

## Master 1701

### Chapter 1701 1701. Priorities

The map that Neil, the village elder, gave them was smaller than expected. It at most showed a small piece of the continent with details of the surrounding area the most. The further out it got the less it showed. It was as if the map had been made with a magnifying glass over one section and the rest was zoomed out.

The changes in size were even marked to show a larger distance. This made Walker understand that those who had sent these people to establish this village only wanted that and would have a strict hold on the village once it was built completely or if it had success.

There was a decent line drawn throughout that led to large landmarks. The northern side of the map was a little larger and contained a vast mountain range that nearly split the north in half again. The south possessed a large tundra that seemed to do the same as the north. It was a very odd natural formation, but it made the two somewhat equal in a way.

"What are the roving cities?" Walker looked at the map and saw that the two spots that were marked said last known locations.

"They are the locations of the battle cities made by each empire. Using from the elders before they ascended to the elemental planes, they made cities that float in the air. Two to be precise. They used them to battle one another and move the entire population at any time. Now they should be stopped there and there. Both empires had the same ideas because we have the same elders when they were thought of. But they were used very differently..."

The fact that there were two seemed to make Neil unhappy. Most likely because the cities were equally in both hands of the two empires instead of just one. However, the fact that they were both balanced out whether the empires liked it or not was interesting. As if they were meant to always be in an odd balance or as if it was intentional.

"There are really cities that float? They can't be large...right?" Walker saw that Neil was smirking a little.

"We are winged beings. Large floating cities would surprise you? It is very normal for us." Neil finally seemed to be showing a little emotion. But he was also catching on that Walker might not be as old as he thought. Everyone that had come with Walker might not be as old.

Neil had caught on that Walker and the others were very strong. Much stronger than they looked. That was clear in the fact that they were casually showing off valuable potions but also able to do some large things casually. One being how Walker had used earth elemental mana with just a wave of his hand and without much build up since Walker was assisting in making a wall out of earth for them along one direction.

"Can you make more? If you can it might be a better way to cross the ocean than ships. We have to make a few just to get through but between the storms, monsters, and literally living islands...well, I would prefer to fly. But the dragons couldn't carry everyone and go without rest. That wouldn't have been fair to them." Walker didn't need to hide this. He knew that the elder could fly and see the ships if he wanted.

"Does the angel race still have records of living on our continent? We have found ancient ruins from your predecessors." Walker tested the waters and looked at Neil who had stopped to think about the prior question. He was again stuck in his spot without being able to walk forward.

"We might make another city one day. When the next generation discovers the ways of the ancestors. And yes, we have records of the great migration, the great divide, and much more. But it is very limited. They are grand tales, not detailed history." Walker thought as much. It was a normal thing to lose records and history during wars.

"Well, we have some records on our continent. We can share the details. We have the dwarves and some earth elves working on the excavation now." This made Neil look curiously again.

"Can you tell me more about these dwarves? What are they like? They are another race like you told one of the children before." This made Walker smile even more since he got to go in to more details.

"Due to some issues, we had the goal of uniting our race as hero title holders." This froze Neil in his spot again. These young people had titles! "The elves of all elemental affinities have been reunited, the dwarves an underground race, the demi- humans with monster traits, the goblins and harpies both monster races, the merfolk an under water race, and humans have all been united. Even the royal dragons have been welcomed to come together in Genesis. I am sure many more will too."

Seeing that Neil had dropped his jaw to the ground, Walker just smiled. "I will have your angel race join us too if you can. I want everyone. Oh, and the demons are with us as well after we freed them from

being oppressed by a small group of powerful demons. I know I said we were after the demon king and his two Sin title holders, but they are not representative of all demons." Walker made sure to point this out. He didn't want the demons to sound evil.

"I am hoping that the elemental spirits are considered a race too. They are family. I even have a bond with one too." Walker let the nature spirit mark that had extended and was normally invisible appear for a second. Neil was even more awestruck seeing such a sight.

"This is well beyond what I am capable of at my age. But I can share a little more about who we are. I know angels and that is it." This was fair, Neil was an old retired soldier, that was clear. He had been sent here to help the village establish and it was a more or less shot in the dark. If they failed, a retired soldier and small number of angels were lost. If he succeeded, then great.

"We, as all do, have different affinities, like those elves you spoke of. Not that I thought elves existed, their ancestors were in our fairytales growing up." Neil laughed a little but he kept going on afterwards, "you see my green feathers, they represent my wind affinity. As we grow, we gain mana through our wings. A wingless angel is rare but they use their entire body to gain mana. They lose their wings but gain powerful. It is a blessing. That is why the little ones thought you were wingless angels or different."

This made sense, it was similar to the elves and the dragons. Different affinities for different representations in their physiques. However, hearing that angels primarily gained mana through their wings was interesting. It sounded like they didn't naturally make their own mana but were instead closely related to the mana around them instead.

Knowing that the angels had affinities that showed on their wings was also helpful. When the party came in to contact with others they could be prepared if things went poorly. Especially if the angels reacted negatively at the embassy. It was certain that they would be on edge the moment that the party arrived. But before that, the party would have to return to the ships and get the royal dragons that might want to go with them. They would be having words with the Rize empire about wyverns.

"With that earth moving ability, could you make a well for us?" This was the first thing that Neil had asked. Naturally, Walker had no qualms with it.

"Of course I can. If you need anything else, we will have a temporary camp set up soon for our soldiers and a few others. If you are interested, they can help you build things up. It's better that you are safer since you are our first friends here."

This both made Neil happy and worried. Having foreigners here meant that they would be a focus for others to check out. But having them help meant that they would be able to grow faster. Again, it would also mean that if the negotiations went poorly, they might be seen as taken hostage by the foreigners.

"I would prefer to do the best for my little village. Those kids need a stable place to grow so I will

take the risk. Please bring over a few more people for me to meet." Neil had priorities. He cared more for the lives that it would help than political drama. A proper choice for a soldier.

Chapter 1702 1702. Bring The Others!

The feeling that Neil was a good man was even stronger. Walker had decided this because Neil had made a logical and thought out decision. Faced with the fact that Walker and everyone that had come with him was clearly more powerful than his village, Neil should have been on edge. It made sense. However, Neil had calmed himself and thought properly.

There were risks, yes, there would always be risks. Yet, Neil saw that Walker and his people could help them immensely. If this meant that they would take on risk, then so be it. Those around him were the people entrusted to him to care for in this project.

Just because Neil and the others would receive help would not mean that they were tossing aside their citizenship as Rize empire citizens. It was just that they were making a diplomatic choice to ally with them and begin communications for their people. It also meant that they might have a safer and better place to grow.

Walker made a point to explain that he and his people wanted to set up a small place for them to dock their ships. That being said, this would make the village a seaside village with a harbor. The coral that had plagued so many ships and lives through the wars was now going to be a protective barrier. Monsters, ships, and other things like stroma would be held off. An ideal situation.

The further that Neil pursued this in his mind, the more potential that he saw. It was all a great chance for growth, both as an individual and as a village. Walker also saw this and grind even more. He had helped them a little and shown off what they could do easily. Yes, he still felt that there was fear around, but they could take time to scare that off. Fear was there due to uncertainty. As long as everyone did their best and was transparent then these villagers would understand them better.

"Who is that? That is now one of our village's children..." Neil saw a smaller figure joining the kids playing. But he soon saw the scaly wings and the smaller horns on its head.

"That's Midnight. She can change in to her dragonkin form if she wants. It was probably easier to play that way. Just watch out, she likes good food so she might try and steal some snacks. Onyx might be able to do that one day and take a humanoid form, but we don't know enough about his race. He really hopes he can though. I do too." Walker felt that it was a very high chance that Onyx would find a skill like this. Onyx just seemed to have this kind of luck.

