

Master 1741

Chapter 1741 1741. The Fire Dragonkin

"Sending a dragon to take down such pathetic things? You have a head full of air!" Ignus growled but Walker could clearly see that Ignus wanted to order his dragonkin forward. He had been bored for some time and his face had been showing it.

"I just thought it would be right to show off the fire elemental dragonkin. I hear that a few of them have a certain skill that uses your fire?" Walker knew this already, but he had never seen it. Yet, with the angels present it was better to show off some strength. Since Ignus was one of the most vocal dragons due to his temperament, it was better to let him have it.

"Showing off even more? That's smart." Current whispered a little as he saw what Walker intended. It was easy to see the goal. The other royal dragons saw it clearly and they were sure that Ignus picked up a little on it.

Since they were going to face a monster with some dragon blood in it, they should show off what a real dragon could do. In The least, this would just be the tiniest of showings. Especially since Ignus would just be lending a little power to his fire affinity dragonkin that could show off in his stead. If a being controlled such a powerful force, wouldn't it mean they were more powerful?

"Come." The immediate order was loud enough to command the fire elemental dragonkin with them. Twenty moved as if they had been called by the most powerful being they had ever seen. Even Walker had not seen this sort of movement from the dragonkin as of yet. He had barely scratched the surface of what it meant to be a loyal dragonkin. But that was normal, he did not have dragonkin under him at all.

Each dragonkin brandished a sword or ax. The only ones that had acted were those with offensive ability making Walker feel that they understood Ignus very much. Since he had said come, it must have been in a way that they knew from previous battles. That Ignus didn't need any defenses but only wanted certain dragonkin. This was especially clear when certain dragonkin had remained in place.

This was just more evidence that the dragons were more complicated than Walker had thought again. But it was about to be more impressive. "Take my flames and crush our enemies," Ignus growled out as he created a small ball of fire in his hands.

Every dragonkin placed their weapons within it and growled. Their scales seemed to shift slightly while steam appeared around their bodies. It was as if Ignus had just buffed them with his fire. Literally and metaphorically passing on his flames' strength to them for the battle.

"That is the fire's blessing. Each of us can do that. You should be able to use nature's blessing sometime soon." Mordant saw Walker's intense look. But for whatever reason, he had a feeling that Walker would be trying to copy this in every sense of the word even if he had not spoken just now.

The fire on their weapons seemed to grow before the dragonkin separated and moved through the trees. When they appeared within the small village, there was no warning. All the skinwalkers which had been moving with the false actions stopped instantly. The false faces and appearances were instantly thrown away as their limbs extended. It showed off the grotesque skeletal shapes they had. As if their skin had been stretched over bones and nothing more.

The true shape of these monsters proved that there were dangers in Sigil that Walker had never expected. He knew these kinds of monsters existed but never appeared in large numbers like here in Sigil. He was very glad that there were angels with him that had knowledge about such things.

"Should we assist?" Seran asked calmly. He wasn't sure of the strength that dragonkin had. However, he was certain that his angels had faced skinwalkers before. This was the safest bet since they had the experience. It would stop anyone from being hurt. Or at least that was his thinking. Not that it was a bad way to think.

"Do not doubt those that hold their unwavering loyalty and wield my strength." Ignus growled out his words without even looking at Seran. The other just ignored the question from the angel completely. Not out of disrespect but because they were watching the battle.

The flames from the swords and axes were slashed out towards the skinwalkers which had finally shown their true forms. Wherever the flames struck, massive bursts of fire grew. The speed of which was insane compared to what Seran had imagined. He had rarely seen mages even use fire that grew at such a pace.

What stopped Serana and the angel forces, even more, were the dragonkin controlling the flames. Every move they made stopped the fires from traveling outward from the village. They would attack and send another wave of flames that burned up the homes that had been made in to monsters' nests on the inside.

Each wave of flame even stopped monsters from moving. The cries of burning skinwalkers was retribution for the villagers they had stolen from life. In fluid leaps, the battle experience of the fire elemental dragonkin proved themselves over and over. This was even a sight that many of the genesis forces had not witnessed since the blessing from royal dragons had not been shown off as of yet.

"Now tell me, angel, why would my dragonkin need your help." Ignus stood tall before walking toward the flames overtaking the village. In one single flap of his wings while in dragonkin form, he put out every single flame showing off his dragonkin standing in line before him. Showing off was more than just that. Ignus had grinned with all his teeth showing the sharpness and viciousness that he and his soldiers could maintain easily.

"I believe that the wyverns will rue the day they decided to take our lands." The other angels stood at attention hearing Seran speak. They had lived for defeating wyverns since they had been sent to their first battle against them. Seeing such strength and power was enough for them to know that they could make a massive difference now.

"I'm glad that worked out then. I knew you would do better than I would at that." Walker made sure to let Ignus feed his ego. But that wasn't the only reason. Walker still had to learn to show off leadership and skills like that.

In the grand scheme of things, Walker relied on others much more. One could say he was a leader but in truth he was just bringing people together who could lead in their own ways. That left Walker with a lot of room to learn from all of their different styles. Every single little way they acted was a lesson to him. And he would never be forgetting them.

