

## Master 171

### Chapter 171 - 171. Together

Walker prepared himself for the ensuing pain, his fire bolt would do more than just burn him, he wasn't even sure if he would be able to fully heal himself. There was no going back, it was now or never...hands grabbed Walker's shoulders. "Pull!!" Su's voice screamed in his ears, he did not hesitate for a second and pulled. All his strength, all of his being was in this attempt. The next second he was falling backwards, his body crashing in to the snow and hard armor. An elbow jammed in his ribs, someone's knee jabbed in to his stomach. His frostbitten hands clutched the blue icy orb that was the snow golem's core. The hulking figure of the snow golem was grumbling before him.

Walker desperately used his mana to heal his hands so he could release the snow golem core and stand. The green healing aura wasn't fading yet before he had forced the core in to his storage, afraid the snow golem would somehow start to reform. His feet tripped over others but he couldn't stop himself from sprinting to Remey and Midnight. The two were knocked unconscious by the golem's arm. The arm was beginning to deteriorate but not fast enough, it was still on top of the two. Storing it away as well Walker frantically healed the two who did not show any signs of coming to. "Walker! Stop it stop it now! They are breathing and healed!" Su had gotten up from the ground to chase after him only to see him healing them over and over. Walker's mana was nearly gone and Su knew that if he continued he would be down on the ground as well.

After having Su scream and shake him back to reality Walker could see they two were still breathing, any injured gone from them. Looking at Su, Walker saw behind her was Gil, Laurence, Elise, Stella, and even Riley in a mess on the ground. Every single one of them had pulled Walker from the back, they were the force behind him. They had all come together to tear away the golem's core, Gil was the second one up rushing to where Walker and Su were. The look of panic on his face fell away as he noticed the two were alright. Expelling a long sigh, he gave Walker a look, "Get your butt over there and store away more of that Golem's snow. Didn't Remey say we should save it? You don't want her to beat you when she gets up?"

"Pshh damn slave driver you are, making me work on almost no mana." hearing Gil reprimand him for sitting around he was able to break away the tension. Although Remey would totally go punch him if he didn't collect the rest of the golem's snow, she wouldn't even take a second to worry about her well being. Remey was Remey and punching was what she did. Su and Gil grabbed the opposite sides of Walker and brought him to his feet. While he went to collect the golem's snow they started to set up a rough campsite so Remey and Midnight could rest more comfortably.

Laurence, Elise, Stella, and Riley were starting to get their own breath back, able to stand stretching themselves; they knew there would be a few bruises in the morning. Walker easily stored away the snow and turned to his friends, he wasn't sure what to say to them at all. They had all gone above and beyond to help finish the fight even though they had said they wouldn't join in the fight. "You don't need to say a word, let's all just make a camp for the night. We don't need to travel anymore today." Laurence rested a hand on Walker's shoulder a moment before walking towards where Su and Gil were setting up camp. Taking a moment to appreciate those around him Walker headed to help set up camp.

Their fire was blazing to stave off the cold, the group decided to break out more food than usual since they were near the demi-human kingdom now. The heating meat and toasting bread was the motivation needed for Midnight to shake herself awake. The noise she made as she came to was also enough for Remy to come back to reality as well. The two seemed confused but not for long, Midnight completely dropped her confusion and chose instead to rush for food. It was nice to see her priorities in order. Remy however did need some explanation, one second she was fighting a massive snow golem and the next she was laying in camp by the fire.

Walker had been keeping a close eye on the two waiting for them to stir, that being so he was right there when Remy began to look around. Not worrying for Midnight he knew that she would go with the flow, also Onyx would explain it all to her since they had been getting so close.

"Sleeping beauty awake again, how do you feel?" The royal glare Walker had received with that comment was definitely worth it.

"Don't feel a thing. Better than ever, I gave that snowman a good smack...." she raised her fist definitely but the confusion returned to her face, having trailed off Walker took the opportunity to explain what happened to the two of them.

....

"So it pretty much threw its arm at you two since it was about to be taken down. Without everyone backing me up I'm not sure the core would have separated from its body. Speaking of cores, we have three of them now, snow golem, undead golem, and iron golem cores. Wonder what we could do with them."

"Yea yea cores and plans and stuff do whatever. So you gathered up as much of its snow body you could right? " Remey really could care less what happened with the cores they had as far as she cared Walker could drop them in a hole.

" Well of course I did, but why is it so important?" It was Remey's turn to be surprised, she knew something Walker didn't.

" Alchemy of course! If you had used that fancy appraisal skill of yours you would have seen that the condensed snow that makes up its body is very pure. The old man at the alchemist guild once showed me that medicine or potions made with it are almost double as effective. The only reason it was so rarely used is because the body melts and takes in impurities too fast, but with your spatial inventory thingy we can get a lot of it all at once. That means what student Walker?" Wagging her finger at Walker Remey was now playing teacher.

"Well Professor Remey I would say that means we have some to make our own potions and we have some to sell to your friend at the alchemist guild."

"Full marks full marks" the two laughed a bit before Remey's stomach growled louder than a beast. "So let's eat that good by the fire!" She had not realized how hungry she was and smelling the aroma she had been pushed over the limit. Heading to eat themselves they joined everyone who was happy to see Remey back up and moving. Today was yet another reminder that no matter how hard they planned if they lacked strength things could still go wrong. They had been lucky so far but one day they may not be. They needed to get stronger, that heroic leveling was one of their quest requirements and it needed to be achieved.

Walker was checking out the system notifications from the day, he wanted to add up how much experience they had all gained today. Totaling it up with their title multiplying it they had gained four thousand seven hundred experience. On top of that they had gained another two hundred and fifteen gold, this isn't even considering what they could make selling the snow imps and golem snow. Walker planned to try and sell the snow imp bodies when they got to the demi-human kingdom, Ordinst was sure to have a trading hub of some form. They would also be meeting the tamer's guild master who could possibly offer a decent amount of advice during their stay.

The journey had taught them a lot and parting with their new friends was something he did not want to dwell on. But he needed to be realistic, on the party's trip home they would be alone with no one to escort, meaning that they could take many more quests along the way. For now however, Walker wanted to imagine what the so-called "beast kingdom" would be like. What kind of demi-humans would they meet? What kind of new skills or weapons would they encounter? In many stories there were tales of

their coliseums, where warriors would battle in tournaments to challenge each other for glory. There really was a massive world of possibility constantly in front of them, it was just their choice to choose which they chased.

#### Chapter 172 - 172. The Sights

With the previous days battles behind them and some good sleep under their belts the group was excited to finally reach a new kingdom. For everyone in the party thus was the first time seeing another kingdom, it was something they never had imagined would happen. Heading out early in the morning the plains began to fade away. The first hours brought small cottages with their own farmland or animal pens. The farther they traveled the more grouped the homes became giving way to small villages. These places were not major in size but housed large families that had been there for years. Massive yellow stone walls began to come in to sight, the yellow stone was rather rough compared to the smooth grey stone the Crystal kingdom capital Diamond was. Walker stocked that up to the locations being different influencing the availability of certain materials.

Massive gates opened in the wall allowing many different demi-humans access to the city, there seemed to be a spot for those with wings to land and check in with guards at the top as well. Large guards wearing red and yellow armors were stationed along the entrances to each gate. One demi-human in particular seemed to be acting as the foreman at the gate requesting identifications from travelers. The group began to approach the gates after waiting in line for sometime, Laurence had taken the lead since they would be visiting the tamer's guild headquarters while in the city. Walker double checked that every member of the party was wearing their travel medal that the king had gifted them, hopefully it would speed up the entry process.

"Name or affiliation, identification, and reason for entry into the city of Ordist today." the demi-human that was asking Laurence for these things seemed fairly bored, his hair was white and fairly curly. Long black horns arched from his head, a sheep trait demihuman.

Laurence pulled some papers from his cloak, "Myself and my fellow tamers are checking in at headquarters for a scheduled report. We will be bringing in some guests with us for our report."

The sheep demi-human took the papers and adjusted a small wire frame pair of glasses to carefully read them. Looking at Elise, Riley, and Laurence in turn nodded and passed back the papers. "Everything is in order please have you guests step forward for identification."