"Only the strongest and cruelest wyverns can do that... or the queen of the wyverns can do that. That's what I have heard. How powerful are these dragons? They really are dragons?" Neil was accepting it much more. His questions didn't even need to be answered. However, Walker managed to get another good piece of information from Neil about the wyverns.

They had a queen. They had powerful members that could take other humanoid forms as the dragons could. This meant that some of them might have some sentient thought in comparison to what Walker knew them as. But it all depended on their strength. Would a very powerful wyverns even care about the sentient thoughts and emotions? Wouldn't it just be the same as the rest of its kind and maintain it's emotional and hatred for dragonkin and dragons? It was all too hard to speculate.

"Gil, can you take a break and go get the others from the ships? Terron could help make this village much larger so they can build some better homes. The dwarves might also want to come and start building too." Walker shouted and Gil perked his head up from a group of four other hunters. They were all immersed in hearing about the bow and how they could better use it.

"Sure thing! Let me just finish showing them how to make an impromptu bow out of a birch tree sapling!" Gil had managed to find the hunters that had just started learning in the village. It made sense that those with hunter systems would be sent here. Especially the hunters that were less experienced due to the danger here.

With that shout, a few elves also walked out of the tree line around the village. The same was said for two of Mordant's dragonkin. "You can all help too. We are going to help them establish their village so that they won't worry about monsters and losing their homes. They will be helping us make this our port village too." Walker gave them the order, Mordant's dragonkin were more than happy to follow a royal dragon's order while the elves thought this was great since they wanted Alma to be safer. Building this village a little would make it safer for her. She was a future queen after all.

"Elise, you didn't even give me time. I saw you and Stella hiding for the whole time we were here." Walker looked right up toward a tree and Neil's jaw dropped again. He felt that he might have to wire it shut if he wanted to be able to keep his calm. He hadn't even heard the flapping of wings as two beings had hidden so close.

"Walker! We were here to protect you. We were definitely protecting you." Elise leaped from the tree and landed in front of Walker. Stella flew down too and landed right in front of Neil who was even more lost wondering what Stella was.

"This is Elise, she is a representative of the tamer's guild from our continent. This is Stella, she is technically a tamed monster but is truly Elise's sister. They grew up together and were together until this very moment. They even helped a bit in the harpies becoming their own race instead of just monsters. The world even recognized it. I'm sure that the world let you know too." Walker saw realization hit Neil.

"How much of what the world has blessed us with have you witnessed?" This was a sudden and a hard questions. But Walker knew that Neil had started to grasp the true strength behind Walker's group.

"The goblins, harpies, changes in elemental manas, elemental spirits, and a few other changes might be related to us." Walker was a little embarrassed since bragging like this was more rude than anything.

"Don't think that Walker is messing with you. He and his family have done a lot more than just that. He is a founder of Genesis. I'm sure he will explain a lot more about how he stopped wars, brought races together, and even caused many races to put aside differences to make massive break throughs in their understanding of mana and knowledge in general." Elise didn't hold much back. It Was just what she had seen and believed.

"I am in over my head...I've been buried." Neil just mumbled while Elise and Stella looked at him. Stella seemed more interested in Neil since he had wings that were pure white with green tinges. Her wings were much different since they were colored more similarly to brown at the moment because of the season and her natural features.

"It's not that bad. You will start to catch on as we go. It's your village right? I mean, that's what I assume." Elise realized that she had just inadvertently admired that she had seen everything and not just the protecting lie she told.

"I can't say I've caught on yet. I'm not used to it at all and I'm stuck in the middle of it all." Walker wanted to laugh but he felt that way much more than usual lately. He was literally standing on a continent far from home. It made him wonder just how far he was going to go in adventuring, in life in general.

It was only a short while before Neil heard the commotion of others coming over. The dwarves in their golems were stunning. Such mechanical creations were not normal. But every single angel felt the mana flowing through them and saw the weight of the materials they carried.

"This is a village? I'll have my builders and blacksmiths start properly here. You need workshops, homes, storage cellars, hell! You need everything." The king of the surface relished this. He had a lot to plan and strategize. First and foremost he planned to set up a patrol parameter.

Things were going to move fast. Especially since the dragonkin and other soldiers were prepared to build an easily defendable camp. The Main focus of defense was against the wyvern threat.

#### Chapter 1703 1703. Plans Moving Forward

The speed that things were getting done had made Neil so stunned that he could barely stand. The other adults of the village had rushed to him and asked many questions as he had stopped to take a breather. They were soon stunned too but fully supported his choices. They wanted to live too, they wanted their children to be able to have a safe place. Even if there was some risk from other things, they were willing to take that bet.

This made all of the children very excited. They were not old enough to understand what political or battle potential existed, however, they were old enough to be amazed. Onyx and Midnight had taken on a great job when it came to keeping them away from danger. The s used around were enough to make things even more dangerous for them.

The earth moving s were the first danger. Terron had many of the dragonkin move things and instantly flattened a large area of land to expand in to. It even worked as a place to connect the large flat road he had just created. His show of strength made everyone amazed, but Walker saw that Terron's normally stubborn act had broken. He was happier than a kid in a candy store to be able to touch the earth again and manipulate it as he desired.

"So, you gathered some information?" Scylla, Leon, and the royal dragons had all gathered at Walker's call. Even Terron was there just in time to hear what Walker had to say.

"The two empires are technically at peace now, we need to head to their embassy along this route. The information this village had was smaller because they are not that important. We also have to worry about the monsters and plants that Remey is learning about right now. She might be a small expert before we leave." Walker knew that knowledge was power in this unknown land. Especially when war could break out again all around them.

"The Rize empire is where we are now, just to the south there is the Fel empire. If we cross the border by accident it could cause issues. But that should be fine since we can remain focused." Walker knew that exploring the lands around them was a desire they all had. It was best to set limits first.

"The wyverns are apparently only in the Rize empire mountains, but I think they are having greater issues with them than we think. Especially since they don't really go in to the mountainous regions because of the wyverns." Walker breathed slowly while he decided to tell the other royal dragon about a potentially more sentient enemy.

"The dragons on this continent fought side by side with the empires they backed. That is common historical knowledge here. But they killed too many of their own kind and could not produce proper offspring. Apparently, they bred with other similar beings and that was where wyverns came from along with other monsters with dragon blood."

This change was drastic. Mana from every royal dragon escaped as they became angry hearing this. It sounded as if they were being looked down on as a race. As if they were some pitiful race that could not even keep themselves alive.

"That made the wyverns cruel and brutal. They had strength but lost their minds. That is until they get stronger. If they reach a certain strength, they can take a similar form as dragonkin. But different since the elder here said he had seen it in books. That means the wyverns might be more sentient. They also have a queen that rules them, the most powerful wyvern."

"Before you want to rush in, there is also the fact that the wyverns have left the area. We don't know why and it's certain that there might be more going on. We have to get to that embassy and learn more. From there we can see what the angels are up to. It also is notable that there is a large desert in the southern Rize empire. If there are some major problems with the wyverns who fly from the mountains, what about beasts with dragon blood in the deserts?"



This was a guess but Walker knew that something major would have to happen in both empires for them to want to stop fighting. It didn't make sense that years and years of fighting between different opinions would suddenly stop.

"Then you think they have equally powerful monsters to deal with?" Scylla knew that war was her thing. She was a general. It doesn't make sense to avoid this advantage. "If the Rize empire was weak, then the Fel empire should maximize their chance to win. They did not. So your theory should be correct."