"You'll have to show me that skill again. I want to use a nature dragon's blessing. All of you will have to show me." Walker was feeling his curiosity take hold the more that he was thinking about it. If he wasn't careful he would end up with the entire rest of the walking trip like this.

"You are not learning another new skill. Keep focused." Gil elbowed Walker in the side. "If I have to stay focused and scout more, then you have to stay focused and keep an eye out for monsters. Also, you should make sure that those flames stay out so make it rain." Walker knew that Gil was mostly messing with him but it was important.

"Move out and search the ruins of the village. Find any identifications about who sent these angels here. We will be remembering them and sending their families what we find." the downside of Seran's order was that there was not much left. Ignus's dragonkin had burned things up very well. But that was the only way to avoid the chance that a skinwalker would survive.

"This would be a good time to rest." Alice stopped everyone yet again. They had walked for one hours and it was a good idea to keep themselves at the best possible condition. The wyverns were a dangerous threat. If they wanted to avoid being caught by surprise when they were weaker than normal, they had to be ready now rather than later.

"I agree, stopping now is the best bet." Su seconded this and the dragons didn't show any pushback. They all appeared happy that Ignus had shown off their skills well enough. Especially since the angels now understood how much strength they really had in the long run. How the dragons would handle the wyverns.

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Chapter 1742 1742. Crystal Healer

Since the royal dragons had been focused on the wyverns, they had not considered the other monsters that might be able to cause them issues. While Ignus had his dragonkin handle the skinwalkers, they had seen the potential for those monsters to cause them massive issues.

It wasn't that the dragonkin wouldn't be able to defeat such monsters. As everyone had seen, Ignus's fire affinity dragonkin had easily beaten them with enough strength to spare so that they could show off a little. But if one of the dragonkin was attacked while alone and weakened, then it might be a different story.

"I believe we will be learning a lot about the territory and how our ancient predecessors used to live." Rise was looking at the ashes while she sat and enjoyed some food that Walker had brought along. She was the only one eating but it seemed to make everyone more relaxed since Rise was the strictest dragon out of all of them.

"The more that we can learn here the better. If we can find how the last dragons spent their time here we may be able to find what they had done in their last days. We may also find the elder's dwellings." Current had been wondering what might have happened to the elder's dwellings that would be in the royal dragon hall of the Sigil continent.

It wasn't like the dragons had just thought one day to make a royal dragon hall. It was the first known territory to them. The first dragon village. But over time the dragons had split up and taken different lands. That made their first ever territory a very important place to them. It was why the eldest dragon would become their elder and keep the records of their history. It was how a royal dragon hall was created.

"When we manage to find the royal dragon hall of this continent we will need to see about gathering the memories there." The same method that the dragons currently used was something that Terron had a hand in. He knew the value of the crystals they used to build the cave and help the elder keep records.

They were similar to the mana crystals used to communicate from person to person but these were rarer. They were found by him and all brought to the royal dragon hall. The way they worked was a closely guarded secret by every elder but it was something that was sure to be shared as the dragons got closer to the other races. Especially since the elves appeared to take very detailed records of everything they could.

"Have you noticed that this continent is less explored? There may be fewer angels than they are letting us think." Ventus came with a very interesting theory while she stood with the others. Their conversation wasn't being listened in on at all since they were terrifying figures. But that also meant that they had the ability to porpoise such thoughts without any issues.

"I thought that too." Mordant had thought this for some time because the angels were able to get certain authorities so quickly. "They have been at war with one another for some time. They can not manage to keep up. They also don't have many villages with proper protection. I assume they have everyone and everything on their floating sky cities they told us about."

This seemed to be the collective consensus by the time that they were all reminded that they could take the time to meditate a little more. But they did all hear Ignus mumble about how it didn't matter how many there were. That the wyverns were the real problem they needed to handle. But that was a fair point.

Meanwhile, Walker was able to find Alice and Su. They were having basic conversations sharing their healing methods. The only one that was not speaking much was the crystal healer. The very person that Walker had wanted to speak with to understand a little more about the ulterior healing methods that might be appearing the more that he researched the Sigil continent.

"How are things with you? I know that healers won't have too much to do since the dragonkin are very tough and these monsters are nothing to them." Walker laughed a little since he could see that the healers were still very surprised and impressed by the dragonkin.

"We have been sharing techniques. The healers from the Fel empire do not focus on musical systems due to their research oriented society. They rarely have musical systems in general so they are very curious about Alice." Su had been carefully paying attention to what questions were asked. She could tell that they were prying a little to learn more about Genesis.

"I kind of expected that. But what about the life mages and that crystal healer? Learn anything?" Walker figured he would speak with the crystal healer in a moment but he wanted to feel out what Su thought.

"The life mages are odd. They research how bodies work but also want to understand the source of a body's mana. But the crystal mage barely speaks. I assume because the way he heals is so different and relies on multiple things rather than just one aspect of mana." Su had a decent grasp of it so all Walker had to do was look in to it a little more.

With Su's information, Walker approached the crystal healer and looked at him. "so you're the crystal healer? Care to tell me how it works? We don't have crystal healers in Genesis so any information is new."

The healer seemed to brighten up greatly. He had been more or less silent so far. Now she could finally join the conversation and speak about what he had found.