Following the man's orders Laurence waved the party forward. Standing in front of the demi-human man he recited the same things asked of Laurence. "We are registered with the adventurers guild as the Omnipotent party. We are here to finish an escort quest with the tamer's guild members. We would also like to do some sightseeing, the city so far looks rather amazing and I can not wait to see within the

walls."Realizing they only had their medals as identification Walker removed his and placed it in front of the demi-human man. "I hope this is enough as a form of identification, we also have our silver tier adventurers' plaques on us."

The man had been focused on the paperwork on his little table but seeing the medal his quill fell to the floor. Seeing this two large guards approached, they sensed something wrong since they had never seen their superior drop anything let alone their prized quill. The guards had short black hair on most of their bodies along with bulging muscles, definitely gorilla traits. Worried that something was wrong Walker picked the medal back up, about to apologize, however the demi-human man spoke first. "Honored guests, I do apologize for my inappropriate greetings" the man stemmed from his table and lowered his head. "I shall not allow myself this mistake ever again, I should have recognized emissaries from the Crystal kingdom immediately. I shall notify our king of your arrival, I am sure he will look forward to speaking with you. Until then I shall send my personal guards with you as an escort to the tamer guild headquarters, Welcome to the city of Ordist!" Motioning to the two guards that had been approaching he whispered orders to them, after just moments the guards snapped to attention as straight standing as possible taking one side of the group each.

Meanwhile the group was looking at each other quizzically, since when were we emissaries? All of the party asked this question to themselves, they may have met the king and been given a mansion but not such an important title. Inching next to Walker, Laurence bent down slightly whispering in his ear. "You never mentioned those medals made you emissaries, that would have been useful." some frustration was definitely evident. " If we had known you were emissaries we would have been able use a much more discreet entrance."

"Trust me if we knew that the travel medals the king gave us made us emissaries we would have told you. We seem to have been duped."Walker was equally frustrated, now on top of meeting the Tamer's guild master they would have to meet more royalty potentially making their trip home farther away. They loved adventuring; it was their dream but the party did miss their family.

Having the two intimidating guards at their sides they didn't feel like wandering off to sight-see would be possible, so Laurence settled for taking them directly to their headquarters. Once through the gate a new world was open to them, needing to stop to take it all in the party saw tall buildings made of the same rough yellow stone. The streets were massive with plenty of room to move and haggle in. Bustling crowds swarmed food stalls which cooked up any food imaginable. There were many trees and bushes planted making it feel almost as if they were in a very organized jungle. The air was not empty but populated by many flying demi-humans, some buildings had openings up high allowing them to land there for entry.

Looking down the large road they could see all the way to a massive stone castle, branching off from the castle in the four cardinal directions were the coliseums. They were large enough to house thousands and attracted massive crowds outside. This was one major reason travelers visited, the kingdom was known for their exceptional warriors and challenging them was often a dream of those with related systems. Remey would most likely be vying for an opportunity to do battle herself if they let her get too close. To be fair even Walker considered it slightly but he preferred instead of close combat.

Being led down side streets the party saw many fruits and vegetables that their kingdom did not trade in, the demi-human kingdom definitely had a very food focused lifestyle. This was part because they had the open spaces of the plains to farm in and also because their animal traits often push their metabolism very high requiring more nutrition. "Before we leave we will need to pick up some new ingredients for Hilda! Walker, your mother would love that!" Remey was thankfully only eyeing the food and not the coliseums. She did have a point: these were ingredients someone with a baker system may not have access to, and seeing that experimenting with something new could help her level up it would be a perfect gift.

"Put the food aside, we need to bring back some seeds for my mother to grow. If we do that she can grow all the food we like and Your mother can cook with them, it's the perfect plan." Gil's idea was also spot on.

"We are definitely doing both, I also want to check out what else they get in from other places. It might not just be food, it could be books, gear, clothing, anything! We should also stop in at their adventurers guild, they may operate on different laws but they are still connected to ours." As much as he wanted to shorten their to do list Walker seemed to see more and more things to add to it as they walked.

Curing through many of the extra wide roads and past some more elegant buildings Laurence paved the way for the party. Soon they were approaching a very large open area. It was fenced off with its own gates and had a partial roof. Many different stables and roosting areas were set up all populated by a myriad of different monsters. Some of the larger beasts roamed the open area. One large stone hut in particular was letting out a constant stream of dark smoke, Walker could only guess that was where the guild master's dragon was relaxing. The open space even had a small but deep pond that constantly rippled with motion. This was most certainly the tamer;s guild headquarters.

"Well Laurence I've got to say, this is pretty amazing. I think we could spend a few hours just touring all of this before even getting to the city." Smiling at these words Laurence gestured so a man on the other side of the fence. A small section of the fence fell in to the ground revealing an opening to enter.

"Welcome to the guild my friends."

## Chapter 173 - 173. Tamer's Guild Master

There seemed to be someone rushing around every step of the way. Carrying food, cleaning the grounds, practicing with the tamed beast, too many moving parts to easily keep track of.

The species of monsters were hard to account for as well, some as simple as goblins, night hawks, giant spiders. And others with additional limbs or massive fangs the party had only ever seen in story books. Walker was certain a wealth of knowledge existed here, he would only need to gain access to any library they had. For adventurers knowing the traits and possible attacks of a monster was a massive advantage, therefore if he utilized his mental archive skill and the tamers guild information the entire party would benefit.

The main building they had been led into was mostly storage and indoor resting pens. Many stairs led underground which was only assumed to be to more resting pens. The entire building was designed to have larger doorways and wide open concepts. This was definitely to make the tamer's beasts feel more comfortable.

Something akin to a store was on one side or a large hall, shelves upon shelves of strange things. The jars and baskets held ores, crystals, monster parts, bones, flowers, so many things. "Ah our little shop caught your eye, I see. That's for tamers to buy things their bests may need for growth. Rare foods? We have it. Rare medicine ingredients? Right over there. Shed feathers from a molting falcon? Yup have it right in the shop. We travel so far and so often that we easily establish a decent trade network to get what we need." Definitely a surprise for the party, the tamers would obviously have resources that others did not and would aim to trade and sell them. Walker made a note to stop there on his way out, maybe he and his all around appraisal skill could find something nice.

Only half of the main building seemed to have a roof, most likely due to the accessibility for flying monsters. This meant that only half the building had a second floor. Reaching a large staircase and heading upwards the all too familiar sounds of a busy office filled their ears. Many in tamers guild inscribed clothing ran from desk to desk sharing paperwork. This was only one of the many headquarters, imagining how complicated the web of information that traveled through each one let alone to and back from each other was daunting.

Midnight was behind Walker following along taking in the sights. She was steadily gaining a larger and larger ego since tamers were constantly stopping to gaze at the little dragon that had entered the office. Most of them had only even seen the guild master's dragon and that was if they were lucky to see it taking off. Standing much taller Midnight pranced about, "sister says she likes it here, people understand her power." Hearing onyx translate walker wanted to slap himself, this was all he needed, Midnight to get an even bigger ego from all the attention.

"Well of course they understand your power, there's only one other dragon here. Tamers that can tame a dragon are extremely rare. Not that you're necessarily tamed but to them it's the case." Laurence casually replied to Midnight, everyone had steadily gotten used to Onyx's translations. Onyx himself felt great pride every time he was able to convey something that couldn't be spoken, to him it was a job only he could do in the party.

"Actually speaking of the other dragon, will we get to meet it? Do you want to meet it Midnight?" Not sure if she should be excited or worried Su wanted to test the waters to hear what Midnight thought of other dragons.

"Ah well that's completely based on the guild master's mood." Laurence seemed a bit off put with his answer, maybe the guild master was overprotective of his companion.

"Sister says she would only like to meet them to show them she is stronger. Then she will have this as her territory too." Well the first part was expected, Walker didn't worry about that it was a classic Midnight desire. But what was this about territory?

"What do you mean take this as your territory?" Walker figured the best way to understand was to flat out ask.

"Sister says that she is the most powerful dragon at home so that makes it her territory. When she proves her strength she will take this as her territory too." Well it was true that Midnight was the only dragon they knew of at home so technically it could be her territory.

