrough of their own. Why else would they start training the moment that Walker had started meditating and eventually fallen asleep after understanding something?

"Sister, we can finally use these skills and learn about them. Now we just have to figure out how to add them to our battles!" Onyx was still very happy about the progress they had made.

"No, you will not be using those skills!" Ignus stomped a foot down as soon as he and Mordant had landed behind the two celebrating. "You lost too much mana. You think that small attack can do anything in a fight to the death!?"

"What Ignus is saying, is that you two have barely started to use the skills. You are being too foolish. But you are young." Mordant was the calmer of the two, however, his words still rang strong. He was ready to start teaching.

"Show me that again, I want to see if you can actually use a fire ball skill with your weak fire." Midnight growled back at Ignus in contempt. She didn't like that she was suddenly being told that she had weak flames. But this was how Ignus had motivated her before.

The way that Ignus saw flames was with inner heat. The heat of anger and raw strength. When he had Midnight learning from him, he had pushed her and made her angry. Only then had she let her anger fuel her flame breath attack to a higher level. It had been an instinctual key that she had missed while learning fire breath. That was just a side effect of not being raised with other dragons.

"And you are not using the shadows to your advantage. There is too much light here. It is causing you to be unsteady. Show me the formation again and use your shadow. You already hide your true body there, why waste the strength of that?" Mordant also saw through Onyx easily. It was just a single glance and he could tell where Onyx had gone wrong without even seeing the skill. That was the level of strength that Mordant and Ignus had.

When the two started to form the next darkness ball and fire ball, Ignus and Mordant immediately felt something different. The speed that the manas were gathered was impressive. It was well above the level of someone their ages should be. Yet, that just came from Walker.

The two were bound with Walker at the deepest of levels. Just like Walker, they gained understanding of all manas. Their closeness to natural mana let Midnight and Onyx learn subconsciously how to better gather their own manas when they needed it.

"That is where you lose it! You are letting the mana move away and get thrown aside. That's where you are weak!"

"Ignus is correct. You are both increasing the spin to maintain the condensed center. It is throwing mana away from you. You have a weaker attack because of it." Mordant pointed it out as well.

The two of them were a little harsh, however, together, they knew that they would be able to make the pair in front of them develop a proper skill. They already possessed the darkness and fire ball skills. They could do it and just show them. Yet, they both had the same thinking. Watch the two in front of them learn and try to take more away from it. They could learn too.

Chapter 1685 1685. Up To Date

"Well, it's a good thing you woke up. You should get back to your ship." Alma was awake before Walker. She had already found that he had fallen asleep meditating and was finally back up standing and moving around.

"I will if I can manage to walk after that. I fell asleep like that for like a million years." Walker was mostly joking but he really did feel like he had been in the same position for way too long. "What happened while I was resting?"

Walker had experienced a lot. So did Alma. However, he had needed the rest. The skills he used to channel large amounts of natural mana that was within the storm were too much on his mind. It wasn't the limits of mana or anything else that had burdened him. Just what his mind could handle.

It all reminded him that he had to keep working to improve himself. He had realized the strain on his mind and was training multiple skills at the same time to work on that issue. He needed to make it greater though. Walker knew they could face anything when they got to another continent with unknown races. For all he knew, they could be much more powerful than anything Genesis had faced before.

"Just a few small monsters along the boats. Mostly just the mages being exhausted like you. But you were the one that stole mana from a literal force of nature." Since Alma knew that Walker's role in defending against lightning was the largest, she didn't dance around it too much. He was surely still tired.

"I got two new skills from all that. But I would say what I learned is the most important. Fire, wind, and water making lightning is very hard to handle. I just wonder what things will be like when I can fully understand and control it." This was a small goal. Walker had already seen the danger of a triple elemental monster.

The forest elves had put him in a position to face a single monster capable of creating lightning. It had been tough and pushed Walker to develop better earth related skills. That alone should have been a bigger sign for him to improve his understanding of dangerous elemental fusions. Unfortunately, he had not been in any place to properly do that yet. Now was an ideal time.

The understandings of manas that Walker had were very stable. He had reached a good point that allowed him to more easily manipulate the natural mana around him. If he were to start making more and more fusions of elemental manas, then he would be able to expand his strength to protect others more easily.

"I learned a lot too. Especially when I forced the wild bull kelp to grow past its limits. I have a skill called plant mutation now. It can make one characteristic of a plant a focused point. Like how the wild bull kelp was recovering from the lightning that struck it. It sacrifices one aspect of the plant but it can really help. I just need to learn how to use this properly." Knowing that Ama also gained a lot from working with him made Walker very happy.

"By the way, how is Gil doing over there? A few archers were asking about him. They haven't been able to see what he's working on." Alma tried to be casual, unfortunately for her, Walker could see right through her.

"He has been doing the usual, making arrows and causing some trouble. He has actually been training with Remey a lot. Something about finalizing what he believes to be the high elven dagger techniques. He hasn't said it was right yet though. But I see him practicing while on look out. I think he might just need that little push to fully put it all together. When he has it, I think it will be a very big deal." There was a light in Alma's eyes as Walker said this.