"What about this demon king we are hunting? What does he have in this?" Ignus growled out. He was still angry but he sensed that there was more going on here than met the eye. It was a similar instinctual feeling that every royal dragon had.

"Well, if there are two powerful empires and two terrible monster groups causing problems, then no one can focus on what he's doing. He came here to a new land for more power. The angels have a race that was more advanced and even ascended to another plane of existence on both sides. what's left might be more powerful and give him a key to taking everything for himself. Or destroying everything for power." Walker worried about the goal the demon king had other than just power.

"So we establish our base here. I will stay with the ships since I can protect them the best. Scylla should take the land here. The dragons should go with Walker and the others." Leon made the decision himself. He knew he was not as useful on land as the others were. He also knew that Scylla was strong but gave off a bloodthirsty aura. She would scare away the two empires at the border. It would cause potential drama and even start up a war again.

"I can go and show them that they can not fight while Genesis soldiers walk their lands as guests. I would show them that we are not to be touched." Scylla fought this but as soon as she spoke she realized that this had to be more peaceful. It was exactly the kind of mission she hated the most. Peaceful negotiations.

"I will have Elise work with the harpies to create communication back and forth to us. They should be able to speak with updates between all of us without issues since they are very good at keeping a low profile lately. Same with the tamers. They need a base here to begin documenting new monsters that might be tamable by others." Walker made a point to say this since he wanted the tamers to keep themselves under wraps for the time being.

The taming of monsters might not be normal here, he hadn't heard anything yet but Neil had seemed a little confused about the taming guild. That meant it might be better to hold off on this for now. Especially since the angels were more related to elemental affinities too.

"Angels have similar characteristics to dragons. They all have their own affinity. That makes their wings look different in coloration. That should help us if we get in to trouble. It should also help us when we look at how they build their cultures. What I am worried about are the things outside the normal flow of things. Those angels that don't have a basic elemental affinity but something like space, or death, or whatever it might be."

"I remember, you said that in that library there was a new section. One that was about the other affinities. The rarer ones." Mordant seemed to understand what Walker was getting at.

"You think that there might be some in the Fel empire since they believe in those things more than the Rize empire. It will be harder to get through all that." Current also grasped this along with the others. They were all looking at the potential to face that none of them had ever seen before.

"Exactly. Things will just get harder until we know more. But they don't know us and we don't know them. They have no idea what a harpy is since they don't have them here. They somewhat knew goblins but dragons were considered extinct here. Imagine just what kinds of surprises we will have for those that cause us trouble. Keep your cards close to your chest." Walker made this very clear. They all had to keep their secrets from the potential enemies while leaving enough said to enhance the mystery. It would only help their negotiations.

Chapter 1704 1704. Speedy Building

Everyone easily accepted what Walker had said after talking a bit more. The royal dragons had managed to calm themselves while they thought about what would happen if their young and inexperienced offspring suddenly found that there were no more dragons around to carry on their bloodline.

This fear was what made them want to deal with the wyverns even sooner. It was naturally a species of monster that could easily threaten them. Especially if they had managed to take on enough of their dragon blood to have similar characteristics.

There was also the fact that Walker had brought up a theory that another type of more hidden monster might be causing problems in the southern side of the continent. The Fel empire might have issues they needed assistance with that could also threaten the dragons.

Adding in that there was a massive desert in the sought, Rise, Ventus, and Terron became interested. A lot of wind, earth, and light elemental mana might be there. However, Terron could go to the mountain too. That would also have a lot of dense earth mana for him to experience and take for himself.

There was a better chance for Ignus though, Mountains meant that volcanoes would exist. Between the mountains would be lakes and rivers for Current. And the shadows would be ideal for Mordant. This was why they had all silently agreed that there would be a chance for them to split up if necessary. Unfortunately, that also required more information. They had to know more about what was going on before anyone risked splitting up.

For the time being, they had prepared the forces that would be staying. The king of the surface was staying with Scylla, Leon, and many of the soldiers. The dragonkin, some elves, and other select soldiers would be going with the royal dragons, Walker's party, and Alma. Elise was also hanging back since they needed to set up a base of the tamer's guild. That would be where they started to gather the information about new monsters.

Naturally, Remey had put a few of the alchemists on the ships in charge of creating a small alchemy lab to begin building toward another alchemy guild location. She was not going to be defeated by the tamer's guild when it came to a base of operations. It was even more important that Remey had information about new herbs here on this continent. Along with the fact that the guild needed to be expanded sooner than later.

All of this had been worked out and told through chain of command to the others. This was just how it would be for now. But no one argued even a little. The only people that were feeling lost were the villagers. They couldn't believe how fast they were watching their little village be transformed. The more it happened, the more awestruck they were.

The space that Terron had cleared was easily four times the size of their small village and was already mentioned to be too small still. This alone made all of the villagers wonder just what a village was like on the other continent. But seeing so many unfamiliar races working together was also stunning.

The children had made a game of picking out new people to pull aside and riddle with questions. The adults were also beginning to fall for this and no one seemed unhappy about it. Genesis was all about getting to know one another and uniting races, that was a core ideal that even the dragonkin had begun to understand since they had met Walker's group.

Overall, the progress was enough, they had all worked and spoken for the entire day since Neil had welcomed them all in as the elder of the village. As sudden as it was, Neil didn't object to them leaving the very next morning. Walker had made it clear that there were goals to be at the embassy as soon as possible. It made sense that it was better for Walker's group to get there than stay and build a village while risking looking like they had invaded the Rize Empire.

It was also because Walker knew that the longer they waited, the longer that all the issues grew to become something that couldn't be handled. There was a major risk in the fact that the demon king was unchecked. What could he be doing? What power could he be gathering? Was that Slime breeder making more dangers? What about the other demon that had gone with him? The three were a major issue that had to be controlled or defeated sooner than later.

Unfortunately, there were also more people with issues here. The angels were clearly divided more than it appeared from what Walker had learned from ancient ruins. That alone would make things even more complicated since Genesis was a third power coming in to the conflict. Not to mention the two issues within the two empires that were spilling over in to other continents already. It was a big head ache for anyone when they thought about it.

"Brother!" Midnight charged and grabbed Walker before he could fall creeper in t thought. She was in her dragonkin form and had been playing with a few of the village children from the last day. Now that she had woken up ready to head out with the rest of them, she was looking for food and Walker was one of the first awake that could get it.

"Midnight, you are going to want to switch forms again soon. We are going to be getting everyone else awake. But If you help me wake them up, I will cook a little something." Walker saw the light in Midnight's eyes grow before she charged off toward Gil's tent. He felt a little bad but also thought it would be funny to hear the growing cries of surprise as Midnight woke anyone and everyone up that she could.

Just a few minutes later, Gil found Walker by the fire and met him with a slight glare. "That's how you send a wake up call now? A dragon pouncing on everyone? Shouldn't it just be you and Onyx that have to risk breaking ribs?"

"Oh, so you're saying you're not strong enough to resist a playful nudge? Rough life. I guess we will have to wrap you in furs to cushion any fall you might have." The two fell in to a treasing argument as Walker added a few spices to some of the fish that had been hunted by Leon. it was a great smell to wake up to for the entire village. Especially since they had barely put down roots and not fished too much. They were easily attracted by the smell of food.

By the time the rest of the party had joined him, Walker had given away more spices than he would have liked to the older villagers. They wanted to experiment with their own food since most of them were parents and had trouble getting their kids to eat what they made. It didn't matter where someone was, children would still be picky to some degree. Having new spices would be a great way to tempt them.