"Well just don't run in to battle with the Guild master's dragon, at least try and have a conversation first. Who knows maybe you two will be friends." In response Midnight snorted dramatically. "No, I know that's you ignoring what i'm saying. Friends first then we can talk about territory." Picking up on Midnight's different responses and gathering the meaning before Onyx spoke was one trick Walker had picked up on. Surprisingly the only other person with a knack for it was Remey, Walker wasn't sure if it was due to their rivalry or if it was a special bond they had.

Once they had walked through the offices they came to a rather silent corner, this was in contrast to the adventurer's guild which led directly to ornate doors and office space right outside them. Instead here at the tamer's guild they were greeted by the average oak door, well slightly larger oak door. Lawrence knocked on the door softly almost as if he was afraid to be more loud. In response a loud thud came



from the other side of the door accompanied by some scrambling. "Whoever is interrupting my peace better get their sorry butts in here before I come out there to beat them!" The gruff voice did absolutely nothing to hide away their anger. Was it peace the person inside was having or a nap? The party was sure it was the latter based on the scrambling after Lawrence knocked.

Pushing open the door they were all greeted with a fairly simple room. There were no grand bookshelves or large desks. Just simple comfy chairs around a coffee table. One plain looking desk covered with paperwork. Not even paintings adorned the walls. Even the floor lacked a carpet and only had the woodboards. The owner of the gruff voice they had just heard said behind said plain desk.

Expecting a larger man to be the owner of the voice they heard the party was stunned to be dead wrong. Just barely four and a half feet tall the smaller burly man glared at them. His long beard was peppered with grey losing its brown color. Spots of soot streaked his aged face. Something told them that even though he seemed small and old that he could easily take them down without any trouble. "Ah Laurence you finally drag yourself back here. I thought you'd been lost in the forest again. Get on over and sit down, I expect good news." The guild master did not even spare a glance yet for the party. He was completely focused on his own members, rightfully so, if he wasn't his position would be at serious risk. Seeing this Laurence wanted to speak up but thought better of it and sat down as instructed. "Elise, while your senior talks let me see that cursed crow egg you picked up, I will take a careful look, you know I have a knack for guessing how good a monster will be."

Her eyes lit up at this, not only did she get to show off Avela, but she would also be able to show off her new friends who helped her acquire the best possibly cursed crow chick anyone would ever see. Carefully she summoned Avela from her beast ring in to her hands, "Guild master Ribbolt, As you can see she has already hatched. Her name is Avela and she is easily the greatest cursed crow the guild shall ever see. She has a very strong affinity for dark mana which means she should be able to lock down other monsters better. Even more she has a weak wind affinity which makes her more amazing. I could not have achieved this without my new friends!" with the spotlight suddenly on them Walker saw no reason not to introduce himself.

Hello sir, we are known as the omnipotent party. We hail from the crystal kingdom capital city Diamond. We are only affiliated with the adventurers guild and look forward to continuing to build a relationship with the tamers guild." His words seemed to go unheard, the only noticeable difference was that Ribbolt's eyes stopped on Midnight and Onyx for a moment. The look was enough for Walker to know they had been noticed. Ribbolt focused back on Avela and Elise, wagging his finger over the little fluff ball. "Now Laurence, why aren't you reporting in? Speak already." The hint of annoyance made Lawrence sit up much more straight before he began to recount their travels.

Chapter 174 - 174. Ignored?

Laurence spoke quickly without leaving out any details, the guild master Ribbolt seemed very interested in hearing the part about the party auctioning off corpse spider eggs. The more the story went on the more Ribbolt seemed to glance at Walker. The party had been standing still the entire time, Midnight was clearly becoming restless. Absentmindedly Walker began to pat her head to keep her distracted from waiting. Slightly jealous Onyx left Walker's shoulders partially to reach his other hand, Walker now completely distracted himself was smiling like a fool giving both of them attention. He often forgot how young they really were even though they could do so many amazing things already.

Seeing that both the monsters with the party that had entered his office were getting attention from the leader, Ribbolt began to peg Walker as a tamer. Seeing that Ribbolt was known to be a bit aloof he did not fully read any notifications from his tamers. This being known by the average tamer in the guild Lawrence had already pieced together that he didn't know why the party was there, most likely having approved the escort without a second glance. Laurence became a bit more energetic after realizing their guild master was still falling in to the same habits. He had already gained a small revenge on the rabbit tribe that made fun of him years ago for his poor dancing but now it would continue. This guild master of his that had always burst in to anger and shirked his work would feel the shock first hand!

Finishing up his report of every event during the travels Laurence held back a triumphant laugh knowing the guild master would be asking about the party any minute. "You three very well know you won't be able to hatch and form a contract with any of those eggs. If you dare keep one from a tamer that could give them a good home expat to be food for Toro." The stern look on Ribbolt's face spoke of unending penalties if his words were not headed, Walker wondered who Toro was but didn't speak up to find out just yet. "Now you there leader of the whatever it was party, are you sure the adventurers guild is where you wish to stay? Tamer's at your age with two beasts, let alone a dragon and an abyssal serpent, should be with my guild. You would gain much more."

Ah and there it was the moment Laurence was waiting for. Midnight let out a small growl knowing how Walker felt about her and Onyx being called his tamed beasts. They both knew very well that to the core of his being he saw them as his family, every day he expressed to them those true emotions and reminded them of this. "Respectfully sir, These are not tamed beasts nor am I a tamer. Let me properly introduce myself, I am Walker user of the jack of all trades system. These are my siblings Midnight and Onyx. Our ranger Gil, Brawler Remey, and Shield bearer Su." The steel in his voice betrayed his polite words. Ribbolt respected a tamer's feelings towards their tamed beasts but found that new tamers would still see them as beasts. However he was not hung up on the fact that Walker had so quickly decided his beasts were equals but instead that not a single person the boy had introduced had any form of system related to taming.

"Laurence, why did you bring them here, who's tamed these monsters if none of them are tamers, I can clearly see their identification tags. I know they are registered." the cold glare almost put Laurence off of his happier mood. Gesturing to Walker Laurence didn't even need to speak.

"Brother I feel this man does not understand our bonds." Onyx spoke up causing Ribbolt to shift slightly, his poker face remained but his body language showed he was unsettled, never had Ribbolt learned anywhere that abyssal serpents could use skills allowing them to speak within someone's mind.

"It may seem odd to you but as I said I am a user of the jack of all trades system. That being said I learned the blood contract skill and formed equal contracts with Midnight and Onyx. I am in no way a tamer, the skill was only a way for me to build a strong bond with family." Not only was this boy insinuating that he was not a tamer but also that he could use a high taming skill blood contract. Tamers that used such skill often had a very wide range of possible tamed beasts, it was unheard of for one without a tamer type system to have this skill!

Feeling this was somewhat familiar Ribbolt moved to his desk throwing papers around causing a general mess to grow. Eventually lifting up a small folder he flipped it open reading the contents. This was the information Laurence had sent ahead of them as they traveled. It explained the intricacies of the party they had escorting them along with the relation to the king. Even more so it described the details of their titles. "Hmmm" the long noise Ribbolt made while he thought of how to proceed almost seemed to echo. "So five hero titles and one monster with a skill I have never heard of its species having...Not to mention those medals show you are close to royalty..." trailing off once again Ribbolt had reached the spot where Laurence had promised a reward from the guild master.

Still reveling in his masterful ability to shock the guildmaster in a minor bit of revenge Laurence turned to Ribbolt with a smile. Not lasting more than a second Laurence recognized the look of impending punishment. "Laurence seems to have told you I would be paying for their escort, Of course I as their kind and honorable Guild master would be more than willing." It was like a volcano building to eruption, Laurence knew his future was done for, the guildmaster was sure to put him to cleaning the pens for months. "Well it may not be much but I see hints of dragon scales in some of your gear, as it so happens Toro sheds his scales once a year to grow larger. If you would like some I am willing to part with about twenty medium scales." This reward sounded rather small at first but Walker came to the realization that these would be twenty medium sized scales from an ADULT dragon. Not to mention they didn't even know its species yet, it could be extremely valuable to them, not that they planned to sell it but instead use it for more gear.