"He also has a few arrows made lately. Something about how he needs to make sure that he has mages that can make arrows if they run out. Most of the time it's the archers that shoot the monsters on the top of the water approaching us. Not that many do, I just know that they do in general." This was less about Gil and more about the archers overall. Walker had seen them working hard to maintain a safety range around all the ships and the entire fleet.

"Ah...you say that the archers on the other ships are worried, mine are as well. The arrows we have seem to dwindle every day. I can have the mages rotate from ship to ship. Having arrows is the same as having an arm for an archer. If they don't have one then they will feel naked against the wolves." Alma had to understand and put her elven fighters first. The archers needed something, so she would act.

"I will tell Gil that you learned a lot. I am sure that he will find a reason to come over here and check on you. It's Gil you know." Walker stepped in to the air and headed for his ship. He could tell that the royal dragons had just been there but he didn't press on that. If he had been manipulating high amounts of natural mana he had surely attracted their attention.

"Oh, awake are we?" Scylla seemed to be laughing at Walker a little. She met him in the air with an open hand. It fell on his head making Walker wonder just what Scylla was doing. "Don't look at me like that. I am much older than you and I see a lot of the human soldiers praising their juniors like this." Walker had done the very same action to Midnight and Onyx and now understood how they felt.

"It's just weird to be in this position now. But, why did you meet me in the air? Do you need help with something?" Scylla shook her head at Walker's question. She didn't seem to have wanted anything other than to tell him he did well.

"That lightning was rough. We all worked to resist the wind and waves. Even the dragons rushed to your side after. I think they learned a little something after you used all those skills with Alma. make sure you speak with them. But until then, stop the two over there from yelling and making your siblings create darkness and fire balls." Scylla smiled sweetly and left Walker to it. He wasn't sure what was going on until he focused his senses.

Walker could sense the darkness and the fire elemental manas being manipulated. It was easy for him to find where Onyx and Midnight were training though. The explosive sounds of their attacks against the water gave him a direct line to the end of the ship. "So this is what Scylla was talking about."

"Good, you are here too. After we finished checking on you we have to come over here and fix these two. They wanted to go in to battle with these weak attacks. Have you not set a proper example for them? Is this how you will teach all the dragon hatchlings I bring to your village?"

Ignus was right in Walker's face. However, Walker could tell that Ignus was in good spirits.

"It isn't that their attacks are weak. They need to focus on their elemental control. They can start the process but not refine it. You should make both of these little ones focus on it. I believe they can create the skills at higher levels if they do." Mordant was right with Ignus. It was very odd seeing the two so perfectly in sync. Walker found himself at an immediate loss for words.

"Well, if they have made progress, they should reflect on it. They might have too much on their minds with what you have taught them." Walker felt the pleading gazes of Midnight and Onyx. he knew that they must have been trained to the end of their strength. It was also clear by their weakened appearances.

Onyx looked like he could curl up and sleep right there. Midnight was barely holding herself up. If they used another attack right there, Walker was sure the pair would be asleep for at least a full day. Even now, they most likely just needed rest and food. "Good idea, I will go to reflect as well. You showed a lot of things to us earlier." Mordant took the chance to head right out.

"And don't let them just sleep. They should reflect carefully. I never want to see such a cold fire ball ever again." Ignus growled this out as he made a direct route for the forge where the fire was strong.

"Alright, that's that. Let's get you two some food and sleep." Onyx and Midnight were immediately relieved of their stress. Walker just had to see what had been going on so far.

Chapter 1686 1686. Why Not Join The Training?

"Su did what?" Walker had made sure that Midnight and Onyx were well fed and somewhere comfortable to sleep. However, he had not expected to overhear a few of the dragonkin discussing the fight that Su had while Walker was occupied earlier. He had gone right in to the storm and had not seen what happened with Su at all.

"We are literally on the same ship, how did I miss this." Part of Walker felt bad that he wasn't there, yet, he also knew that it was better that he wasn't there. If he had been he might have altered the results. It could have also taken away from the newfound fame that Su had with the dragonkin.

Since Su was a draconic guardian, it was ideal that the dragonkin had a high evaluation of her. This alone would help her and everything she did when it came to them. She was a draconic guardian, but Su was also human. That had to be a big reason why Su and the dragonkin might not immediately get along even though she was changing more and more every day after the ritual with Midnight.

Having the peace of mind to know that Su was able to learn more skills from the dragonkin while also letting her instincts take over and teach her was good too. It meant that Su had accepted her role a lot more clearly. It also made Walker understand that Su was letting go of burdens on her mind and heart.

What did surprise him though was that Su had used the pointed ends of the shield made to help her dig in to the ground. Since Su had gone that far, it meant that she had been dedicated enough to learning a new skill. So much so that she was going to stop the perfect defending that she always did and begin using a more offensive style of combat new to her but definitely more like a dragonkin's battle style.