"It's all based on affinity. The mana that everyone can use changes person to person. That's fine, our body produces mana that is tilted to one side or the other. I was lucky to be born with mana that favors earth which helps me use crystals overall." The crystal healer was getting more energetic with every single word. The attitude was a bit infectious.

"From there I can take the mana and use it to push the body to heal. Your affinity is part of everything in your body. To use your own mana and that affinity together your entire being is needed. So why wouldn't your body respond when the mana returns the flow."

"Instead of losing your body's mana, I can give you elemental mana that spurs the body to heal and repair itself. It's temporary because it's not really your mana and will fade, but it removes fatigue from

you due to lack of mana due to an injury or other reason. It can even be used to stop someone from going unconscious from lack of mana when they use too much!"

This was all very informative. The crystal healer was full of blossoming energy now that he had been focused on. It was as if he was presenting a hard thought plan to a battle council. There was clearly a lot of time spent to understand even this.

"So when you use an elemental mana crystal, you are channeling the mana within to allow it to flow safely to the body. The crystal won't crack and the mana won't be able to harm someone. All you need to know is their affinity."

"Yes! That's it and I can do that by using my affinity appraisal skill. It's not amazing but I can see a person's affinity." This was another thing that the crystal healer seemed even more pride in sharing.

"And my affinity is?" Walker knew it was a little rude to tease the crystal healer but he wanted to have a little fun.

"I can look at that easily..." the crystal healer's no eyebrows furrowed as he looked at Walker harder and harder. "You have...well, it's most elemental manas. But there are other things. I'm not really sure if you even have an affinity since everything is so mixed up. I might be too weak to see it."

The crystal healer was looking at Walker with a very downtrodden expression. "Sorry, I expected that. I can learn just about any skill of any affinity with my system. It's hard to explain easily but my affinity changes. I also have natural mana which will complicate it even more." The crystal mage relaxed but had a steel gaze caught on Walker. He was extremely curious now.

"Gil can channel mana from elemental crystals too. But he learned from the elves who make arrows from them. You two should check your techniques against one another. It could help smooth things out in the processes you use." Walker tried to push aside the curious looks the mages, healers, and crystal healer had on him but it didn't seem to work well enough.

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Chapter 1743 1743. Mountain Base Forest

The little bit of discretion had been enough to draw Gil toward the crystal healer. The two easily hit it off when the crystal healer had begun to show how he was able to use the elemental crystals to heal. Walker had also watched carefully though.

The way that Gil channeled the elemental energy in to an arrow had some requirements. He had to have a place for the mana to go. It couldn't just be melded around the arrow and held there because it would just dissipate. It would also potentially cause the elemental crystals to shatter which was dangerous for everyone. That was why it was very common for the elven archers to have protection against such accidents when making arrows.

But for the crystal healer, he could take the mana from a crystal and as long as the affinity was correct then it would be able to flow right in to a body. Part of this was because the healing was changing the way the mana was used. It was not remaining in the same shape but spreading out in to an entire body. It was dissipating in a way instead of staying in one spot.

There was also a clear secondary skill that was leaving some of the elemental mana around the crystal so that it was not cracking or shattering. This form of protection helped maintain the rate at which the healing happened while also keeping the safety of the crystal assured.

"So you should end up with a few perfectly clean crystal shards that can be used to make mana gems? And from those, why don't you use mana gems to heal?" Walker was sure that the mana gems that were left would be of better quality than what was left after forging or other activities.

"That's the thing, we crystal healers do not use every bit of mana. All the elemental crystals are left with the smallest bit of mana. It is part of my system to return them to places where they can naturally grow and return to nature." Now, this was interesting. Not many systems worked like this but for research purposes, this meant that the Fel empire was directly studying how mana crystals could be recovered over time.

"I see. So you don't break your mana crystals like we do. I can work with that. I need to know what skill you use to keep them from breaking. If I can use that while experimenting with arrows then I will be able to make so many more." Gil was ready to change the elven world of arrow making again.

"It's a passive skill that works while I use my other skills. I have no idea how I would teach it or if it could even be made in to a scroll. But one day you may find the path." The crystal mage felt the pressure that Gil was giving him and everyone knew that Gil was not about to stop trying right there.

"Walker, you are going to learn that passive skill somehow, right? When you do you can then figure out how to teach it to me and then I will show the elves. It's very important." Gil was totally losing sight of where they were. He was dead set on figuring it all out.

"And now Gil sounds like Walker and his learning. Nice job. Walker, you made a second you." Remey teased both of them but when the two looked back at her she knew that they were easily able to say the same about her obsession with alchemy.

"Can you use light crystals too to heal? Are they stronger?" Alice's question was heard by the crystal mage as Walker, Gil, and Remey went on their own tangents.

"Of course I can. They are the easiest to use when healing since many healing skills use light elemental mana in the first place. But it is still based on affinity so only those with light elemental mana can be healed by my kind of healing when I use a light elemental mana crystal." This seemed to be what Alice had been wondering.