"Thank you very much, we will gratefully accept it. We are very happy to have been of assistance escorting our friends home. We had many fruitful encounters as Laurence described, some of which I am sure we would not have had without their knowledge." This was in no way exaggerating, Walker couldn't have imagined meeting the rabbit tribe without their guidance. "Midnight has actually been shedding her baby scales, she's nearly finished as I'm sure you can see. I hope that you can give me some advice for what is to come next. I know it greatly depends on species but any knowledge is

valuable to us." Walker found the reward interesting and its value was not lost on him Yet he refused to think of it now, he was finally meeting someone who was adept in raising a dragon and he wanted to drag out as much information as possibly to try and help himself.

"Well I do see what you're saying, I can also see she is very new to her wings. Skeletal dragon wings and crystal clack fire dragon body with mixed up scales. I'd give the wings another three months before she could fly for over an hour, that is unless she starts easing more bones and more dark crystals. Also make sure she prectives flapping theme, she doesn't need to lift off just flap them until they are tired. I have some journals you may find interesting, I can gladly share them, well as long as you can show me this system of yours that can use our timer skills." Waker had been the one trying to glean information but Ribbolt wasn't going to give it away freely, he wanted proof that this boy in front of him could do what he said. This would also give him a better understanding of the type of person trying to form relations with the guild, it was not every day that someone with a title, let along five with a title visited.

Even though Laurence was significantly taller than Ribbolt, Ribbolt managed to grab hold of Laurence's ear and start to drag him out the door. "Well get those feet moving we are going outside, Laurence has volunteered to spar with you so you can show off the skills you have." The disgruntled sounds of Laurence as he was dragged down the stairs were all too common sounds when the guildmaster visited a headquarters, not a single tamer stopped to help in fear they would be dragged in as well.

Chapter 175 - 175. Show Me What You Got!

Heading out the other tamers that were training made plenty of room in the plentiful area around the tamers guild. They knew all too well that the guild master needed a wide berth when he trained himself, a few younger tamers always learned this lesson the hard way, the tales of lost eyebrows to dragon fire were more than one would expect.

Finally released Laurence refused to look at the party, it has been months since the guild master treated him in such a way. Laurence had basically been raised by the tamers guild, this made the guild master much much harder on him. He knew it was because the gils master cared for him like family every more so than the other tamers but it was still embarrassing for him to be treated this way. "Well boy move on up! You two are going to show off a little, Laurence, tell that lazy cat of yours they need to fight."knowing he did not have a choice Laurence called out Bengal, who did not seem to be happy in the least. However seeing Ribbolt, Bengal lost the normal lax attitude and became extremely serious. It was not only Laurence who had been raised by such a person.

Walker really didn't want to spare with Laurence, he knew Bengal was much more powerful than they had seen. Reluctantly he prompted Onyx to move off his shoulders and on to Midnight's back, He would be doing this alone. This seemed unfair but if Walker really wanted to show Ribbolt what he had for strength he couldn't rely on Onyx or Midnight. Not surprised that Walker did not bring in his companions Laurence was prepared to dodge constantly, Bengal may be strong but as a tamer his

greatest weakness was when he was alone. Bengal would need to attack Walker to keep him occupied while he avoided any attacks directed at him.

Walker himself was starting to become excited, he had not wanted to do this a moment ago but thinking about the curveballs he could throw a tough enemy that wasn't going to kill him if he messed up got him excited. Pulling the remaining dried grass from his inventory he used a fire bolt to start it all on fire. This sudden appearance of grass was astonishing to say the least, Ribbolt in his long years of being with the guild had only seen true spatial a handful of times.

Knowing that Walker had many ways to bend the flames to his will he lamented allowing Walker the chance to prepare. Sending Bengal towards Walker he realized he was already too late the fire had taken shape, no longer was it a mass of uncontrolled fire. The familiar shape of a harpy flew in front of Walker blocking the flaming claws. Since the tigers slash had been enrobed in flames the harpy hadn't taken any damage at all, adding more fire to fire was not that big of a damage dealer. On the other hand since Walker had changed the shape of the flames in to a Stella inspired flame doll he now had an aerial companion to battle with. Not only had he carefully watched Elise and Stella train so he could learn their strategies but he also could use his flame cloak so that his flame doll harpy could pick him up. Seeing that Walker was using his skills to the best of his ability Laurence pushed Bengal to move faster. Before the flame doll even had a chance to grab Walker with its talons the tiger had already gotten in front of him. The oncoming slash was terrifying but not unavoidable, Walker fell in to a stance utilizing the dance of the wild rabbit skill. His spins dodged five consecutive slashes from Bengal which only enraged the tiger.

Earlier in its life Bengal needed to work incredibly hard, always training with Laurence under a brutal guild member, always under pressure, and never a day of rest. Years of this made Bengal the prideful tiger he was, he could crush many enemies with his powerful claws, nothing would stand definitely before him. After Laurence had been promoted higher in to the guild Bengal finally found rest, he became lazy and temperamental not having any motivation to push forward. Laurence who had also felt the same allowed it to happen, This resulted in the current Bengal being easily pushed in to rage when things did not go his way.

Seeing that Bengal was being consumed by his anger Walker let fly a fire bolt, it would not harm the flame attribute tiger much at all but it would sting a bit. The flame doll was also trying to get a few good hits, Walker constantly shouted out orders for it to attack in certain ways, these all stemming from what he had seen Stella do in other battles. Walker was really beginning to like the hit and run tactic.

Coming in for another exchange with his claws Bengal pushed forward again, however Walker was prepared for it now. Using his elemental manipulation he began dodge backwards his dance of the wild rabbit beginning to escalate. During a second of pause Walker stomped on to the ground using his mana

to form two dull earth swords. He made the thin so he could maintain his speed to avoid Bengal's claws. Laurence had yet to see Walker do something like this, he had seen the earth spikes and walls but Walker had just made blunt edged swords? Narrowing his eyes Laurence prepared for Walker to do something even more shocking than his usual antics.

New weapons in his hands Walker couldn't help but remember the dual swordsman he had met, his father had once introduced Walker to his instructor. The instructor worked at the military academy now as he retired a few years ago. This being the case the instructor had somehow taken a large interest in the training of the guards. That being so he had developed many connections with every guard. Due to this while Garret was worried to find Walker's system he was one of the people Walker was taken to. They had given Walker various swords and shields trying to unlock something, however when Walker had witnessed the instructor attack a training dummy with blinding speed using both swords it became forever burned in his mind. This was a childhood dream long forgotten, but now as it resurfaced Walker knew he could do more to learn.

Approaching again Bengal leapt in to attack, narrowly avoiding the slash Walker crossed the two blunt earth swords. He copied the motions from his father's instructor and brought them down. Not surprisingly Bengal avoided Walker's strike, he was much faster than Walker, the only issue was that utilizing the dance of the wild rabbit skill Walker could dodge attacks narrowly, which meant his speed did not need to be higher than Bengal's. The flame doll swooped down while the tiger was focused on Walker, able to land some annoying hits with its fire talons. This gave Walker the chance to read the new skill he had hoped the system would give him.

' Skill cross slash has been taken from the dual swordmaster system. Through strong desire and user's actions the skill cross slash has been automatically learned.

Cross slash- 2mana cost

Requires two bladed swords

Using the user's strength and mana create an X shaped slashing attack. The two swords used sustain damage from the rioting mana poured in to them. The mana once released causes increased damage to the target.'

Walker had seen this very attack slice a wood dummy in to four pieces years ago, now he would be able to sue it himself. His pace of dodging was picking up and so was his heart beat. His feelings intensifying he shouted for the flame doll to rush at Bengal, this went as expected, the flame doll flew in to Bengal

who swatted it to the ground. Not letting up for a second, Bengal pounced, destroying the flame doll, the incredibly loud bang that resulted causing Bengal to falter for just a moment. Walker was already next to him by then, the swords crossed starting his attack. The cross slash landed this time on Bengal's side. The mana used in the swords caused them to shatter back in to pieces of earth, however the marks left on Bengal's fur were in a perfect X shape. Bengal saw this impromptu haircut and sung at Walker. The pace having built even faster, Walker was ready to move in to the dance of the rabid rabbit. Now the real sparing would start, while dodging the next attack two more earth swords were pushed up to him however they were rougher than before. Walker's mentality was affecting his control over his manipulation of the earth, but this didn't matter. He was going to go all out against Bengal, the Tiger could shrug off Walker's soft hits with ease.