With these things on his mind, Walker made his way to where Terron was staying. He had apparently been around when he was meditating, however, that was not something he could have paid a single second of attention to. Walker's meditation had been on the changes in natural mana and the natural changes in mana during a harsh storm. Not that it was the worst storm that the ocean could conjure, Walker was sure that it hadn't been nearly as bad as it could have been.

"Armor is for the weak! If you can not block that attack with your true body then you do not deserve to be related to a dragon in any way!" The shout was from Terron. Walker hadn't heard him so harsh before. But he knew what was going on already.

As Walker entered the large room that Terron had claimed as his own, he saw that Su was training directly with Terron. Terron was in his dragonkin form and had managed to find some wrapped pieces of wood. They were like clubs but with padding on them. It appeared that layers were being removed the more that Su used skills to learn.

"Don't come to interrupt me. I am teaching the dragonkin guardian that you have not spent time with how to truly defend herself. You will owe me for this." Terron's glare made Walker want to turn around and walk right back out. Unfortunately, he needed to learn some defensive skills too. And he knew just how to do it.

"And will you still make me leave even if I start to break apart some natural mana to create earth mana around you?" This stopped Terron in his tracks.

"What do you want then? I am already helping you here."

"Walker, please leave me to train. I need to learn this skill better than anyone else does. It is mandatory." Even Su seemed like she didn't want to stop at all. She knew that if Terron got ahold of any earth mana at all that he would stop and meditate. He would be looking at every new understanding or theory that he had gained while looking at natural mana.

"Oh, no, I will be joining you. That's why I want to break down the natural mana to make earth mana. The other manas will also make it rough in here so that will be a nice challenge." Walker didn't have much experience breaking down natural mana since he was more focused on making it. That was another reason he wanted to do this.

He could both learn a new skill and also see the reactions of natural mana being split. On top of that, he would also be training his mind to be able to do multiple things at once again. That would strengthen his mentality for the next time he burdened himself with a big task. He hated that he was not able to easily use multiple skills constantly. Just for a shorter while even though he did have multi tasking skills.

"Fine, then do it. Put your champion's guardian through tougher training. She might need the resistance to activate a real metal or diamond skin skill." Terron had not managed to get Su to use the earth elemental mana provided to her by her partner well enough yet. Su had enough mana in her body because of her spirit mark. That was clear, unfortunately, she had been unable to awaken the skill metal skin or anything like it.

That being said, Su had grown just as frustrated as Terron. He had expected that she would be able to awaken the skill much faster after she had shown so much prowess in battle and other aspects. It was a disappointment that this was not the case. But Terron knew that with Walker offering more mana then it would be more likely. He could also take advantage of whatever Walker was doing. Having earth mana created in a place that shouldn't have any would be a massive boon.

"Just hang on a few minutes, I haven't done this before so it might be a little rough." Walker knew that Su was watching him carefully. She clearly had a few thoughts of her own when it came to Walker's addition to training. But with what she had already been through, she knew that there would be a definite change in her progress.

The bruises and scrapes from defending against Terron's attacks had built up. Walker hadn't hesitated to use a healing skill on Su before he sat down. But it was very clear that the steel skin skill could only be gained through harsh training.

This was another reason that Terron was annoyed with the progress. Normally the dragonkin under him had to train against each other and take many hits in training battles. This was how they would awaken their skills. Some were less talented and gained the stone skin skill but that was rare. Normally all of dragonkin would awaken the steel skin skill which was very powerful for them. Especially against the monsters that lived underground in caves.

Sensing the natural mana was the easy part now. Walker was more easily able to grasp it and draw a small amount toward him from the air. A lot of the natural mana still resided around the ocean after the storms. It seemed to have settled on the top of the ocean waiting for the next change in the weather.

Breaking it down seemed harder though. Walker could sense the individual elemental manas that came together to make the natural mana one mana. If he added fire to it, then the natural mana would enhance the flames using natural force. That was why Walker was able to help others boost or alter their skills to some degree. It wasn't just because of the way that he used his skills in tandem.

The pulling of the elemental manas seemed to want to stay in balance. It was a direct opposite from what Walker had experienced when he first combined elemental manas to create natural mana. Now that they were locked in to a balance, they don't want to leave. It just proved that mana was a stubborn thing all around.

Using his pull on the earth mana proved to just make the mana agitated. Especially since there was a high amount of water and wind elemental mana around them due to the ocean. Yet, this seemed to be the way that it would work for Walker. It would help him. The water elemental mana and the natural elemental mana were already close, why not use the denser water elemental mana to help him break apart the natural mana.

This would require using the water elemental mana to pull from one end and pull the earth elemental mana with his own mana. It would be stressful to use two elemental manipulations in different directions. But possible. Now there was just the fact that he had to do it.

Chapter 1687 1687. Breaking Mana

Latching on to the water elemental mana was the easiest part. Walker had the knowledge and the strength to do that at any time. The very reason was the seemingly endless water all around them. That meant that there would be a very powerful source of water elemental mana wrapped around whatever Walker wanted it to latch on to until he was done with what he needed to do.