Since the healing using light elemental crystals was not able to be used on anyone, that meant that the healing that Alice and other light elemental healers used was unique to them and their system. It also meant that the mana made within their bodies most likely made it possible somehow for the affinity to be ignored when it came to targets of that healing. A unique theory but one that would be with keeping note of since Alice wanted to be a better healer in the future.

The healing talk was about to end though. It seemed that everyone could spend hours learning new things. However, the angels had seen that there was nothing left to do in the remains of the village which had been taken by monsters. This left the break to end and the travel to start again.

"The way ahead will be a little harder. The forest ahead is going to get larger. I see the notes on the map say that the trees get larger and the growth of them stops most paths from even being able to be made?" Walker was asking this directly to Seran since he was the angel that was in charge of the other angels' soldiers. Also the angel who should have the most information for him.

"Saying that the mountain range forest is larger is an understatement. You can see the trees from the higher hills here and when you enter the larger growth you will find yourself in a new world." Seran seemed to have explained this to younger angels and was falling in to an instructive flow.

"The mountains are very large and gain a lot of ice through the colder seasons. This then melts when the sun brings the warmth of a longer dry season. The water will melt and fall bringing nutrients to the forest. This causes rapid and large growth that will make all trails carved during the colder season useless."

"Some trees will grow so large that they can not be cut through using normal means. Even the roots that grow will be unmistakably tougher. It is also very dangerous to attempt to cut in to the unique plants that grow here since some of them are monsters, owned by monsters, or even poisonous."

"So you are saying that the forest will be the elves' best territory once we get there." Gil was looking at the forest elves that had maintained a close position near him. They had been waiting for this chance since they were bought specifically to handle the dangers of the forest.

"That may be the case, or it may not be. This forest is hard for angels that have spent years within and around it to traverse. We do not have any villages inside due to the changes that it undergoes each year. Entire villages could be taken over by vines or mosses in just a week." The rate of growth that Seran was speaking about was very hard to grasp. So much so that it made Walker wonder what else might be going on.

"If there is more to it, then I would assume that the plants are more than just unique. I would assume that they also have a higher ability to absorb mana?" Walker saw Seran nod and approved of his theory.

"That means that we will have monsters that could have once been plants appearing? Or more monsters that are plants in general. The elven forest had them but they were less common." Su made a point to look at the elves who were already making their own mental preparation so that they could track and identify such monsters ahead of time.

"I can alter potions on the go so that we can have better antidotes. That's not the best for everything we might face but it can get us time if we face some bad poisons." Remey chimed in with a lot more focus now. She had ingredients that Walker had stored. She had also been focusing on antidote potions for the duration of their time on the ocean. It was a very good thing too since they would be facing potential danger.

"We should worry more about the monsters that roam the area. The wyverns will be feeding on some of them. If we approach too far south of the territory we may begin the drop in to the ravine. Those cliffs

are very dangerous. That is why the border begins where it does. The ravine is dangerous and neither empire will risk sending our soldiers there." Seran didn't hold back sharing all this. Walker had seen in on the map but didn't expect it to be such a large issue.

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Chapter 1744 1744. Forest And Caves

"The cave crawlers, right?" This was one of the monsters that the Fel empire archangel had brought up. Walker had remembered it because he was sure that they would show up at some point when he was going through his travels in this area.

"Yes, they are one of the more dangerous monsters. They prefer the dim light of the caves and their entrances. They will often make sounds like an injured animal or monster to attract their prey to a cave. But the moment that the sun starts to set, they will travel outside of their cave to other nearby caves. It is partially to hunt but also to find others of their kind."

"If they are mostly a species of monster that will avoid others, why would they look for their kind? Can they make packs?" Walker had to get as much information as he could before they were faced with nighttime in these mountains. From the sounds of things, caves were not uncommon. They were going to come across the caves often.

"They will gather around this time of year to make nests. But they are one of the more unique monsters when it comes to this. Their nests are places where many of them will group up and lay together. It is very odd since this will even make some of them crush others due to their size." Seran seemed a little off put by this since it meant that some of them literally made nests that included the dead of their own species.

"They hatch from eggs and are very small. If you find a larger cave crawler then you are seeing one that has been alive for over ten years already. I recommend that you watch out for them greatly." This drew Walker in even more. He was wondering what they looked like exactly.

"What should I be on the lookout for? What skin colors do they have and do they have teeth and claws?" Walker wasn't sure what he should be imagining when he thought of how to defend from these monsters. He was sure that they would be similar to lizards since that would make sense that they grouped together in nests. But he was wrong.

"They have frog like limbs. They can leap and jump far. They do have front claws that they use to latch on to their prey. They also have needle teeth with small barbs that keep prey they bite near them. They don't have poison but they keep rotting food in their mouths to poison their prey instead. It is a disgusting method. The scarier fact is that their mouths seal so they can hide the scent of their stored rotting food." Seron looked like he was describing something truly terrible.

The angels had all been to this area. They had hunted and fought with wyverns. It made a lot of sense that they would be able to see these kinds of monsters. But since Seran was being so thorough, Walker was able to start grasping an idea of what they might face. Especially since the bite and claws of these monsters would keep them attached to the prey they attacked. It also went to say that they would need healing and purifying if they were bitten.