Bengal slashed at him over and over trying to hit the annoyance in front of him, instead Walker spun around letting off small hits with every turn. These did nothing to hurt Bengal but did show Walker's skill. Slowly becoming embroiled in the dance of the rabid rabbit Walker nearly dropped one sword to attack with his hands. Seeing this Bengal became much more angry, He needed to show this fly it's place!

#### Chapter 176 - 176. Sparring

Bengal released a loud roar completely interrupting Walker's flow, flames radiated from his feet completely pushing Walker backwards. "Finally you get warmed up, Let's get serious now!" Laurence shouted his encouragement to Bangel who was now intimidating beyond what he was a second ago. The roar he had unleashed completely broke through Walker's Dance of the rabid rabbit, the pace now broken Walker did not feel he could fall back in to it without building up again. This was a huge downfall he did not expect the skill to have.

The slow footsteps of Bengal radiated more flames at every contact with the earth. Walker tried to manipulate the air to send a gust of wind to slow Bengal but failed. The tiger was completely unaffected maintaining its pace. Lifting the poorly made earth swords Walker thought better of rushing in now and instead dropped the swords. This action made Bengal rush forward, This was unfortunate for Bengal who met Walker's staff head on. The mana shot skill Walker released had strength enough to halt Bengal for an instant. This was all Walker needed to begin channeling more mana in to the ground, he knew he couldn't beat Bengal at all so using a large amount of mana he would try and trap him. Wishing there was snow in the training area Walker would have preferred to manipulate water. But the guild seemed very good at clearing away and keeping things clean.

Feeling the rumble in the ground Everyone knew something big was coming, Bengal also sensed this and moved forward to slash again, still able to barely dodge Walker had finished what he wanted to do. Walls of earth rose from the ground around them, they were starting to close in in to a dome shape trying to capture Bengal. Walker himself dodged one of Bengal's slashed and narrowly jumped out of the last opening. The earth slammed shut leaving an angry tiger inside. Sweat poured down Walker's face, not only was he low on mana but he had pushed his body while trying to reach the dance of the

rabid rabbit. The onlookers had grown slightly as some younger tamers couldn't help but wonder what was going on.

Thinking he had trapped Bengal had been a mistake, the earth trembles and cracks into the earth dome Walker had made became prevalent. More and more shaking could be seen in the earth before another muffled roar was heard. Flame escaped the cracks as the dome shattered sending flaming debris everywhere. Some unlucky young tamers became victims of the debris, they had earned their first bruises from the guild master's training decisions, it was a badge of honor. Bengal who had just shown his force sprinted towards Walker. Not expecting Bengal to recover instantly Walker desperately tried to turn to dodge but he wasn't able to. Bengal swatted him with his large paw sending him tumbling five times landing gracefully on his bottom.

"HAHAHA you took some time to get riled up but I'm finally starting to see the energetic kitten Laurence managed to find abandoned in an alleyway." Ribbolt laughed seeing the final strike, Bengal had retreated toward Laurence wanting to go back to rest. Now that Bengal had worked hard and shaken the laziness from his body Laurence knew that he would want to rest, he also knew that Ribbolt may just let up on him seeing that the two hadn't gone too soft from their lack of training.

Walker who was still sitting there stunned seeing Ribbolt laughing to himself wasn't sure if this meant the sparring match was a success. Moving from their safe viewing spot Gil and Su helped Walker stand back up. After some minutes of brushing himself clean most of the dirt and sweat previously visible had been wiped away. Laurence had returned the victorious Bengal to the beast ring before he walked over to make sure Walker was OK. Easily seeing that there were no problems he relaxed, "I did not expect you to use Elise's strategy, Stella would have been jealous seeing another harpy dive bombing someone in battle. Although I think the swords were more surprising, where did that idea come from?"

Feeling a little better after hearing the praise Walker recovered his bruised pride from being knocked down in one swipe. "My father is a guard as you know, he once took me to meet an instructor of his that used two swords. Seeing that you wouldn't actually try to kill me I thought it best to test out something I only ever dreamed of. There are a few other things I should practice in but to be honest my mana is too lacking." Slightly disappointed with his low mana Walker wanted to start creating gear or having gear made for him which could store away mana, if he could do this properly he would no longer be limited in battle. This was a very commonly used technique for the more experienced or high ranking adventurers.

"That sounds to be right, you should conserve mana as much as possible. Your strategy wasn't bad, kid. But you fail when it comes to creativity!" Ribbolt had finally decided to enter in to the conversation again. "I am sure you often rely on your party to pick up your shortfalls but how would you have defeated a larger enemy like that on your own? Could you have created a larger fire creation? What



about using a strategy of numbers? You could have made a swarm of bees out of that fire could you not? Those earth swords were not bad but much too weak, not ever going to land a scratch without the proper skills. You were able to make that earth wall dome which was definitely your best idea but it looked like you made it and that was it. No reinforcements, no secondary wells, lack of knowledge on structure to make the earth more dense. I will put it bluntly, you're a novice at best, you need to spend more time understanding your skills, if I understand your system even a little you're blessed to have many possible skills. But you rush through them like a fool!" Ribbolt was a bit harsh but not a single person could argue with what he had said. They had all noticed this even Walker, when using the elemental manipulation Walker rarely fused elements properly but instead used their basic forms. If he put the same study in to the mix of elements he may be able to find a way for the combination that creates lightning to become a skill. If so he would be able to make it usable in battle safely.

Taking all of this in, Walker hesitated for a moment, "Thank you for the advice, I agree, I could use a lot of training. I may have let myself get caught up too much in quests and wanting to increase my level that I have gotten ahead of myself."

"Good you do that, also Ranger boy, widen your view when watching a battle you were too focused on one thing. Shield girl, stop tensing at every movement of an enemy I could see you twitch every time the kitten swatted at your leader, if you were in that battle you would have been knocked off balance in a second. You, violent girl, you need to burn some energy and calm down you're way too worked up seeing a fight. I am sure you will rush in to your death like this. And you two chatted the whole time, I could see the two of your bodies moving, it's obvious you two were analyzing the battle but if your opponent can read you like a book even talking in your heads will give you away. You two need better poker faces." Ribbolt may be a bit rough around the edges personality wise but his knowledge and advice was sound. He was very wise after years of battle being able to pick out weaknesses even from those witnessing a fight. All of the things he said were painfully true, so much so that they were all stunned. "Elise where is that harpy sister of yours? Bring her out and have her practice with that fire the boy made, she should try fighting herself for a change it could really help her. Riley you head off to the closed training rooms in the basement, I don't want you out of there until one of those boars kneels to you." Laurence became fearful himself, when Ribbolt got on a roll like this anyone he saw was judged and given a training task, how much Laurence now regretted waking Ribbolt today. "Laurence ran off and get something to burn for the boys, I saw that take in a lot of fuel to move you will be responsible for keeping the next one moving for Elise and Stella." this was definitely his punishment for waking him, Laurence had been downgraded to fetching firewood.

## Chapter 177 - 177. Bronze

Laurence sprinted off and was back in the blink of an eye. His arms hugging a massive pile of straw. The pile dropped in front of Walker before he ran off again. Walker's mana was low but seeing Ribbolt give him a slight glare he decided feeling more tired wasn't a problem, using his flame doll skill another fire harpy took form. Walker stood back as Elise brought out Stella to meet her soaring partner.

With a red flash Stella appeared in front of the group. Her eyes landed on the fiery mirror image of herself, her confusion tangible. "Stella, Walker made us a fire doll that should copy your techniques, we can train against it in the air!" Just hearing that she could fight in the air for a change was enough to make Stella jump in to flight, Elise wanted to join her but after seeing the look on Ribbolt's face said if she even dared she would be cleaning the pens for the next year.

Having made the fire doll Walker felt the low mana getting to him. Everyone else noticed this but knew he would recover over time so didn't stress too much.

"So little lizard, you want to meet my dragon? He's got a bit of a temper but as long as you don't pick a fight you will be fine." Ribbolt spoke as if he completely expected a fight and was just saying it for politeness.