The tough part was that walker had to hold the natural mana between himself and the small amount of earth mana that he had already gathered from Terron and Su's training. Even though there was not much of it to spare, Terron had used some to demonstrate the skills that he wanted Su to strive after.

She had seen the stone skin skill and noted that it made the scales on Terron seemed to be covered in a hardened clay type stone. It would definitely reduce any damage taken while also making it harder to break defenses overall.

The iron and steel skin skills were much tougher. Su had seen these two used by the dragonkin warriors. She had felt her shields bounce off them and have to work triple as hard to cut through them. Deflecting and straight out blocking skills using these two skills was exactly what Su thought would be best.

That was until Su saw Terron use the diamond skin skill. It was the highest skill that he had been able to reach as the royal earth ancient dragon. He had worked years to perfect it when he was younger. Now he was willing to show it to Su.

Terron's scales had become reflective and clear like diamonds. Every single little facet appeared to be able to block and deflect anything that was thrown at him. Su knew that diamonds could break under the right conditions, all gems could. However, she had a feeling that the diamond skin skill was remarkably different. There was an entire aura of unbreakable strength that appeared around Terron when he used the skill.

Furthermore, the earth elemental mana that was used when Terron showed off the skill was surprisingly low. Because of Su's relationship to earth and her spirit marks, it made her able to sense the usage of earth mana much better. Add on the fact that Terron was willingly letting her see the entire process and Su was able to feel how well trained Terron truly was. Every little bit of mana made the skill work perfectly without any flaws. It was a true pinnacle of the skill at the moment.

With all of this, Su would be able to try and reach a level that would make her defenses nearly impossible to damage. That would make her the real draconic guardian she wanted to be. Not to mention the additional skills that she would be able to use from other elemental manas. Those would

just keep healing, defending, and even replenishing mana if she continued to study different defensive skills from other elemental dragons and dragonkin.

The moment that Walker started to pull on the natural mana between the earth and water elemental manas, Terron and Su were hyper focused on him. They could feel their own manas reacting to this.

Not many people were able to grasp natural mana in general. That alone made them a focal point in many places and normally noted down in history. At this moment, the reason was clear, because they could grasp all mana and cause it to react in calm or violence.

Not that they didn't know this. However, they could both feel the violence that the natural mana was causing. The fire elemental mana and the light elemental mana that broke free first was causing a lot of heat and blinding light in the darker depths of the ship that Terron had been calling home.

This change in the air was enough to cause even more mana to start reacting. The wind and the darkness mana broke free causing torrents of damaging mana to surround Terron and Su. these violent manas would normally not be around. It was intense and forced both Terron and Su to actively resist them.

Terron had a lot of natural defenses. He was an earth dragon. They represented the hardest to harm and the toughest dragons overall. This alone was why he had resistances to almost every elemental mana there was. al attacks were hard to damage him with. Physical attacks were even harder to damage him with.

But with the natural mana being torn out of balance right beside him, Terron felt that he was being challenged by the world itself. Every single little bit of violent mana that touched him made his body feel like it was being bombarded. That was perfect, he grinned like a wild beast. "I will become much stronger now!"

Gaining training in his elemental resistances was unexpected. He believed that just Su would gain this benefit. Especially since she was so weak at the moment compared to other draconic guardians or dragons in general. What Terron did not expect was that Su would be sitting in the middle of it all with her eyes closed. She was taking every wave of mana and every bit of pain it might cause without even flinching. She was a monster among guardians.

If Terron knew that Su was in much more pain and turmoil than she looked, he might not believe it. Down at the deepest levels of her being, Su felt that she was being attacked. The manas were sweeping through her body in ways that she had never imagined. But she could feel her blood boiling again. It was just what she needed to bring about the changes that had been slowly accumulating.

The dragon blood was glad to have this. To have the manas stressing the body it lived in. to feel the changes that could come upon the body it existed in. Su could sense this. She could tell that she would be much stronger just by sitting there.

Walker, on the other hand, felt mental stress like no other. The manas were under his control to a degree. He could feel that they were not going to harm him. Some of the manas even wrapped around him as if they were blocking the other waves of mana from touching his skin. The only manas that didn't do anything were the earth and water manas.

As the earth was pulled and gathered on one side of Walker, he could feel the water elemental mana gathering as well. It was dense and gathered much faster. Especially since the other elemental manas had been made violent out of unbalanced natural mana breaking down around them.

All the natural mana that Walker had gathered was suddenly broken. The violent manas reacted all around. Darkness, wind, fire, and light were all out of balance. Water and earth were the only two under control. The only two that had been forced to gather and sit calmly within their own bubble of Walker's mana from his body. The rest of the elemental manas had to be dissipated. And the only way to do that was by traveling through Su, Teron, and Walker outside the ship.

The runes on the ship seemed to work as a catalyst for this. They trapped the manas and used them as fuel. It was an unexpected benefit to the entire situation. Walker had not expected that the manas would act as fuel and also train Terrona and Su. But after remaining in the same position for over an hour he managed to open his eyes and look at the two.