"You can aim for their eyes. They are larger so they can see in the dark. That is the largest weakness and even their own kind avoid hitting their eyes when fighting. It is odd to think that they are respectful of each other since they are monsters." Seran felt perturbed by this before shaking it off and returning to his prior attitude of disgust towards these monsters.

"That's good to know. We can use light or fire to blind them too then. It would probably work as a good deterrent." Walker was sure that this would be the best methods.

"Unfortunately that will not be the case. Inside a cave that would be fine. We can blind them and get away. But out in the forest that would be the same as attracting the biggest predators to us. There are more than just the mountain crawlers that will be around to hunt at this time. There are things that will prey on them." Walker felt that he had asked for this since he had been too confident in what he had thought just a second ago.

"What do we need to watch out for in the forest that would start going higher in to the mountains to hunt the cave crawlers?"

"Flying spiders." Seran said this as if that was all that needed to be said. But when he saw that Walker was just as confused as the cave crawlers, Seran began to understand the true differences continents had. It was not only races that were radically different but also the fact that different monsters had survived or been lost.

"These spiders are a mix of bat and spider. They are very hard to handle since they are entirely black. Their sharp legs have small talons on them. Furthermore, these monsters carry three sets of fangs that do not inject poisons but so tear holes in the bodies of what they hunt. Then they will fly away and eat

for their prey to bleed out. It could take hours and they can watch it perfectly in the darkness with the same ability to hear sounds as bats."

Now this was a terrifying beast. Completely black to blend in with the dark of the night and any shadows. It would be very hard to stop them from attacking unless someone was prepared to stop them at all times of the night.

"They wouldn't be attracted by the light but instead the sounds of things leaving the area because of light. They also enjoy the warmth so fire is out of the question. Now you see why this area is very hard to travers. The wyverns have to grow in these conditions as well."

Since Seran had gone even further to prove that the area was just that dangerous, Walker made a very calm mental note of every detail. He even realized that this was a very specific reason that the wyverns were so tough. "I would think that this environment would make the wyverns lesser in population. yet , they seem to be growing?" Walker found this very strange.

"They could be watched over by this wyvern queen we were told about." Rise was listening in to all of this. She appeared to have been wondering the very same things as Walker. But he and Seran had not tried to hide their talk at all. The more people that passed on this knowledge to the soldiers the better. Especially when it came to fighting these monsters.

"That could be it. I see where you are going with it." Walker could understand this. It made sense that s'more intelligent monster would want a way to get stronger and keep breaking away from the thing they saw as stopping their growth.

"If they want to grow so much, are we really certain they are monsters still? Where is the line? Are they really descended from dragons?" Terron was showing very clear doubts when it came to this. He had a little experience hearing and seeing how other monster races had changed to become recognized races.

"If you are thinking what I'm thinking... then it might mean they are getting closer to becoming their own race. But if they are stuck it could mean they have a small higher wyvern population with intelligence and a lower group that is larger than them without." Mordant stood up from where he had sat after speaking with a few of his dragonkin. He had a very good point.

"So we have the smarter wyverns protecting the weaker. The weak are causing issues and moving to find food while the smarter are trying to change their status. With the world speaking about monsters becoming races then it makes much more sense to think of it this way. But it's more complicated now." Walker felt that this was just becoming a deep rabbit hole they were falling down.

"This is always the case. I have never dealt with a situation where wyverns are easy to deal with. The village may not want to leave, the wyverns may attack during a crop shortage, and many other factors. It takes a lot of self control to handle these things." Seran was blunt but he was certain they could muddle through this with their current course.

"The plan will stay the same and we can learn more as we go. I don't worry about how we will handle this now. We aren't even there yet." Walker ended the theories for the moment. If they spoke any longer the sun would set before they found a camp.

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Chapter 1745 1745. Camping Finds

Conversations about why the wyverns were split or why they might be doing this or that ended. But the conversations about the cave crawlers and flying spiders continued. Especially because the Genesis forces were not at all familiar with them.

"Have everyone come to us. We can give them a buff that helps them in the dim lighting or even the darkness. It's called a night eye buff." The life mages were surprisingly useful for these things. They had a very wide variety of buffs that helped the body.

"Then start making rounds. You don't have to act as a single group. Alice and Su should have told you what the priests are like. They and their nuns or higher ranked priests often work alone. Some may travel to villages but they will work one by one to heal someone unless they absolutely need help." Walker had already caught on that the life mages were used to working together.

This kind of made sense since they would need the back up for doing research. If they wanted to find all the secrets of the body to heal it better or just to find the sources of life, then they would indeed to pool their knowledge. It was only a few specific researchers that would divide themselves so that they could research their topics.

"We did tell them. They are still trying to figure out how I am able to heal without actually healing. But since I have the light shield skill that heals those behind me while I defend them, I could technically heal." Walker was still in awe that Su had managed to make it work. She had been practicing the light shield skill while alone. Some of the mages had even given her advice on how to control her mana even though she was not a mage like them and could actively move their mana to attack.

The results had been a gradual thickening of the light shield that appeared when Su used her skill. This light shield over the top of her normal shields were significantly powerful. In the sense that the defense ability had increased along with the light elemental mana pulled toward her. For someone that was not a mage, Su could fool someone in the right circumstance due to how well she had adapted the skill to her body and uses.