Midnight naturally crouched while arching her back, she was totally going to start a fight. Seeing this Walker wanted to be ready to jump in but his low mana may limit him. After a long sigh he pushed his worry to the side, this was one reason they had come all the way here, "Alright let's go meet another dragon." Su seemed to be the most surprised that he decided to do so so soon but did not argue knowing Walker would have considered the situation.

"Just to take a wild guess here but we're going to that smoking building over there right?" Seeing Ribbolt nod, "oh joy hot and Smokey and a possibly giant dragon." Gil was a bit excited to see such a monster but also was fairly unsettled, dragons often were known as being incredibly dangerous. They were some of the few species that could become ancient, seemingly undying.

Midnight having heard this stood as tall as possible trying to put off an imposing aura. Onyx left her back to return to Walker's shoulders, seemingly in response to her wishes. She flapped her wings a few times shaking herself out, Walker could already see her trying to fight a dragon easily double her size and began mentally preparing himself. The building they the party was following Ribbolt to seemed much smaller than the main building, however there were piles of dirt being hauled outside and transported away, Some tamers even carried large piles of ashes out. They weren't sure the general cause of all of this and at first assumed the dragon caused all the smoke. Large doors made up the entire front of the building made of a strong iron. The size was most certainly for the dragon to more easily get in and out, the closer they managed to get the more activity they found.

Entering the inside they saw nothing, not a dragon, not many people, not even the cause of the smoke. Instead they found pipes leading in to the ground and a heavily strengthened elevator on large chains.

This was constantly in motion and every time it came up there was either a large amount of dirt and rock or ash. The elevator could easily fit the party including Ribbolt ten times over. "Hope you kids aren't afraid of the underground. I always find it funny when someone goes under for the first time, I forget I was born under the rocks." Ribbolt hinted at his heritage a bit knowing that the party had definitely noticed his shorter height and realized he had some dwarven blood.

The elevator made almost deafening clicking noises as it descended fairly quickly, the stone walls sped by in a blur until the speed sharply decreased, this caused everyone but Ribbolt to stagger to his own amusement. Once they had all gotten their bearings they had realized the elevator stopped showing them a massive cavern. Beneath the Tamers guild main building was the true headquarters, The massive cave system partially natural and partially excavated. "It may be a bit late but welcome to our headquarters." Ribbolt saw the looks of awe on their faces and knew they were enjoying the sights. Massive stalactites came from the ceiling, many echoes of pickaxes swinging could be heard. Various ores were being filtered and organized some even being forged in the wide open space, the pipes leading up in to the ceiling heading outside.

"TORO! GET YOUR SCALY HIDE DOWN HERE!" Ribbolt screamed at the top of his lungs causing echoes to reverberate all around them. The tamers guild members were all used to this and continued unfazed, Seeing a movement at the top of the cavern, a stalactite or what they thought was a stalactite moved. The massive winged shape fell towards the ground coming in to better light. This thing was the size of a house! The second light hit its body reflections danced around them. Shimmering bronze scales dazzled their eyes, the dragon's wings were equally shimmering coming to sharp hooks that could easily cling to the cave walls. Its snout was more shovel shaped and lacked the vicious sharp teeth Midnight's species had. The claws on its legs were less pointed and similar to its snout, more rounded and shovel like. This massive bronze dragon stood tall barely showing a glance to the people behind Ribbolt. However for a split second its eyes rested on Midnight.

Besides the fact that the entire party was stunned, they were also realizing just how small they were in the wide world of adventuring. They had struggled against larger opponents and even nearly died but seeing the dragon before them they knew they couldn't even scratch on it. "You better not have been eating all the ore again, you know the forges rely on us." The bronze dragon; Toro, snorted a small stream of smoke from it's snout as it heard this. Walker couldn't help but compare it to Midnight, she consumed darkness crystals and bones gaining nutrients to grow stronger scales. This dragon in front of them had perfect bronze scales and hearing what Ribbolt said it obviously consumed a huge amount of ores to gain this effect.

Midnight was also more stunned than she expected but refused to drop her head. Standing tall was an instinct dragons had to challenge another but due to the difference in strength between the two Toro didn't even feel the need to return the challenge. Feeling insulted, Midnight clawed the ground wanting a response, all she managed to do was get a second glance from Toro. At least they weren't fighting was

all Walker could think. "Ahh I at least expected you to greet another dragon or our guests but instead you're as arrogant as always, don't make me bring you above ground again I know you had the sun on your scales." The threat seemed to do the trick and Toro started to shift uncomfortably. Lowing itself a bit the dragon gave a fair look at all of them, feeling a chance Midnight moved closer issuing her own snort at the bronze dragon in front of her.

The two seemed to make similar sounds at each other for a few minutes before Midnight became much more agitated. From what everyone saw Toro was making fun of Midnight as he used his snout to point towards her wings and scales. After more sounds from Toro, Midnight used her skeletal armor skill making herself much more intimidating. She stomped her front claws to the ground letting out her mightiest roar which was in comparison to what the bronze dragon could do fairly small. In response Toro wanted to show this little pest where her place was, stood taller, his chest expanding with air. Knowing what was about to happen Ribbolt and Walker both stepped farther, they could both sense the heat in the air increasing meaning instead of a roar fire was about to bellow through the cave.

Walker was going to use all but one of his remaining mana on the dragon's intimidation skill, it was the only one he could think would distract the massive dragon. Not realizing Ribbolt was also preparing something Walker didn't hesitate, releasing a massive roar louder than any he had previously he was joined by Ribbolt who was also releasing a roar that dwarfed Walkers. The echoes of these two roars caused the cave itself to shudder ever so slightly and some dust to rain over them. The entire cave became silent and Toro stopped in his tracks. His head shifting back and forth between the two in front of him, his chest deflating in confusion.

#### Chapter 178 - 178. Shared Skills

Since they both saw that Toro was losing his desire to burn everything to a crisp Walker and Ribbolt turned to each other having the same confused look Toro had for them. "Boy how in the world can you use that skill?"

"You know I can ask the same question, right?" Walker was equally curious how Ribbolt was not only louder than him but also had just used dragon's intimidation.

The two stared each other down for a moment before Walker finally gave in first, "I am not limited to just normal skills, I can learn monster's skills as well. It's been a big surprise." Walker could only imagine what other skills he would gain from the many encounters he was yet to have and started to think he should study up more on monsters skills to see if he could try to learn a specific one. "And you? How can you use a monster's skill, I know you don't share the same system as me."

"That's obvious ain't it? I am a dragon tamer and have a skill that lets me borrow my dragon's skills. I can even breathe a little fire when I'm angry enough." Laughing at his obvious superiority Walker had begun

to believe that both dragon and dragon tamer were equally arrogant. "No more roars though, we stopped everyone from their work, getting them moving again can be a pain. As for the official introduction, the little fella here is Toro." Little? Ribbolt really just called a bronze dragon the side of a house little?

Seeing that they all were a bit shocked by his statement Ribbolt explained a bit more, " you see the ore dragons like Toro are born and left in ore rich areas underground. They hatch and are left to fend for themselves. I happened upon his little nest and managed to unlock my system. I used a contract skill I have heard you're able to use as well. Since I don't have a mining or forging system my mothers side of the family told me to move on out so after feeding this little fella all the ore i could get my hands on we went on out in the world, I have gotta say, it's much more relaxing out here, dwarven people don't know when to rest." Recalling the many times Ribbolt had been unable to sleep due to the insistent work mining or forging he was yet again thankful for his push to leave his homeland. The dwarves were commonly known as non stop workers always obsessed with forging something better, learning a new way to refine an ore, and many other forms of metalworking.

"Well that explains the massive caverns, you probably brought some amazing tricks with you." Gil chimed in breaking the two sided conversation having caught up with everything they had just happened.