"You know that we should bring spices and herbs back for your mother too right? the first bakery to sell foods made with spices and herbs from another continent?" Su made a point to tell Walker to keep an eye out. He was already planning on this but was glad to have the reminder. He might space out and miss something.

"Furs too for Lisa." Alice chimed in and added to it. She had high praise for Lisa since she had made Alice's robes and even a few extra pairs of clothing. It was very comfortable and helped her gather light elemental mana. She could only be thankful and want to help. There was also the fact that Lisa had already said she would be fine with Alice as an older sister. not that Walker knew that conversation ever happened. But that would be a story for another time.

"Alright, everyone has eaten and set up what they need right?" Walker saw the nods from everyone. "Good, we are leading the walk from here. The trails seem thin and not very developed. That means we have to travel in a line of smaller groups. It should be fine since we can reinforce each other but we shouldn't let the dragons fly above and defend us. That could be seen as a wyvern attack since the angels don't know dragons." Walker began telling everyone the walking plan. It would take them a few days and they would pass other villages. They would have to be prepared for a number of monster encounters. The only hope was that they could easily handle any threats along the way.

#### Chapter 1705 1705. Find Your Instincts

The groups were already walking. Neil had flown up in the air a little ways to watch them go. He was still stunned about the changes that had happened in such a short time. For a while he had looked down at what his little village was becoming before his very eyes. that could alter the land he lived in was rarely used, but now it was being used as if it was nothing.

The level of teamwork that he witnessed also made him disappointed by his own race and empire. He had seen so many fights in his time. He had been on battlefields where the only thought for every angel was survival.

Different opinions and even the slight differences in affinity had led to the death of entire families. To call the angel race a mess was too small. Especially when compared to the races he had never seen in his

life and knew nothing about that had shown up right where he lived and had already offered a helping hand.

The decision to accept that hand and shake it with a smile was the best he had ever made. Even if it led to his entire empire fighting against him, he didn't care now. He was able to say that he made the best decision for the families he was put in charge of. His entire life of fighting had finally been brought to a turning point where he could create a better future. Why would he ever be unhappy about that?

While Neil was pondering this, Walker was marching ahead as the lead of these groups. He and his party had taken the lead with the royal dragons right behind. They were very angry that they needed to walk. However, in the interest of defeating the wyverns completely, they did not argue much. Instead, Walker had begun to catch on to something.

The others were marching in their own groups far off behind. It was spaced out so that the entire route they took could be easily enforced but also better mapped out as they traveled. This was just a precaution since this was still unfamiliar to them. The entire continent was a new place, an adventurer's dream.

What Walker had begun to grasp was not the new plants and other things around him. It was the fact that the royal dragons were somehow walking and still gathering mana for themselves. Rise in particular was greedily pulling light elemental mana toward herself. Onyx and Alice had noted this very early before Walker had sensed it.

Onyx was the same as usual, he needed the light elemental mana as food for himself to grow even more. He was also keeping an eye on Aurora who was feeding on the light while benignly wrapped around Alice's arm. He was always keeping an eye on Aurora since she had been the first heavenly serpent to hatch as he was the first abyssal serpent to hatch. They had a unique relationship as the two forests of their race to return to the world after being thought of as extinct.

Alice had the same deep sense of light elemental mana due to the fact that she had recently learned of her own bloodline related to the angels. It was odd that she carried it but now that there was an entire continent of angels, it made sense that some bloodline would remain within the bodies of humans who now lived where angels' ancestors had. Would every angel truly have left? Every race had outliers.

What Walker had been surprised about was that many of the angels had not been light affinity. They had the similar wind affinity that Neil had with the odd fire and water mixed in with the children. Their wings

had shown this off but just subtly. The angels that had light and darkness affinity might be rarer nowadays or they were more powerful in some aspects so they were with other similarly strong powers.

That was all just a side thought for Walker. Right now he was trying to copy the royal dragons and gather mana to himself while walking. He had meditated while sitting. That was the best way for Walker to gain mana. He had also pulled mana toward him by manipulating the natural mana in a specific way. However, he had never split his mind to force mana to gather and be ready for use at any time. He had to rely on mana gems in his armor or the eternal orb for this.

"See, I told you that he would have an idea." Remey handed Gil a piece of jerky with an annoyed look. Walker glanced at them with his own annoyed look.

"If you two are going to bet on things, you should bet on whether I will help you make potions or you make arrows any time soon." Walker's threat made the two look away and pretend that they had done nothing.

"And that is what I told you would happen. Midnight and I will scout ahead now. You two can take up the rear while Walker figures something out. Alice, you should come too, those two will just give you bad ideas." Alice giggled a little and walked with Su and Midnight ahead.

"I will stay with you brother. I want to understand what they are doing as well." Onyx had grasped where Walker's thoughts were and taken his favorite place on Walker's shoulders in his smaller form. He was more than happy to learn about moving and gathering mana faster at the same time.

"I know you might want to teach it to your little ones." Walker could tell that if Onyx learned it he would immediately begin to figure out how he would go about teaching this to the younger abyssal serpents. The simple reason being so that they wouldn't have to spend their time sitting in the sun and watching. That way they would be able to move around and keep learning while they were able to also grow faster. It was the perfect balance since a young abyssal serpent was so weak at first. The heavenly serpents would be able to use this too if Aurora learned it. But Onyx knew that Aurora was still too far behind in growth to worry about this too much.

By watching how Rise was moving mana toward her but also keeping her eyes open and focused, Walker caught on that she was actually using her instincts to keep moving. As a dragon, Rise had powerful instincts. They could smell and sense things around them very well. It was why Midnight often alerted the party of danger if Gil couldn't catch it or Walker couldn't.

Therefore, Rise was using her instincts to remain with the others.s he could sense her fellow royal dragons and the unique scents they had matched with how their footsteps sounded. Even the breathing and mana around her from them was enough to guide how her body moved in dragonkin form. It was amazing watching such a precise form of acceptance when it came to basic instincts. Walker knew that he would have to change his focus to copy this.

As a human, the basic animalistic instincts were often put aside for intellectual thought. This was just years of habit based on how they formed a society. That wasn't a bad thing, it had allowed humans to become very adaptive to different situations which was why they had survived and created multiple kingdoms and cities elsewhere.

Tapping in to that while splitting focus to make mana come to him and gather was going to require some assistance. The eternal orb would be that assistance. Walker knew that it had a perfect connection to natural mana already. That meant he could use it in its natural orb form to gather mana and channel it to the spirit mark to help Fleur better.

From there, Walker needed to find the instincts that would allow him to walk and act in an instant. The lightning sword style along with the blade zone skill were the two skills that walker felt had a link to his instincts. The reason that he felt this way was because his speed was more than he felt his mind could normally comprehend when using the lightning sword style.

Furthermore, he had the idea that the blade zone was a unique way of sensing the areas around him. Not that he used it often since he knew that it took a toll on his body due to the movements he used when under the skill. His mana drained fast but he also had to put massive mental strain to force his body to move in ways that slashed at his blind spots. That was why he never used it, it was taxing and dangerous in a real battle.

That left Walker with the problem of finding his basic instincts that he had grown to oppress in some way to reach the same level as the other royal dragons.

Chapter 1706 1706. Real Instincts

"Walker is trying to gather mana from the air and use it in his body, right? Like the dragons?" Gil was chatting with Remey. The two had finally stopped arguing while they walked since they had gotten tired of the same run around.



"Pretty sure that's it. He keeps looking at the royal dragons were are meditating and walking at the same time. It's kind of weird but they are dragons so they are going to be different." Remey just shrugged her shoulder at this. She felt that this was to be expected. Walker would eventually be closer to the dragons as time went on.