"You have spent so much time in the cathedral learning what everyone needs that I would expect you to have helped ten times more people than most healers do. I'm pretty sure that the last time you helped at the cathedral every single person that visited saw you." Walker was a little teasing but this was not an understatement at all.

"It's true. Some of our elderly only come to see Su even though they do not stay to listen to the music." Alice's back up proved that Walker was not just making things up here. The life mages saw this entire interaction and wondered just what it was like that people would need to be healed every day. But they didn't voice the question since they were so lost as to what Genesis looked like or any kingdom in or around the Genesis alliance.

"Walker!" Gil caught back up with the main group. He had taken the time to leave with some of the scouts. The simple reason was to scout for a camp area that would be easily defended. "We found a good spot but everywhere seems to have evidence of monsters in the area. If food was really the start of all problems then I have no idea what's going on."

"There are that many tracks around?" Walker was surprised that the tracks were so evident and constant that Gil would think that the wyverns shouldn't have any issue getting food at all.

"I can help with that." Seran drew attention again and looked at Gil who had just returned. "You may think this is a lot of monster activity, but there are large monsters we have begun to see less and less which caused the smaller monsters to grow. The flying spider is one monster that used to be preyed upon by the large toed tree frog. Or the root digging hawk. It's called that because it cannot actually fly. It will use its wings to leap or glide tree to tree. It digs holes under the roots of trees to hide food."

"So basically you're saying that the wyverns lost all the bigger food they ate. Now they have to hunt a lot more and don't always succeed?" Remey shook her head. It was even worse than she thought. Missing out on a real meal was a tragedy. Meanwhile, Onyx and Midnight both looked at Remey with agreement. The three shaking their heads together made everyone wonder why food was the only thing on their mind in this.

"We can eat later, but it does make sense. The food chain was messed up. So if we see any of the larger monster we should deter them and not defeat them." Walker's idea was simply to conserve the habitats in the area. Just by saying this many of the elves who were much closer to nature voiced their approval. The angels could only nod along since they would rather see these monsters return than the wyverns become stronger or more common.

"How far is the area for us to make camp?" Su redirected the conversation to the camp they could make so that they could get to work. It would be a better idea to make a decent defense so that they could block the monsters that would surely come out in the darkness of night.

"It's only about twenty minutes. I would say that the trees were knocked down by a storm at some point. There are only burned remains that probably came from lightning strikes. The large logs could make for a great natural barrier on one side." The thought process was great so no one argued with it.

The walking was indeed quick, but when Walker saw the open space, he realized it was perfect. Everyone in their large group of soldiers could fit and make a small camp if need be. However, that was not the plan. The angels had already started to grab longer stable branches to cut in to spikes to place in the ground around their camping area. It was ideal to defend anything swooping down at them.

The trees that were fallen around were much larger than he had imagined. The theme of trees getting larger had continued as they walked without issue so far. But directly comparing the large tree that had been broken was dramatically different.

Most trees Walker couldn't wrap his arms around but in theory, he could cut them down with or an ax. These fallen trees were easily triple the diameter. It was easy to say that he would have issues cutting them down.

'Thunderstruck redwood

This is a rare tree that can only grow due to high nutrients that run off the melting snow from mountains. It is able to survive tougher forest fires and live for hundreds of years. They provide shade and homes to many creatures.

Due to being struck by lightning in a thunderstorm, it has taken on unique mixes of elemental mana even though they are weak within the wood. If a staff is made out of the wood, it would be very useful for drawing lightning or combining elemental manas to create lightning.'

The all around appraisal have Walker more than he expected. He would not have guessed that this tree was actually an amazing and rare material that could help when mixing elemental manas.

Yes, he already had the eternal orb. But when he was studying how to better create lightning himself this would be valuable. Furthermore, Walker could bring this to the Rize empire mages so they could experiment and use it for their own growth. It would be a very strong bonding find for them.

"What's so interesting?" Gil thought that Walker was amazed by the lightning patterns in the wood due to it being struck.

"It's a good material for a staff. But you might be able to make a lightning arrow with this if I think about it enough." Walker didn't know what he had just said. If he had thought of himself before he spoke he could have saved the bombardment of questions he was about to get.

"The elemental manas inside would allow it to more easily make lightning and combine elemental manas overall. If you want to use it you have to be careful and confident in your skills. Don't make me make them." Walker was quick to cover himself but it was already too late for that.

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Chapter 1746 1746. Engenuity Before His Eyes

"There is a perimeter made for us to enforce. But it will be hard to watch the sky without preparations." The angels that reported to Seran had tried their best to spread the news about the monsters that they may face. However, there was a lot of worry about fighting in the dark now that the sun and nearly set completely.

"That is for the archers to worry about. The elves have better eyesight and the Fel empire's life mages had given buffs to them for night vision. We will trust that for now." Seran was not bringing any problems here. He may have his own beliefs but the wyverns and survival came first. That was just the fact of life right now.

"Understood." The angel soldiers spread themselves out again among the other soldiers. They had to be where they were needed most and would be able to operate in any situation. Meanwhile, Seran turned his eyes to Walker and Gil that were working to cut a few more pieces from what they had said was thunderstruck wood. He had no idea what the point was to do this right before they would be facing dangers.