"Well it all started with feeding this one's favorite snacks, as you can tell, from his scales he can't get enough ores to make shiny bronze armor. Started digging when we joined the guild and has yet to stop. We managed to work out a good deal and set up a headquarters, add about forty years and here we stand." The fact that Ribbolt had invested forty years in this was quite extraordinary, not to mention forge a deal with an entire kingdom and on top of that rise to a high enough standing in his guild to make it all happen. "Now do you know what an ore dragon is? It doesn't look much like you even know what that hatchling there is..." Wanting to argue this Walker was about to start listing off all the knowledge they had but a tug on his sleeve and a shake of her head Su made sure he kept his mouth shut. She wanted to hear what Ribbolt had to say so she could help Midnight in better ways as well and if Walker dragged them off topic it could be forever.

It had been a wonder that Remey had also kept quiet the whole time but upon close inspection Walker saw that Remey was motioning her fist softly as if imagining she could break the bronze scales on Toro. She was off in dreamland.

Seeing the unspoken communication going on Ribbolt was patient, but only for a moment. "Ore dragons are a breed of earth dragon. They are often in large cave systems looking for natural ores to eat along with any other earth dwelling monsters. They don't often head to the surface and their wings are much like those sonic bats. Better for hanging on to walls. Their scales will change with what ore they eat the

most eventually changing their characteristics, you can see this is Toro who ate a combination of ores to develop bronze scales. This makes them much tougher than most dragons but they are more made for digging and crushing stone not so much attacking. What a dragon eats as it grows is incredibly important, if your hatchling consumes higher level monsters or a high amount of...Dark crystals?" Ribbolt took a guess at one aspect,"and bones it would seem. Interesting combination there. From what I've learned skeletal dragons rarely produce offspring maybe once every seventy five years at least"

This was new to them, knowing if Midnight was a more rare species could mean she would have an advantage in life, the simple fact that less people could know her weaknesses or what skills she may have. Walker had already known that what she ate could enhance her scales, he had some darkness crystals set aside just for her. He also did not know that higher level monsters could increase her growth as well. This was something he should ask at the adventurer's guild, they often sold useless meat from monsters to tamers or other places to make use of it. Some very high level monsters even got made in to bait just to use it up instead of wasting it.

"What are your thoughts on good training for skills? Should Midnight train differently than we may?" Walker knew Midnight might need more time to train than them since she had skills that none could help her with. Even if Walker managed to learn the ones she had then he would be behind her in understanding. However if he could glean more information from someone who had in fact trained with a dragon for years and years he may be able to help put together a good training plan. End of the day Walker was afraid that Midnight may fall behind due to her needing more experience points than them. If she could improve how she used her skills any gap in strength that developed could be overcome.

"You'll need to put her in her element, she should be completely immersed in what her affinities are. Any skills she has that relate to affinity can be increased through understanding. In Toro's case the first time he breathed fire he burned every drop of mana in his body and passed out for

a whole day." The image of the giant bronze dragon in front of them being small and breathing fire enough to pass out was just too hard to imagine. But for Ribbolt it was just like yesterday.

They two had not been able to do too much when they first formed a contract, Toro had been a small hatchling Ribbolt found while wandering the small caves only he seemed to be able to fit in at his small size. Since he had yet to unlock his system his parents and other family basically just let him wander off. He had dwarven blood after all and at some point it was assumed he would pick up the right pickaxe or see the right crafting technique to lead to his system unlocking.

Once he found Toro they two had hid from each other but after Toro tried to use his fire to attack in fear and passed out, Toro had awakened finding he was still alive and some ore had been dragged over for

him to eat. The sleeping Ribbolt lying next to him scratches all over his hands from polling the ore from the nearby rocks. This was the deciding factor to grow trust and respect, The two had roamed the caverns together for weeks before Ribbolt finally said he wanted to give a name to the small dragon. Upon issuing his idea for names the system unlocked and prompted the blood contract skill which the two agreed to immediately. Since then they had gone on many adventures. Losing the approval of his family was not the end for him but something that freed him from the chains every dwarf had astound them. They would work themselves to death always crafting, always mining, always trying to build, At the end of the day he was not a full dwarf nor a full human he was a tamer and he would make sure the world knew him.

#### Chapter 179 - 179. Bronze Flames

"Hmm so with those training ideas you should have a better idea of what to do. Now lets go over to our personal forges. I want to show you the effects dragon fire can have on what our blacksmiths can produce. We have a very strong deal with the forges here in this kingdom, they value strong gear and weapons. I am sure you saw the coliseums. This means we can always create unique equipment with Toro's flames that is constantly in demand. We make the majority if the entire guild's funds here,"

This was an amazing feat, Walker knew that the adventurer's guild made funds for the actions of the adventurers and those who placed requests. The tamer's guild could do that but most if the time needed to rely on other means. Some had unique monsters that could use rare skills to heal, grow food, clear areas, battle, many things. This usually made their members great to hire as mercenaries as well. They would also often go out to explore so they could work on improving their tamed monsters of finding more rare ones to tame. This was all a constant challenge they themselves gave to each other.

Pointing towards the nearest forge where a blacksmith seemed to be about to forge a sword, Ribbolt pushed for Toro to stoke the fire. The blacksmith seemed rather excited at this quickly grabbing a collection of items to change the composition he was using. The caves were massive and each blacksmith was required to hunt down their own materials. This made them much harder working, but most made their output of gear or weapons more consistent.

"Now when a dragon flame is used on a forge their affinity is spread throughout their fire. This means that if the blacksmith is using the right materials then they can trap that specific affinity in to the item they are making. Ore dragons are very important in this sense since when bronze is present in the item the earth elemental mana fused into the item increases much more." Toro had gone behind the little forge to a small opening the blacksmith had opened, seeing Toro fill his chest with air they were prepared to witness true dragon flames for the first time. The party was holding their breath waiting for the moment to come. With a large swoosh sound the air was sucked towards Toro right before blinding orange yellow flames spat from his mouth causing the forge to burn the same color. The feeling of the heat became much more intense.

"You see dragon flames also burn much hotter, a blacksmith can work much more easily too" Laughing again at their amazed expressions Ribbolt knew that this was one of his favorite things to show off to younger guild members.

The blacksmith was furiously mixing small bits of different ores and powders in to a melting metal, the metal was glowing white hot and seemingly absorbing everything in to it as it was added. Once the blacksmith was ready he grabbed a large pair of tongs pulling the super heated metal and starting to slam a hammer down upon it, The entire party watched the process for who knows how long. They were too engrossed, even Midnight was watching carefully, she herself had not realized she would be able to assist in something like this since she learned more about her own fire. Within her the desire to become stronger was growing even more powerful. She was seeing Toro as a rival to surpass and not just some other dragon to steal territory from.

Ribbolt had pulled up a stool and somehow ,managed to nap sitting up but not a single person had noticed this. Eventually Toro started to break flames in to the forge less often and the blacksmith started the cooling process. Going in to many different oil baths at varying temperatures the blacksmith tapped here and there straightening out small details. By the time the blacksmith had the sword blade cool enough to touch they could see lines of bronze that traveled up and down an iron blade. The unmistakable earth mana that radiated from the blade was beautiful.

Toro had stopped breathing flames and used his tail to softly poke Ribbolt awake, even though they two seemed a bit rough around the edges Walker could tell from that small gesture that they really cared for each other. Unlike when Laurence woke him up Ribbolt calmly stretched and stood up, Seeing the completed blade he took it from the blacksmith. "Perfect perfect, another success. You know when we first started experimenting with this we had unbalanced swords that would crack at a glance, now? They are fought over in all four coliseums by some of the top warriors. If only other dwarves would crawl out of the rocks and take a look they just might learn something for once." His laughter echoed making the blacksmith smile much more. It was rare for the dragon to help out the lower ranked blacksmiths like him but today he had struck gold and the guild master himself had shown up giving him aid, this was a major boost in experience. "Finish this up and have it sent to my office, I have plans for this one." Nodding his head the blacksmith took the sword blade and headed off to another part of the caves.

"Now that we've got that worked out let's go check in on what else is happening up top, I am sure that fire creation of yours has been having a decent amount of fun." Ribbolt was the only one who had any sense of time underground. The blacksmiths had lost it long ago becoming embroiled in their work over worrying for time. The blacksmith had spent four whole hours shaping the blade alone. The melting process had taken two. Cooling had spent one and a half. Overall they had spent the rest of their day underground, no meals or anything. They had been so entranced by the entire process not focusing on anything.