"I have some earth elemental mana here for you." Walker's breathing was heavy and his head felt like he had just been hit over and over with a club.

"And I will be taking the water elemental mana there from you. It might be all around us, but that is very concentrated." Current couldn't let the water elemental mana get away. He had sensed all the elemental mana reacting around Walker and noticed that there was condensed water elemental mana just here on the ship waiting for him.

"Take it and leave, you are in the way of training a guardian. Unless you have some skills you wish to impart too?" Terron had thought this would push Current away from interrupting them. However, it seemed Current had actually wanted this attention.

"In that case, I will join you. This little guardian has lacked a true skill from the water elemental side of life for a while. Walker has one and his champion has one. How could I be so cruel as to let the guardian miss out?" Current was clearly messing with Terron but the stubbornness Terron had was not shaken in the least.

"Can you both take the mana? I need to stop this." Walker released control of the two manas and immediately fell back flat on the ground. He was done with everything for the moment. Breaking natural mana apart was much tougher than making it. He had been a fool to think it would be doable at such a large scale.

Chapter 1688 1688. Frost And Mud

"Stone skin? Steel skin? Diamond skin? Why let it go that far? Never let it touch your skin at all. Use the water to create a better armor. Cover yourself and don't let a single thing though. My elder's children have all learned to make themselves ice armors. Just learn that." Current was clear that he thought strengthening the skin was not as important as making a tough armor. Especially one that could be replenished by water.

The water in the air could even be taken and used to make the armor stronger. Need a shield? Make it from water. Need a new chest piece? Make it from water. Broken gauntlet? Repair them with the water around you and freeze it in to a solid and unbreakable ice. It was an endless armor in the eyes of the water affinity dragons.

Even the pieces of armor that were broken could be taken right back. If the dragon was good at using the water elemental mana, every single piece of it would melt and return to them. In the case of Current, this would take less than a few seconds. That meant that Su might be able to have an armor that would be never ending.

"I will do both. I will not have a single spot missed. If your armor breaks, you have to be able to resist with your body. If I can repair your armor, then it won't let my skin get pierced. You two should work together!" The sudden reprimand from Su shocked Current and Terron. They hadn't realized she had snapped out of her sitting position.

Su had resisted the elemental chaos that had been around her. She had done so with great pain and even had some blood dripping from her nose and ears. It went to show the depth that the mana had gone. Yet, when Walker went to heal her, he found that she was barely injured at all. It was just her body repairing itself and changing under extreme conditions. Another boon of having dragon blood within her.

The results of her change in resistance would not show themselves yet. She still had to adjust over time. It wasn't like she was a moldable ball of clay. Su was a living and breathing person. Just because the dragon blood had started to affect her even more lately, it was not going to be an instant change. There was just a higher amount of dragon influence on her which in turn made her start to feel the changes happening naturally even more. Even at an accelerated rate.

"What do you mean both? Can you truly boast that? You can not easily just do both. The mana required... no, have you touched natural mana yet?" Current was going to reprimand Su. he thought that she was getting too arrogant. That was until he brought one thing in to consideration, natural mana.

Walker could manipulate and fuse the elemental manas easily. It was just how he was going to be changing as he learned. That was the path he was walking. The path of a nature dragon. Was Su the same? Of course she was! She was a draconic guardian of a true dragon champion. She should have an affinity of all elemental manas too!

"I have not created it, but I have been around it enough to know that there is true power in the manas brought together. If I make my skin as hard as diamonds and a secondary armor of replenishing ice..." Su trailed off. Her imagination started to run a little while. "Then add the light shield that heals my body and protects me, I can do so much more. I can even coat my shields in earth too. I need to learn wind, darkness, and flame defensive skills too."

"You want an elemental defense. To block every single thing that comes at you." Terron spoke without emotion. Then he looked at Walker and Current that had questioning looks already on their faces. "That is what a real guardian should aim for! Perfect defenses. The perfect guardian for what they defend. I will not let you strive for anything less, you will be powerful. If you are not, I have failed as a dragon to instill true strength within your soul!"

This was Terron's promise. A true promise from the core of his being. The earth dragons were the most defensive. Attacks were nothing to them. They could battle on for ages without a scratch. So what if they didn't like flying that much? So what if they lived in caves? They were beasts of their own nature.

"Well said. Watch me and tell me what you see!" Current didn't hold back. The dense water mana he had started to draw water from all around. It began to form sharp and pointed shards that came together. They melded in to a knight like armor covering the skin and seemed to shift with Current's body.

Every movement had a slight cracking of ice as the ice broke and reformed around the joints in his body. Even his wings were covered in layers of ice. "I would normally use flowing water as my armor. I do not like the solid ice that covers my body like this. However, I will give you the exception. Today you see me in an armor perfected by some of my dragonkin and ice dragons. This is the ice shard armor. It can move and change with you better than any other but still be repaired easily. You just need to control the mana you use."