"You may not trust them yet, but you should be excited for what's about to happen." Mordant had silently appeared next to Seran. Compared to the other dragons, the only two that had actively watched the angels were Ignus and Mordant. The others had been focused on preparing for battles.

"What do you mean? I would not be preparing new weapons before a potential battle. They should sharpen their swords as they are." This was from a veteran fighter. Naturally this advice was sound.

"If they were just another person. Just another weak human, I would say you are right. They should be preparing their strengths rather than what they are doing now. But they are very odd. Walker can fight alongside and against any race. It was strange to see that he was willing to look me in the eye without even the slightest sign of fear. That's one reason that I listened to him. But I saw a lot more. Sit with me and watch what they do. I promise that you will wonder just how they managed it."

Mordant was not giving Seran the option. There was still enough light for Walker and Gil to see what they were doing so he wanted Seran to see the strange way that Walker's party worked. The odd ingenuity and imagination that seemed to grow their strength at every step. The tiniest of quests that appeared to assist them in growing stronger.

"Walker, if I make an arrow from this I need an arrow head that can handle it. Don't you have any mana gems that could fit together?" Gil had been stuck for a while now. He had the wooden arrow shaft that he had taken after Walker had used water to help cut the log in to a smaller part. The massive log was still there but the small portion cut off had been ideal for carving in to arrow shafts.

The fins were easily made from three different feathers that Gil had. He was sure to collect materials whenever he saw the. So he had water sparrow, hollow finch, and flame hawk feathers. The three feathers fire water, wind, and fire elemental affinities so that Gil would be matching the potential to create lighting arrows.

The issue had presented itself when Gil had thought of a way to mix the manas within the arrow head. He had to store elemental mana there so that the arrow shaft made of thunderstruck wood could become the catalyst for creating lighting. But how could the three elemental manas mix without breaking the arrow head when he didn't have a lightning material that was natural?

"The mana gems we have are too large. And the mana crystal shards might not hold up and pierce anything. You would just be hitting things outside the monster with lighting. It would be a stunning effect. That wouldn't be bad." Walker proposed using elemental mana crystal shards instead because that was just the best method from where he sat.

"That's the problem. If the minster has thick skin then a zap of weak lighting is useless. I have to pierce the monster and deliver a concentrated zap to stun or kill it right away." Gil was also thinking of the scales that the wyverns had. They would be harder to break through.

Even if he looked for spots in between scales, the skin a wyverns had was sure to be very tough. They were majority earth type beasts and levied in mountains. Not to mention that they had already been praised as a powerful and very tough monster to face. A small zap was nothing to help him in battle.

"Then we can try breaking a mana gem. But it could go bad." Walker had no idea if making a mana gem shard was possible. It might not hold mana at all.

"We can carve them in to shapes, right? Mostly they get fitted in to armor but what about the ones that are cut to fit in armor already? We saw the wandering blacksmith do it. So why can't I made an arrow head out of them? Then break it in to three parts to make sure they fit together on the arrow shaft. It will have three manas with stronger density than a shard. And it will work better because it's from the same mana gem."

Walker was nodding along. He was very interested to try what Gil had thought up. In theory it all made sense. That was why he immediately pulled out one of the mana gems and handed it over to Gil.

When Gil took out his carving knives, Walker felt a little pain in his heart when he watched one of the mana gems get smashed after Gil made breaking cuts. The pieces were surely the size to be carved by the tougher knives, but Walker still felt sad seeing something he had made and stored for later broken.

"He's carving a gem? Isn't that a unique skill for other systems?" Seran was wondering what he was watching.

"They have been to multiple kingdoms. Met with many people. Gil has met elves with many skills. He might not really understand it but he is closer to a high elf than any other elf. He gathered arcane archer skills from every elven elemental type. Not just one. He is the leader when it come to reuniting the elven race. Even more than the future elf queen, Alma."

The two sat in silence as they witnessed Walker helping shape the crystal with Gil and slowly adding three different manas to it. When it came to adding the strange arrow head to the arrow shaft, Seran wondered just how it would ever work.

"It is longer than it should be. The arrow head isn't pointed but like a crescent shape. Did he make it to stay within a monster instead?" That would make the arrows hard to recover during a battle but most likely reusable more times than any other arrow. But the type of arrow was well known to be used in smaller game hunting since the cost was less.

"He does that for good reason. I learned that he and his family lived on a farm near the wilderness. He learned to hunt at a young age. That's another reason he has different standings with the elves than others." Seran was a little amazed that Mordant had carefully watched the party so much. But it just went to show how much the dragons and humans had bonded without it being said.

"Now that's what I wanted you to see." Walker helped Gil channel the mana at first so that he would be able to use the eternal orb and his own mana control to stop anything bad from happening. But what the two managed to do was more than that.

There was a small yellow flicker around the arrow shaft and the air in the area seemed to become charged. Many of the soldiers stopped to watch and the elves returned immediately with excitement.

This was the first prototype lightning arrow ever made. It was the first that didn't use a purely skill. It was an actual arrow that any arcane archer could create with the right materials. A massive breakthrough in and archery together.