Following Ribbolt they went back to the large elevator. Ribbolt sent Toro back to where he was when they entered and Toro seemed more than happy to have his alone time back. The party was still fairly unsteady on their feet as the elevator moved upwards. Midnight seemed very lost in thought, she had seen many things she was not yet capable of. Since she had never really had the chance to learn from another dragon before she was understandably confused by her abilities in comparison to Toro's. Walker was also a bit lost in thought, he had not for a minute believed Midnight would be able to forge weapons, not only would this be a massive boon for the party to get higher leveled gear but also great training.

Walker had not considered trying to pick up a forging skill because he did not believe he had enough time or ability to properly utilize it, but now he was considering learning one. Although he did know it may be better to have a higher level blacksmith visit their mansion's forge to train with Midnight and create gear for them. There was also the added benefit that a blacksmith may lower their requested pay just to forge with such a unique fire. Besides forging there was also the spring to begin thinking about, soon they would be planting and growing many herbs that he and Remey could experiment with to make potions. Things would get very very busy once they got home.

Finally making it back to the surface Ribbolt headed through the massive doors and out in to the now star filled night. Surprisingly there were many tamers out and about still training. Many seemed to be training monsters with the darkness affinity. Easily spotting Stella and Elise training still, Elise had brought out Avela to watch and learn from Stella. The flame doll Walker had created seemed well unkempt by Laurence who seemed to be watching carefully next to a large pile of straw.

"Elise finish everything up, Stella has done enough today! Laurence clean that mess up, it's in the way!" Laurence looked like he had just been slapped, he worked so hard to get all of this here and now he needed to clean it all up. His life was rough but he had been the one that caused Ribbolt annoyance so it was unavoidable. Riley was still nowhere to be found and was most likely going to be off training until someone went to tell him to stop, this was the power the guild master had over them. "Once Laurence cleans up his mess I will have him bring you somewhere to sleep. Tomorrow you can train here or head in to the city, I don't mind either way, just don't cause any trouble or I will make sure you are banned from and place with a tamer's guild headquarters." His words were not to be overly rude but as the guild master he valued the reputation everyone worked hard to uphold.

#### Chapter 180 - 180. Wake Up Call

They all chatted idly as Laurence cleaned things up, Elise with her order to finish things up used her soaring assimilation skill to fly up and completely destroy the flame doll with Stella. The two were in pretty good coordination and Walker wondered if she had really avoided practicing the skill while they were all underground. Seeing her use the skill and quickly withdraw it Ribbolt was proud of the young

tamer learning to control her mana. However he refused to let this show even a little on his face to keep up his strict persona. He couldn't have them thinking he had gone soft on them.

After a bit more time Laurence and Elise guided the party to another building, Ribbolt had headed back to the caverns with a few shooing motions not wanting to talk any longer. He was definitely a rough kind of person but after hearing a bit about him from Laurence and how Ribbolt had worked to build himself to this point no one could say a mean thing. The smaller stone building had plenty of beds and communal areas, it seemed to be a general sleeping and resting place for the Tamers. This was because many of the Tamers only stopped here to rest and would often be back out on a quest or traveling soon. The only members that would stay long term were the newest members of the guild which needed to learn the ropes and the members that helped care for the large property.

Not a single one of them had realized just how tired they were until their heads hit the pillows, sleep took them almost instantly. Midnight seemed to still be caught in thought and had fallen asleep resting her head on Walker while thinking of the flames she had seen at the forge. Her dreams were filled with her own hopes for power and strength.

Hearing a commotion the party was brutally awoken by the noise. For some reason there were plenty more tamers running around than usual, wanting to see what the commotion was. Walker quickly started to shake awake the others. Remey was the hardest to get moving, the constant moving on the trip had pushed her harder than expected and her body was trying to reclaim the lost hours of rest from staying watch at night. But once she realized things were busy around them she was able to put it aside and help getting Gil and Su awake. Midnight had gotten up with Walker and Onyx was fine in his tattoo form wrapped around Walker. Luckily Onyx was kind enough to now avoid sleeping on Walker's face. He could only imagine what the tamer's would say seeing him covered in tattoos.

They all rushed outside to see a large group of guards standing at the entrance to the tamer's guild. The party was able to guess why they were there after yesterday's event at the gate. The same demi-human man was in attendance with more guards and one very large guard that had a muscled arm pattern on the chest of his armor. It would seem that he was the guard in charge. Laurence had already arrived at the gate speaking with them explaining something, easily arriving next to him Walker could hear that he was refusing to let them in to meet with the party. "Laurence no need to worry, we all just woke up and came to see the commotion. Thank you for trying to let us sleep more, we were pretty tired from our journey." Walker said this last part for two reasons, one to properly thank Laurence for being a kind friend and second, to show those who had come to see them that they were in an unhappy state having been woken earlier than they needed. This could make their visitors more apologetic and help the party a bit.

"Hello and good morning emissaries of the Crystal kingdom. I have brought an escort today to invite you to the castle of our king. He has been notified properly of your arrival and wishes to meet with you today." The man was very prompt with his words knowing that his orders were absolute.

"Well we have just woken up, please allow us a few moments to make ourselves presentable. I know it would be improper to meet a king in shambles as we are now." In truth the party looked fine but showing the right amount of respect could get them very far, Walker also wanted to speak with Laurence for some inside information on meeting the king of this kingdom. They only had limited knowledge on how things worked here and it would be important to make the right impression.

"Of course honored guests, please take some time. My escort and I shall remain here until you have prepared." The demi-human man stood still with an expectant look.

Laurence grabbed Walker by the arm leading him to the larger building where the guild master's office was. The hustle and bustle was much more than it was when they had arrived the day before. Heading up to the office they found that the door was wide open and Ribbolt was tearing through paperwork. "Finally you brought them, took forever. Now you all have a medal of emissaries from your kingdom, it would have been nice for a better heads up but that's past us. Since you came here first you showed them you had a relation to our guild and if I don't send something with you I will be slandered. You will be taking these documents in my stead." Ribbolt threw a sealed envelope to Walker who barely managed to catch it. On top of that Walker saw a bundle of cloth on the coffee table. "You're also taking the sword from yesterday as a gift, you will be paying me back for it. When an emissary visits they often bring gifts for the reigning king and since the king likes to battle in the coliseums that sword will put you in his good graces." Ribbolt continued to move about in a rush, It was naturally rare to have so many guards come to the guild and he wanted to make sure everything was in proper order when they came to inspect.

After Walker stored away the wrapped sword Ribbolt nearly pushed them all from the room and began issuing orders to ever tamer in sight. There were tamers furiously cleaning and moving boxes around, it would seem the kingdom puts harsh regulations on the guild, most likely because of the tamers beasts having some of the traits that demi-humans did. They wanted to keep a strict leash on the guild so as not to cause any friction in how the tamers acted within the kingdom.

"Laurence I know we are in a rush but can you give us any advice?" Walker wanted just a bit more before they left, Laurence was planning on doing just that if Walker had asked or not.

"The king has traits of a lion, his bloodline has always been some of the most powerful within the kingdom and they own the coliseums. He has four generals that reign over each sector of the city. They

also recruit their army from each coliseum often holding daily tournaments where they offer those who do well positions. It does not matter your social standing, you are judged by strength. My best advice is not to show fear and not to look down, look him in the eyes and do not start a fight." Walker and party all glanced at Remey and Midnight.

"Stop it I'm not planning on starting an all out war, I like it here so far everything looks different." Remey responded a bit angry with all the looks on her, Midnight however just snorted and looked away, equally unhappy.

They all moved forward, many thoughts racing in their minds. This would be the second king they had met, not a single one of them believed they would ever meet a king let alone two, at this rate they might end up meeting every king in the continent. The demi-human man was waiting for them still unmoving, with their approach the fence lowered in to the ground again and the guards made way for the party. The guards were the same gorilla traits as the day before. The leader of the guards was easily a whole head taller than the others. His traits seemed much more prominent showing his strength. They could all see that his armor was engraved with many patterns mostly depicting battle. He must have fought his way up to earn the position.

Once they had left the guild completely the fence rose and two guards held the rear, the party knew they were being escorted but they still felt that they were being taken off to as prison and not a meeting with royalty. The guards steps in unison rang around them as they set off.