"But isn't that kind of important? He said that the angels absorb and use the mana around them naturally by bringing it in through their wings. That could be why Alice had all those problems with light mana. She used her mana because she was too close to the mana in the air and couldn't absorb it. But she made her own mana because she's human. Makes sense right?" Gil felt that his theory was very solid.

"I don't see why you think this matters? They are different situations. If Alice learns to take mana from around her too that's great but she already has Horizon to help her. We all have our elemental spirits helping us now or something else." There wasn't a point in sight when it came to this conversation. Remey just wondered why Gil was so focused on it.

"That is it though. What if we can do the same while still making our own mana? Could you make potions ten times longer if you could do that? I could launch a hundred more arrows at enemies. Su could make her light healing shield larger. There's so much more too. We should be watching and learning so that we can train the same thing."

There was a slight pause in Remey's steps as she looked back at Walker who had begun to walk slightly slower and with a less straight pace having to constantly readjust himself. "So we should make a human version of dragon and angel mana absorption and usage. Store elemental mana in our bodies since we have spirit marks and use mana from the air with less and less use of our own mana because we are already connected to the mana in the air."

"We have to keep up. Walker and everyone else will get way too ahead of us." Gil knew that this was true. He could feel that Walker was about to break through again. Remey had been focused on potion and he on arrows. Not He and Remey had to catch up again to the others. But they had their ways. Remey had her elemental fists and Gil had the high elf dagger techniques. It was time for them to break through to a higher level as well.

While Gil and Remey just looked back at Walker, Walker was in a different situation. It wasn't often that people focused on themselves. Their deepest thoughts and basic emotions. This alone was off since normally a mage would meditate to understand their flow of mana and the way that their elemental affinity reacted with the world so that they could better understand it.

Now that Walker was focusing on his instincts, it was different. He was having trouble maintaining the path they were on. Mostly because he did not have the same instinctual awareness as the others which left him stumbling. It also left him splitting his attention and losing the small feelings of catching on more and more.

The single thing that he had grasped for the moment was the feelings he had of where people were. He knew that he had his family in front of and behind them. His party was always going to be his family that he would defend and that would defend them. But that emotional connection made him keep track of them subconsciously. It was something that Walker had somewhat realized before this.

The more that Walker tried to grasp that feeling, the more he understood that it wasn't a trained feeling. It was an instinct that he was chasing. The desire to protect family was something that came naturally. If he cared for someone, they would always be in his sights. This was what a father would feel for a child or a mother would feel for a child. It came naturally but most people thought of it as just emotional. But that wasn't fully true.

As Walker felt that single thing reach his mind fully, he started to feel many other things. He was closer related to dragons, abyssal serpents, and natural mana now. He had those bonds that shared things with him and vice versa. How could he think of himself as just having human emotions and instincts?

The scents around him along with the sounds seemed to double in just that moment of understanding. Meanwhile, Walker felt like his body was growing hotter. As if he was finally releasing pent up mana and understanding from his bonds.

The sense that there were powerful beings near him were from both Onyx and Midnight. It was like a sixth sense that came from the basic feelings of mana, sounds, sight, and scent all around him. There was the deeper connection to mana in general provided by Fleur. Walker already had sensed it but not to this degree. It was as if he had been representing the true degree of what he could feel because he had not bothered to properly look at all sides of it.

'The passive skill instinct release has been taken from the beast man system. The user has learned the passive skill instinct release.

Instinct release- passive

The instincts that humans had learned to repress for many generations are always there. Many lose sight of them until they are under great stress or they are trained to get closer to them. Some humans fully understand them over time and can use them. This skill is the full release of instincts so that the user can grasp things beyond their normal actions.

Any human or living being can learn to return to their instincts if trained properly, regardless of system, age, and other factors. The process will result in similar skills, some passive and other not. But the basic instincts will be released and the user will be able to better understand themselves and the world they interact with.'

The information from the system was not the clearest. Walker could still not understand what he had unlocked. But in the next second it was like a bomb going off in his mind. He was suddenly stimulated by much more. His mind was focusing on the smallest crackles of leaves under foot. His eyes picked up smaller details and every tiny piece of grass moving. Even the feelings of his heartbeats were larger and more intense.

This wasn't even considering the mana that was flowing around and through him. Walker could feel it all much more than before. It was similar to a dense liquid all around him just waiting on his attention. Waiting for a dam to be broken down.

The bonds between Midnight, Onyx, and Fleur flared to life even more powerful than before. Walker felt that he was understanding things much better. The bonds were just some ties to his soul. They were a channel so that he could learn from those he was related to and them from him. They were a pure connection of nature that let them all understand each other well beyond what was normal.

Yes, they all understood this, but at a base level. Now, Walker was feeling it to his very core. His soul seemed to rejoice at this. The freedom that he felt and the understanding of where his emotions, additional instincts, and many other things came from. Walker had changed since he started his adventures. He had been influenced by his family, party, and these bonds. But they were his power, his strength. They made him better and that was all he needed.

Midnight and Onyx stopped for a moment feeling this through their bond with Walker. They could feel his emotions fluctuating. Even Su could sense it slightly through Midnight. But Fleur was the most sensitive to this since she was resting in the spirit mark on Walker's body.

These feelings were the reason that many would advance over time, but right this second, Walker was using it to learn and adapt. The natural human adaptation was starting to flow as it should, the real thing Walker needed was time. But time was always something everyone wanted more of. Especially when Walker smelled a strange musky smell that he wasn't used to. With that was also a stronger iron smell that he could easily place.

#### Chapter 1707 1707. Good For All Races

The reaction of Walker taking a battle stance was instant. Everyone else prepared to face whatever might be around. Midnight had smelled the same thing while the royal dragons just stood still as their dragonkin surrounded them. Any monster on the ground was too weak for them to worry about. Why would a royal dragon worry about some small thing?

Normally, the dragonkin would fight to protect the village and keep the territories clean. That Was how it worked unless a powerful threat arrived, only then would the royal dragons have to make a move. Meanwhile, they would be gathering their mana and understanding the depth of the affinities.

Walker's stance was facing toward the direction the slightest breeze had blown the smell of blood from. The musky smell mixed in was clear whatever monster had carried that scent of blood, but he couldn't see it through the trees.

What Walker could see was the alternating coloration of greens and browns that made up the grasses and trees. However, it was clear that there was a gray figure moving through the trees, it was just not clear enough to make out the exact monster that it was. Luckily, the all around appraisal skill just needed to see some of it, not all of it.

#### 'Road gremlin

The road gremlin is a distant relative of the goblin race. They were once goblins before fully falling and accepting their madness and becoming true monsters of their own species. Now that they are their own species, they are considered a great pestilence on the Sigil continent.

The road gremlin hunts long trails, mountain roads, and anywhere well traveled by sentient races. This is so that they can ambush the weakest prey and steal it away to consume. They will often live in groups of twenty or thirty due to their high ability to breed.

They are less than rats when it comes to the food chain since they do not develop fat bodies that provide nutrition. However, they have sharp teeth and very sharp claws. Their spindly bodies also allow them to easily climb trees and drop down on prey.'

While some goblins had come with them on the ships, they had all remained with the ships since they were not the best at exploration and battle. They were also one of the monster races that had not been with other races for as long. Therefore, they needed more time to become more eloquent. That was the same for the gray haired spiders. They too were a little too rough to meet a race and form diplomatic relationships.

Seeing that it had been spotted, one of the road gremlins tried to run away but was easily pierced by a quick arrow from Gil. Unfortunately, this had set off a chain. The other road gremlins had fallen from trees and started attacking the front section of the trail trying to get whatever they could. Unfortunately for them, the dragonkin saw them as nothing but a nuisance.