"Why are you focusing on him!? Stay focused on the earth and defend yourself!" Tarron whipped out with his tail toward Su. she had not missed the attack coming though. She was in a heightened state after being bombarded by manas. It was like she had been given a shot of adrenaline.

Walker casually manipulated some of the earth and water mana around Su. he could see that she was hyper focused on what was going on. He had to support her. The more she could grasp the skills she saw, the faster she would be learning them right then and there.

Since Su had seen Walker manipulate the water and create ice many time, she was able to envision the process of creating the ice sharps armor over her metal armor. That was an easy vision to make, especially when she thought of the flowing frost whip which was like a slushy water and ice whip. It could move but also be solid in seconds.

The attack from Terron landed on her body but carried a dense earth mana left behind. This was Terron guiding her to cover her skin in the mana that he had been given by walker. It was also a much closer controlled style of teaching. He could ensure that Su focused on specific parts of her body before fully covering her entire body in the skill she developed.

The water and earth mana would normally clash. The water would wash away earth when it came to rivers and rain. But they could come together as part of a swamp, forest, and even in the plains. There were many places where the water and earth mana melded together to create life. How could Su miss this simple thought?

With this in mind, Su threw aside the thought of two separate skills. She was going against the direct teaching and following a little of Walker's path. Nothing abnormal for their group though. They did the unusual every day. This was just another day.

The earth and water manas seemed to welcome the changes. Su already had a firm grasp of earth with her spirit marks and slumbering partner. The water was also easy to grasp with such a dense source and guidance from Current. It was also being directed to her by Walker.

What none of them expected was for the small bits of dirt and mud in the room to be pulled toward Su. Every ship had them. Even the newest. Mud from dust and building would be trapped in the cracks. It was a ship. How could it be so perfect not to have some mud and dirt?

This mud moved and condensed on to Su while they watched. Her grasp on the water and earth became much more powerful as she became more determined. Su had grasped a small part of what she wanted, she was not letting it go.

When the small amount of mud attached to her arm over her armor, it was covered in shiny frost. The shards of ice and the malleability of mud would defend her, stop blades, and resist cuts. It could also be replenished by the water elemental mana and water in general. It wasn't the perfect skill yet, but it was the start. "This is going to be my frost heave armor. Freezing the very earth." Su gave the skill a name, Walker wasn't sure if she had just invented it or not, but it was perfect. The small portion she had just covered her arm with was enough to prove she had thought this through and it would work once refined.

Chapter 1689 1689. Pressured To Grow

The small portion of her arm that was coated in the reflective and mud armor was still a tiny thing. Terron saw that Su had only just melded the skill. However, she had directly fused the earth and ice that she had around her to do it. Not just that but she had also directly taken the mana she was offered and deflected one of his attacks with it.

Was Terron using weaker hits? Yes, that was how someone trained a new skill. The attacks couldn't be full force at once. However, he looked at the frost heave armor Su had just proudly announced and slammed his tail at her harder.

The skill shattered and chunks of frozen mud fell away from Su's arm. "Break it again and again until you do it perfectly. I want to see metal and diamonds on that armor with ice. I want to see it better!" Terron's shout was enough to rock the room around them. It seemed to vibrate with the metal of the ship and even made Current wince slightly.

"Now we are really going to see what can happen." Walker heard Current's mumbling and understood exactly what Terron was doing. He was making diamonds. He was going to pressure Su beyond her limits to see what she could do now that she had grasped the feeling of a new skill. He wanted to see what a completed version of this frost heave armor skill would be.

A skill that adhered to Su's skin and over the armor she already wore. That was what she had done. When she saw the skills Terron showed her, she had decided that she wanted it. When she saw and heard the skill that Current had, she wanted it too. But Su didn't want to be the same as other draconic guardians.

Su knew that Midnight and Walker were very unique. She trusted that they would always be standing out against others, even against her when compared. Now she had to stand out too. And to do that, she had to make these skills that had gone unchanged for years her own skills. To do that, she had to steal the fusing of elemental mana that Walker and Midnight were already doing.

In this, Su had grasped the idea of a skill that would cover her skin and make her armor. That way she would be able to fight the people she wanted to fight with all her force. The combined resistances of her skills, passive resistances, and armor would push her to a whole new level. A whole new battle style that would keep allowing her to fight beyond where she was in terms of level. That was what the party did. They fought enemies that were well above what they should be fighting.

Current let a little of his purer water elemental mana mix with the denser water elemental mana that Walker had gathered. He did this for one reason, curiosity. Current wanted to see just how strong Su would be. He had been the first royal dragon to actually see these heroes, this new royal dragon. He had every right to see more. He flowed with the situation and wanted to flow in to something unknown.

This addition let Su grasp water elemental mana much better. Especially since she could sense that Walker was pushing more mana toward her as well. She could feel it in every single beat of her heart. Walker was synchronizing himself with her so that they could better focus on the usage of mana. It was like being handed all the tools for the job she was doing the exact moment she needed it.