The immediate reaction of battle was quick and road gremlins began to fall as if they were just straw dummies for training.

Walker had reacted first with Midnight and Onyx. This put him at the front of battle. His eternal orb had taken a staff form and a single stomp down with it had channeled the earth elemental mana around to attack.

Spikes of earth shot upward causing three of the road gremlins to fall to their death in seconds. Meanwhile, Midnight had taken in a large breath. The earth mana that Walker had used was thick around him so Midnight had taken some of that and the wind elemental mana together. With one burst of her breath, sand flowed at the road gremlins that Walker had not defeated.

The sand was not some weak little breath attack. This was a fusion of elemental manas that Midnight had trained. She had sat for a long time learning to mix elemental manas near her heart. She could add her flames but chose not to. They could burn down all the grasses and trees, she was being smart.

The sand caused the road gremlins to effectively be bombarded by the worst sandstorm possible. It tore at their bodies before completely suffocating them. This left Onyx to find the few that managed to hide from Midnight's attacks. A single slap of his tail was all he needed to handle them and keep moving on.

The ambush had been quick and instant. Yet, it was over in seconds because the gremlins were foolish and mindless monsters. They had the chance to flee even before they had seen the group. If they had let their senses act for them, they would have sensed the power of the dragons and soldiers around. They would have been able to run away and live another day. Instead, a single one had fled when it saw them while the others had fallen to attack them regardless.

"These things don't even have a use." Gil looked at the spindly bones and didn't even want to try cutting away the bodies to make one of the road gremlin bones in to arrows. They were too weak. It would be worthless to even attempt it. A waste of time.

"They are just rats. That's what the appraisal said. Less than rats. That means they are a common and annoying pest here. We should send more scouts to beat them as we travel." Walker sent this message down the line to everyone. The few dragonkin that Mordant had with him nodded and moved to act on this. Such weak opponents could be handled quickly while anything else would be appraised first.

"So, are you going to tell us?" Remey stretched and rolled her shoulders after having beaten a few of the road gremlins herself. It wasn't even a warm up to deal with them. Just a common courtesy to the new continent they were exploring. Exterminating pests was a gift to everyone.

"I am interested as well. What did you learn that helped you before? I could feel something." Su was sure that it was Walker's understandings that had changed. She had felt it the same as Midnight and Onyx.

"Instincts. There's a passive skill called instinct release. Anyone can use it. It might be slightly different depending on race, but it lets you release your instincts so that you can use them better. I can sense mana and a few other things better. Like my sense of smell, I could smell blood and well, monsters." Walker felt awkward saying this since he knew it was most likely how Onyx and Minfight sensed things already.

"I see, it is similar to how my senses are changing the more I grow in to my bond with Midnight." Midnight huffed in approval as Su quickly realized that they were becoming closer and more similar when it came to sense of smell and other things. Midnight was always happier to get closer to her family. Su was her sister too!

"So you are saying that you are going to start acting like dragons more?" This seemed to snap a few of the royal dragon's head toward Walker. They were clearly still keeping some of their senses on what Walker might be doing. However, their main focus was elemental manas.

"Somewhat. Just my senses for now. But I can also feel mana better too. I have Fleur to thank for that. She had been helping me all the time and now I have something to show for it." This had made Walker the happiest. He could clearly feel the subtle touches that Fleur made to mana all around him. She had always been doing this under his nose. It made his heart feel just a little more full.

"We should move." Alice was the voice of reason here. She saw that everyone could stop for hours and talk about this. But she knew that those behind them would be stopped as well. They had a goal and she was sure that she could help them stick to it.

"Thanks for the reminder. Alice is right, we can all try and share the skill as we learn it. I still only partially understand what it is doing. I will probably stay up late when we stop to meditate on it." Walker was honest. He believed that they all should try to learn it. The system had even said that everyone could learn it. That alone would make it a great boon for not only the whole party but also every race in genesis.

"You can show me after you make yourself useful and show me what herbs I should be picking. We have passed by so many while you were spacing out." Remey immediately started walking but kept Walker close this time. She was not letting him go back into his own head to think.

Chapter 1708 1708. Herbs And Monsters

"Red tipped ivy, it is basically just a common weed unless you harvest only the smallest red leaves before they turn green with only red tips. The baby leaves can be used to make a tea that helps the stomach calm down." Walker had listed a significant number of herbs so far but he had just realized that the land around them had started to change.

The grasses were growing in less dense groups as the trees and bushes had started to take over. They had only been walking for a few hours but the tall grasses and fewer trees had been replaced. The beach was far enough behind that it was impossible to even see anything without flying above the trees and in to the air by a decent margin. The party had forgotten how fast they could move now that their levels were higher.

'Pig tail grass

The pig tail grass is known for the curly tops that it has. They are rarely used for alchemy due to their weak healing abilities. However, they are used in high class cooking to brighten and enhance a dish.

They have a strong onion flavor that mixes well with many things. The slight healing properties also transfer over making it perfect for spiritual cooking.'

"Spiritual cooking?" Remey was confused. They had nothing of the sort back home. The only cooking that came with healing or added bonuses were extremely rare systems that were closer to alchemists than anything else.

"I assume it is something that is unique to Sigil. If there are foods that can be made using these kinds of herbs, then it means that there are better ones. It says weak healing properties, that must mean that there are those with strong healing properties." No one rejected Walker's theory. It was actually kind of amazing to imagine wounds could heal just by eating a certain dish.

"Yes yes yes, don't worry Midnight. If you can't make Walker learn it then I will. It sounds very good for when we need a good rest between adventures." Su was already conspiring with Midnight. Walker could only accept his fate. He would have to learn the new form of cooking before he even tried to leave this continent after they finished their business.

"Wait, Walker, that herb looks weird. Don't let Remey touch it." Gil stopped Walker and Remey from moving for a second. He was looking at a small plant with a large bell shaped purple flower. The shape was odd since it was too large. It appeared that it shouldn't fit on the plant it was growing on.

"Oh, that looks like the powder blossoms. They went extinct in the elven forest because there was a species of rotten sparrows that ate them all. We killed the rotten sparrows but they did their damage years ago. I read about it in books." Alma had been silently walking further behind but had managed to catch back up after sending more elves around to scout the area. Now she was looking at the same plant with them.

"Let's see what these ones are all about then." Walker wasn't surprised that Alma had caught up. He knew that she would catch back up after finishing her orders and evaluations of the area with her trusted guards. She would also be right with Remey when it came to plants. The two could be the very reason that his mind became the same as an alchemy textbook for anyone in the alchemist guild.

'Purple powder blossom



This is a plant that grows only after a large rain. They are similar to mushrooms however, they had a more plant like structure. They are a strange mix of mushroom and plant. Inside the bell flower is a massive amount of pollen and seed. When the flower blooms, it spits these seeds and pollen all around it in one burst.

The pollen is often poisonous causing many symptoms depending on the color. The purple coloration in this powder blossom is able to cause fever and sweating. The other colors can cause a range of side effects such as paralysis, blindness, numbness, and even death depending on the mana it has absorbed over time.'

The group listened to this with some surprise. Gil, Remey, Alma, and even Alice all saw that there was value in these plants. They could be used for healing, potions, and even in battle.

"I could use these to paralyze an entire hoard of monsters with this." Alma also thought she could do more. If they encountered an army she could stop them in their tracks without killing a single soldier. That was the best kind of victory when it came to war. One without spilling even a single drop of blood.