She was sure that Walker was using more skills than it appeared. Su was also sure that Walker was getting closer to being able to fully give over mana from and made by his own body to someone else. If Walker could do that, it would be the perfect healer's and supporter's skill called mana transplant. It was something very highly valued by the church since it was so rare. But if Walker managed it, he could literally give someone all the mana he had. And with how much mana he had...it would be major.

Ignoring these distracting thoughts, Su grabbed hold of the feeling she had before. She forced the water and earth together again. She made the water form in to balanced ice crystals within the mud that came from around the ship so that it bent around her.

The gaps in her armor were the most focused. She wanted to cover every small weakness that she had. Instead of just focusing on her arms like last time, Su made her entire body the focus. Before, she had just attempted to make the skill cover a small palace. That was the level of her understanding.

The reason that was her focus was the lack of understanding of how the two elemental manas were coming together. Now, she had more elemental mana and a feeling. The sense of the two forming together was rooted in her and Su was not letting it go. That was why she focused on a thinner layer of frost heave armor around her entire body with a hyper focus on the weak points of the armor.

Current and Terron saw this and both grinned at the same time. This jump in understanding was why they wanted to push. Why they were both attracted to Su and how things were progressing. Naturally, Walker was also enjoying this. He could feel the changes in the mana and how Su was influencing them. He was also gaining a lot of understanding when it came to the fusion of earth and water, especially the form change of water to ice within earth.

It was a lot like his skills that made water and ice flow. But the addition of earth made much. It was a lot harder for things to travel through mud than just plain water. However, when mud became ice, the earth would literally shift. That was why certain roads were harder to travel in the winter. The frozen mud altered the stones completely. Walker was able to better understand this as he watched Su.

The next attack from Terron was still harder than the last attack. It cracked and shattered the armor again. This time though, the fallen pieces were already being pulled back toward Su. a sheen of silver had grown around them that was reflected but eh small ice crystals within the armor she made.

These were signs that the steel skin skill was being mixed with the skills that Su had. It wasn't just that she had made a new skill entirely, she was proving that she was showing off more than that here.

Since Terron felt this, he motioned at Walker. With the same motion, a wave of dense earth mana fell toward him. This was all controlled and directed by Walker as Terron attacked Su in a flurry of tail whips. Current followed Terron's lead without a single blink of his eyes. The two were entirely focused on Su now. It was a state of focus that only a dragon's curiosity and pride could create.

Piercing dragon eyes increased pressure on Su. she felt them wearing away at her mentality, but she also felt her blood boiling at the feeling. She wanted to roar out in protest. She wasn't someone small to be looked at like this. She had already awakened a skill to take a powerful form. She was growing in to it and would be taking herself to a much stronger point in life.

Every single broken piece of her frost heave armor was bright back stronger. Denser. It shined with a strange blue hue of ice and silver. When Terron suddenly stopped and Current walked to join him, they were looking at a panting and angry Su. a draconic guardian ready to throw aside everything to fight them, royal dragons. She was ready to channel all her mana and inner fury. Exactly the way a dragonkin should fight.

But they were also looking at a fairly adept usage of the frost heave armor skill. Su had been forced to get to an adept level of understanding in just a few hours of being attacked. The silver icy armor that covered her was mimicking the ice shards that had covered Current. However, they had a thin silver core of condensed metal inside them.

"Silver skin and ice shards. Combined they made a truly new skill. Frost heave armor, I like it. You should use it more." Current hummed softly. He was impressed.

"It's not a diamond yet. But for a hatchling, this isn't bad." Terron sat down and took back the earth mana he could. He didn't even glance again.

"I will heal her a little. Both of you should get it now though. You can work pretty damn well together." Walker felt that Su was much more tired than him. The frost heave armor falling away from her molded itself in to a pile. Walker didn't hesitate to store it away before he caught her. Su was more tired than she had been before. These last few training sessions had brought about great change in her body. They had awakened her new path of growth while throwing aside her emotional turmoil.

Chapter 1690 1690. Coral Traps

"Stopped? Why do we have to stop?" This was the question that every single person on the ship asked. However, the moment that they made it to the top deck, everyone understood.

Thanks to the golems, archers on look out, and the merfolk, the ships had stopped right before they had become wrecks. In front of them was a seemingly endless field of waves and coral. There were clearly places where the ships could fit through, unfortunately, there were more ways to get trapped and wrecked.

Many ships and even some other vessels that didn't look anything like something made on their continent were there. Beached on top of large rocks covered in coral or trapped and shattered between large portions of coral growing just under the surface of the water.

"This is a massive coral maze." Walker could see that the coral had not been grown intentionally like this, it was just the natural growth of the coral over more years than any of them had been alive.

"I would say it's a massive pain in the butt. I want to see this new continent and the archers say that the block way off in the distance is the start of the land. It should be where all my new herbs are growing. But nooooooooo, we are stuck here." Remey wanted to personally start carving a path through the coral. She didn't care what would happen to her if she ran in to any monsters living in it.

"You kids can all calm down. I have my golems working on it. I won't be sending a man to battle in a mess like that. But this is why golems exist. The dangerous tunnels that no one would risk exploring. That is where they go." The king of the surface had brought a large team of dwarves to the top deck when he had come to speak about this problem with their course.