Rmeey's thoughts were different, "I could make numbing medicines to use for people who had larger injuries, but I could also make sure that we have better antidotes against plants similar to these. That would make the herbalists more comfortable hunting for herbs we can't grow." This practical use would greatly help the herbalists just learning or trying to get the rarest and most dangerous herbs. Not every herb was all good.

"Those are great uses but what about bringing them back to the forest?" Alice had taken a more sentimental thought. She recognized the uses that these plants would have. They were pretty but useful for medicine. She was healer, how could she miss the chance to help others?

There was also the fact that Alma had shown some sadness not being able to see a plant that had once existed in her home. The forest had definitely been affected by the loss of a plant that had once been there all year round. It was certainly a food source for certain animals and monsters.

"Alice, you are great! We should bring it back. The elves that used to collect them will be ecstatic!" Alma jumped and juggled Alice. She was glad that someone was supporting something that she hadn't even considered doing yet because she had been too focused on the fact that she would have to use them to fight.

"I guess that means we will be looking for every color then." Gil stretched a little and started to glance around. He was going to keep a sharp eye out so that Alma could gather more of them as they went. The bugs of the flowers could be taken and stored carefully so that the pollen wouldn't get anywhere and cause any issues.

Meanwhile, Su pulled a few people aside that were close to the party. She had them send the message down that these herbs and plants were dangerous. It was best that if anyone encountered them of any color that they were wary of them so that they would not bloom and cause any issues.

'Weeping oak

That is a not actually a tree but a monster. It is not active during the day and will place its roots in the ground. At night, it will lower its branches and start to use them to help it move. In the center of the trunk it has an empty space where it will trap prey and slowly dissolve them similar to some of the venus fly trap monsters in other forests.

The dangers these possess is that they will match the trees around them, however, they primarily copy oaks since they naturally have limbs and bark like skin similar to them. However, the leaves they grow are actually closer to feathers which are great for use in many home goods.'

"Oh, and that tree is actually a monster. It's sleeping now but it's nocturnal. It might try and eat us at night." Walker stood in front of it and pulled one of the leaves off. He found that it was actually very close to a feather. The leaves had smaller pieces that came together to make a leaf shape. they would definitely be useful for pillows, beds, and blankets. Not to mention anything else that could be related to jewelry.

"And you just decided to pull off a part of it? Brother, you need to be more careful!" the sudden reprimand from onyx made everyone raise an eyebrow. It was rare that onyx was the voice of reason since he was always watching and learning instead.

"I knew it was sleeping so I just checked it out. We should just keep an eye out for them. I doubt they can harm us if we let a little mana flow around us." Walker pulled some wind mana around him and saw the branches stiffen against the small breeze he created. The weeping oak clearly felt the threat instinctually. "See? We can make them steer clear of us. Just let everyone know to keep themselves prepared at night." This was a quick addition to the messages passed down from them but a very good one for those that might take a night watch later.

## Chapter 1709 1709. Boom! Fruit

"One more! Just look at that one right there. It's weird and has some spiral leaves too!" Remey knew that Walker might bite this time with the relation to the weeping oak and other herbs or plans he had checked out.

"It's just a spiraled spruce. They grow like that to get more sunlight. It doesn't have medicinal or potion uses." Walker had grown pretty tired of using the all around appraisal skill. He did have to admit that he was making great progress in other means though.

Since Walker had been forced to split his attention further from trying to gather mana without thinking too much since he wanted it to be instinctual, he was able to train his mind more. The all around appraisal skill, speaking, and focusing on his instincts all came together to help him pursue his goals.

The small changes that Walker had realized already was the ease to grasp at mana in general. He had already felt that his connection with mana had increased due to sensitivity, yet this was only a small part of it. The large aspect was that he could gather it faster than before when making it take the form of a skill.

Walker had already started to play with the water in the air idly to test this out. It easily formed a water ball which had already earned him the water ball skill. As specific as that was, he realized he couldn't do much with it other than gather the water in to a ball to use in other ways. He did see that it would be helpful elsewhere though.

Forming water in to a ball could be useful for farming, healing, and household matters. It made sense that it had come from the water maid system. Not that Walker had ever heard of a maid completely based around water affinity and skills. The world was always bigger than he seemed to understand.

The additional observation was that he could freeze that water or turn it to mist much faster now. Since before it would require a skill or take more time, Walker felt this to be a great thing. He could easily freeze the water faster and with less mana making his frost whip skill appear faster and slightly more powerful since he could push more mana in to the skill without it going out of his control.

"Walker, what are those fruits?" Gil, Alice, and Remey all asked at the same time. It was enough to completely take Walker's focus from other things. He even saw Midnight and Su showing interest. The only one that didn't seem to mind it was Onyx since he was asleep on Walker's shoulders. Alma was similar since she was distracted with communicating with the elves that had returned from scouting.

The spiky red and black fruit that they pointed out was hanging from a very tall tree. The leaves even looked like they had small spikes on them that would make them very unpleasant to touch. After spotting them too, Walker looked at the branches and bark only to find that they also had little spikes on it. The entire tree was slimy and sharp!

'Caltrop fruit

The caltrop fruit was named for the spikes used in war against cavalry, caltrops. It is known for the spikes it has that make the tree a massive pain for anything that wants to eat it or the fruits.

The inside is a surprisingly sweet and soft white meat while the outer spikes hide the seeds. When the fall the spikes shoot around on to the ground exposing the fruit.

The smell attracts animals and monsters that eat it and stomp the seeds in to the ground unintentionally. The fruit itself can be made in to extremely smooth and sweet wine.'

"Hmm, so it's supposed to be really sweet and good to eat but also makes wine. Let's get some." The idea of food attracted everyone's attention. Walker didn't have any reason not to try it.

"Just keep an eye out for monsters. There are definitely tracks around." Gil focused himself after hearing Walker's appraisal.

Alma had a close eye on things, she had been taking the role of communication since the other groups behind them would need to know every detail they could. The dangerous herbs and beneficial ones had already started to pay off. Finishing a fruit that might attract monsters but also feed them was great too. It came with some good and bad, but they needed a lot of food to feed their hefty pace of travel along the trails.

"I'll just use wind to cut them, don't try and catch them since they are spiky." Walker used his mana to channel the wind in to a small focused blade. It was much easier than even making a gust of wind now since he had gained the passive instinct release skill.

The little blades of wind shot out cutting ten fruits down in a few seconds. However, they were not prepared for when they hit the ground.

The thuds of ten fruits hitting the ground were followed by the cracking of the fruit skin. the next thing everyone knew, there were little spikes shooting in the air while the sweet fruity smell assaulted their nostrils. Naturally, midnight charges head on in and grabbed a fruit devouring it in the blink of an eye. Anyone could see that she was happier than all else with her new snack.

The others had shielded themselves with their hands and arms to block the spikes that had been shot up around all of them. They were all either covered in them, had pieces of fruit on them, or were looking around at the mess while Midnight was having her own feast.

"Now I see why these are a pain..." Remey thought that they smelled good but that they were clearly not going to be worth the trouble.

"They are awesome. I wonder why they explode like that!" Gil had other thoughts. He was very amused by the sudden explosion of fruit.

"Are you going to bring your mother back some seeds? I'm sure she would grow these!" Alma was right there supporting him while even grabbing a piece to try herself. From the expression she made, the sweet and smooth taste of the fruit was exactly to her liking. She even went as far to wave over two of the elven archers that had come to report to her. They made the same delighted expression when they tried the fruit. It was sure to become an elf's favorite when they returned to Genesis.

"Walker, you should store them away quickly, I can hear a few more of those gremlins around." The similar cackling and hissing that the gremlins had made the last time the group encountered them could be heard. That meant that the smells of these fruits spread very quickly.

"Done and done." Walker sent a few more wind blades up to cut the fruits down while also cushioning their falls with wind. This time they did not fall and explode. They were perfectly fine to save for another time. Midnight had even gathered a pile of spikes so that the seed could be brought back. It was very clear to everyone that they had made the top of the snack list other than the roasted horned rabbits.

"We don't need to worry about leaving now, we managed to attract a new monster." Gil found the movement in the corner of his eye. It was keeping away while looking at the fruits on the ground.

## 'Scaled bear

The scaled bear has a very minimal dragon bloodline while having a major forest bear bloodline. It is usually wary of other monsters and prefers solitude. It is rare for it to attack anyone or anything making it a beloved monster around small forest villages. It is considered a guardian monster to some smaller villages.

The scales that grow on their body are tough but not tough enough to be used for armor. That makes them less hunted. Surprisingly, they have been known to help lost children get back home when lost in the woods. This has made many fairytales to be created about them. Some even believe that they are the kindness monster in existence.'

"Oh, go offer it some fruit. They are docile monsters." Walker smiled and pointed at Gil and Alma. The entire group gave him a confused expression until the scaled bear slowly crept up trying to steal some fruit that had fallen a few feet away. After that, they all understood that the scaled bear was a herbivore that just wanted some snacks too. It also made Midnight very interested since it had scales and enjoyed fruit like her. This was also one of the first monsters with dragon blood, however weak, that they had encountered.

## Chapter 1710 1710. Kindness In Dragons

It took a few moments before anyone actually believed Walker. They were still not convinced that such a calm and kind monster could possibly exist. However, the appearance of the scaled bear had drawn the attention of every dragonkin and the royal dragons nearby. They were all still walking so it was natural for some groups to catch up to Walker's group at the front.

However., it was the dragon blood line that was within the scaled bear that they sensed. This was the same as sensing a distant relative. Many of the dragons could sense that there was something similar about them and the scaled bear, it wasn't just the growth of the scales.

Ignus scoffed seeing it, he believed that dragons should be prideful and powerful. This little thing was nothing compared to a dragon. Yet, before he could move to kill it out of disdain and insult, Mordant had stood in front of all of the royal dragons and glared down the dragonkin that had also felt this.

"I want to see how our distant cousins passed on what they had when they were faced with the death of what they believed to be the entire dragon race." Mordant had a very domineering aura around him. The other royal dragons had never seen him in such a state. Even Walker could sense that Mordant was infuriated.

Now that all of the royal dragons had settled on the fact that this continent had truly lost their dragons, it made them bitter. They all dealt with it differently. Ignus wanted to reclaim land while Rise thought that it was just a step to grow as a race. The weaker dragons would naturally not survive to rise in height.

Mordant, however, wanted to see what is left. He believed that the dragons that had been here so many years ago were pure in their intentions to allow even a drop of dragon blood to live on. It was their duty to save even the tiniest existence that was dragon. Their great race which had spanned thousands of years deserved to remain in any form possible to exist. Even this small and weak scaled bear that showed absolutely no porosity that would associate it with dragons.

"It is very different than us, but it is proof that we dragon roared and stood here. Do not insult their memories or the elder may bury your existence in the records." Mordant made a harsh point. Yet, Walker understood. It would be insulting to every one of that bloodline to say that what was left was nothing worth living. Even the weakest existence was proof of the greatness that a past age held.

Meanwhile, Midnight had beaten everyone to the point. She had stood tall and carried a piece of fruit toward the scaled bear. Naturally, the bear had tried to retreat until it realized that the strong being before it was leaving a fruit for it. Instead of retreating, the kindness in the scaled bear acted.

It took the fruit and looked at Midnight with strong eyes. There was a calm around them that made everyone wonder what the scaled bear must think. "You all should think of it this way, there is strength in dragons. That's clear everywhere. But when you wonder, should a dragon be kind, you have evidence here. That scaled bear didn't get power or pride from dragon blood. It got kindness to help others weaker than itself. So what if its scales are weaker than others? It is still doing right by the dragon blood it has. Do you not protect your village as a royal dragon?"

When Walker backed up Mordant, it earned a slight smirk from Mordant out of respect. It also earned a flash of understanding from the others. They all had their own ideals. Many of them could even die by their own ideals and be happy with it. That Was a dragon's pride after all. But when it came to honoring the dragon name, they took it deathly serious. It was paramount to their core ideals no matter how they lived.

"If that thing runs from a fight I will end it, for now it can breathe." Ignus gave up any intention of hating on it and so did the dragonkin that had shown hostility as well. Midnight also left the scaled bear alone and started to walk ahead with a happy pep in her step. She didn't have any ill will against the scaled bear at all.

"If they want to join a village when we build one here, they can. I won't stop them. They can be a bridge to those come to us for your strength." Current summed it up with a slightly different view. But this seemed to make Terron agree along with Ventus nodding along. Rise just looked at the scaled bear and then walked away without a word.

"I guess we are back on the way? No new bear friends?" Remey was sure that Midnight would have insisted that they bring the bear with them. She hadn't realized that one of the harpies had already left to inform Elise.

Walker had thought. "Just give it a few months, I'm sure that there will be tamers that specifically train and care for scaled bears to find food in forests while also helping find missing people. It could be a huge start for the tamer's guild to build a whole division of their tamers around." That was already something that the tamer's guild did well. Yet, it was not as large as hiring adventures at a lower cost. Now there was a better chance to rival adventurers to find missing people in forests. Especially if an elven tamer found a scaled bear to tame.

These were just small thoughts for everyone as they continued on their journey. No one really noticed the scaled bear and the fact that three cubs had come out of the leaves around it to eat fruit too. They had also not noticed the fact that after they ate, the scaled bear and her cubs had started to follow them. As much as they had all just arrived, they had already begun to leave a lasting impression on the Sigil continent. Even in the tiniest of ways, the dragons had returned.

"Can you make an ice arrow for me?" Gil suddenly asked this. He was looking at Walker with a very firm gaze.

"I can, but why?" Walker was confused. He was thinking that Gil was bored since everyone was doing something by themselves.

Su was speaking with Alice about the light healing shield and how to better form it in comparison to her shield. Midnight was walking the lead on the trail now. Remey and Alma were raving about the seed of



their new fruit and how they could grow differently with Alma's guidance and skills. Naturally, it made sense that Gil would be bored.

"I saw you playing with water and ice before. You should be able to make me arrows much faster. And I was thinking about how you had made those earth weapons once while fighting in the arenas. You remember, when you were fighting the demi-human arenas? You made swords out of earth all around you. They weren't perfect but I want to do the same with ice or earth. I just think Ice would fly better with wind."

"I do remember that. It wasn't really a skill to be honest. It was more of earth sculpting on a large scale. But I'm sure if I refine it more I can make it a real higher class skill. But to do that with ice..." Walker felt that he hadn't even given it real thought. It was similar to the ice dragon domain that he had, but in specific forms. Sculpted ice that could be used by others.

"So if I am fighting and I can't just grab from my quiver because I have to dodge in various ways, wouldn't it be better to be able to just pick up arrows from all around me? I doubt a monster will be able to make a bow and use my arrow in the same way, right? And I can't just throw all my arrows around us to fight that way."

"I see what you are saying. It is a safety when fighting an opponent you can't take a second to grab an arrow from your quiver. It's insurance that could buy you more time. I can try that. I'm not sure if I can change the ice dragon's domain skill like that but if I can..." Walker felt that he had been given an interesting challenge. Meanwhile, Gil felt that he had done the right thing. He had spurred Walker in to a very profitable potential skill. Knowing Walker, something amazing would come out of it.