"The dolphin golems and the narwhal golems can handle this?" Su was still slow and groggy after training with Walker. She had slept for a day at least. Yet, she still felt that her body was sore and her mind weak. She had stressed herself greatly awakening a lot of new skills and a great new defensive method. She had even fought using her shields on the offensive instead of defensive which shocked her muscles that had been used to the same motions.

"Exactly right. Our golems will be mapping a way through that. It will be a simple matter..." The simple matter was proven to be less so than expected. As soon as the king of the surface had gone to boast that his golems would be easily traversing things, one was thrown from the water.

The pieces of metal and a shattered golem core fell in to the water like a strange metal rain. Everyone focused on it and noticed the spiked fish that had used its tail to shatter and throw the dolphin golem out of the coral maze ahead of them. While Walker could only see part of it, he still used the all around appraisal.

'Explosive puffer fish

Using the water it stored under pressure in its body, the explosive puffer fish will expand rapidly and release the water. This causes a powerful attack that can cut through some of the toughest metals. It is ideal for breaking the tough corals and finding the snake eels it enjoys eating.

Beware of the female explosive pufferfish. They possess a sharp set of spikes that can poison just about any bird or fish that attempts to eat them. There are some things that naturally eat them, such as the berzerk shark. They often hunt the reefs for any and all food possible.'

"It is time for a crusade against this coral hell! They have harmed my soldier!" the rage that presented itself on the face of the king of the surface was immediate. He could barely hear what Walker had just said about the explosive puffer fish.

"Brother, should sister and I go back to training? We can try to break some coral from here." Walker shook his head. He had already started to ignore the king of the surface. He had to avoid the desire to rush in to this coral maze and explore.

"If you send attacks at it, you might wake up something else we don't know of. I am going to ask Leon what we should do." Walker looked around and spotted Alma, Leon, and Scylla walking toward them. It was clear that everyone that could come had come to the same ship.

"We all see why there have been absolutely zero returning ships. Anyone that can make it through this has struggled to make it back. And those that had been trapped..." Leon was taking the lead on the conversation. It appeared that Scylla had also just seen the golem destroyed so she was more apt to fight than anything. Which was why she let Leon speak first.

"I can sense that a lot of that coral is alive. It's like a plant type of monster. I can't control it but they are stopped where they are and won't be moving much. But when I try to search for more...it's hard to say. There are a lot of other things around under the water. Normal seaweeds. But they are all oppressed by something. They aren't growing to the surface of the water at all. There's a defined limit." Alma broke in with her worries. She knew that Walker or the other might be able to figure things out here.

"I really don't like that. I said it before, and I am saying it now. That does not put me at ease. Especially when I need to send my merfolk out to search that place." Leon raised his worries yet again. But he didn't have much time to say anything since Ventus descended from the sky while changing back to her dragonkin form.

"Ninety two ship wrecks. That is how many are visible to my eyes. Some leaving that place and others entering. What I cannot see may be impossible to handle. But even the air currents are strange here. I believe we should stay here for the night. Everyone prepared for battle." Ventus motioned to the many dragonkin that were deathly serious. Even the other royal dragons were around having conversations with their most powerful dragonkin warriors.

"That does not bode well. I will see what I can sense." Walker had felt something scratching at the back of his mind. However, he had chalked it up to the situation they were in. It was not ideal. Many unknown things were in this massive maze of coral. It wasn't easy to guess what monsters, pathway should take, or s were at play here.

The moment that Walker reached out with his senses, he found a huge amount of mana around. It was much higher than normal. The manas were not balanced though. The mana that was being focused here under the water was-

"Darkness mana. It is mana that I know. But I have no say over how it's used. Because that kind of darkness mana, is mixed with death." Mordant spoke as he revealed himself from the shadows. He was grim and determined to set this place right. "It's just as bad as that city of undead. If not slightly better here. So many things have died here. The coral has trapped them. The monsters eaten them. The storms shattered them on the rocks." Mordant could guess all the ways someone had died here.

"It is!" Walker felt the same things that Mordant did. The pair of them could feel the darkness elemental mana mixed with death itself. It was a dense energy that might not even be mana. Midnight had touched on this before to awaken her innate skeletal armor skill. It came with darkness dragons but it was not necessarily death.

Even worse, the trap that immortal king had played left Midnight potential stuck in a little world of death being chased by skeletons and spirits. Now they were in a larger place with the same feeling. "We are going to need to prepare for the night. I mean heavily prepare. Every ship needs to be ready for a battle against the undead. Fire will not work here." Knowing about the undead was a requirement for many. Too many graveyards had sat too long leading to undead surfacing. That was why there were burial rites.

"Scylla, the skills that I have are not enough to burn them up with all the saltwater here. I will speak with Rise about skills I might be able to use after the sun sets. Alice will also be a major player in this." Walker took on the responsibility. He knew that healers would be their main force during this. The water mages would even be behind whalers when it came to beating undead.