"They did it just like that? It only took them a few hours." Seran was unsure what else there was to say.

"Exactly what we have seen. Did you think that royal dragons would easily accept a human as one of us? Or did you think that they had power over us? No, we saw a future. Those humans were able to accept everything around them and open a future. I expect you to soon see more and change your ways here. If Genesis is dragged in to war, dragons will rampage." Both a warning and a promise were made by Mordant before he walked over to see what had been made as well.

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Chapter 1747 1747. Test The Lighting

Walker and Gil had not seen a single thing when it came to Seran and Mordant having a conversation. The other royal dragons had somewhat noticed the conversation but let it be since Mordant had been more active with Genesis already anyways. It wasn't their business.

"So you made an arrow to create lighting? Will it work tonight?" Mordant's sudden questions topped the murmurs of the elven archers around Walker and Gil.

"It should, I've gotten good at this. I bet I could make ten more before the sun is set and we can't see anything." Gil knew that he was setting a tougher goal for himself but that was fine. It would be an ideal test of the arrows in the night against potential cave crawlers and flying spiders.

There was also the fact that even with the life mage's buff skills for night vision, he was sure that he wouldn't be able to carve the mana crystals carefully enough.

"Gil, save the mana gem dust. I want to see if that can be used for anything. I think it could be used for repairs. Mixing it with a resin or wax to help fix things back together. It could help runes too. I think mana crystal dust is used like that when making certain rune ink to paint temporary runes."

This was mostly theory based on what Walker had heard. He didn't know that he was more on the spot than he thought though. "Rune painters usually use mana crystal dust from grinding used mana crystals. There were some painters like that coming to Genesis."

"Was it common or were they a small group?" Walker hadn't even known this but he had been pretty busy.

"There were seven that came from the dwarves' kingdom to study origin runes. They are similar to scroll making system users and rune carvers or scribes. But they are an art based system. Rune painters even make small temporary runes to ward off the cold." It appeared that Mordant wanted share this more because he was proud of what he knew.

"So you want me to just save it all? Got it." Gil half responded while carving at a much faster speed. His actions showed that he had really gained a high skill in carving. Even carving crystals was beyond what the average person would be able to do unless they had studied from higher level carvers.

"If you learn rune painting you can create me a few things. I was interested to see the inspirational paintings. Runes that helped relax the mind. Temporary but calming. It could assist in learning about darkness mana." Mordant's sly way of getting Walker thinking about something new seemed to work.

"I can look in to it. For now, let's focus on the fact that the sun is down." Walker's tone changed as he looked at the life mage near him. "Give me a longer buff so I can see better. I might be moving too much to get another one later."

The feeling of the buff being reapplied was like opening his eyes wider. The dimness around disappeared and a slightly green hue entered his eyes. It was just like his energy had changed in his body to facilitate this buff too. As if it came from within. But Walker already knew about life mana and how it should be in every living being.

The reason that Walker had stopped immediately was because he saw a few of the angel soldiers stand up. That alone was signal enough to pay attention. They had their hard earned instincts for these situations.

When one of the angels took to the air slightly he was brandishing his sword wreathed in a slightly brown glow. By the time the angel soldier had lifted and slashed it, Walker saw some of the earth suddenly leap up and join the sword. The slash down sent the earth on the sword like a thrown blade.

The style of fighting was interesting since it was similar to other styles that he had seen. However, the mana had been stored while he sat on the ground. The angels' wings were how they absorbed the mana so he could use it quickly.

That might be the thing that Walker started to remember most. He would be able to ask the angels to attack in faster ways than some of the other races. It was similar to the demons but the demons had power and the angels had speed.

However that didn't matter right now. What mattered was the fact that the attack from the angel had just slashed a wing off a flying spider. It had already hit the ground where Midnight had growled before leaping on it to slash it to pieces further.

The way that Midnight had attacked shocked the fallen spider shocked the angels. None had expected the tearing sharpness and speed she had. But what was even more shocking was the fact that she had easily broken the harder shell of the spider legs.

They were clearly sharp and the angels even had some wounds from fighting them before. It was a dangerous encounter for anyone. The sharpened legs and fangs would cut their skin leaving very harsh wounds.

But all of that had been useless against Midnight's scales. She had resisted the cutting attacks of the flying spider while it flailed in death. She had even cut through it in seconds. The angels knew the dragons had power but had not expected this degree.

Since they had heard that Midnight was a young dragon and was very small compared to what they heard and saw when Genesis arrived, they expected that the dragons would only be strong when adults. Clearly they had been wrong and underestimated Midnight greatly.

Now that they understood, the Genesis forces were much more important to them in this battle. The small monsters here were nothing but the wyverns would be troublesome. "Ah, there's one."

Walker spotted another flying spider and created a frost whip much faster than he could before. He had used a small amount of natural mana to enhance it and whipped it out shooting ice needles in to the darkness.

The life mages boost had massively helped his vision and now he was able to spot the differences in color. The dark shell and skin of the flying spiders' wings were lighter than the black of night. This difference showed Walker a clear target.

When the angry hiss of a spider echoes out after Walker's attack, onyx followed it up. His size became larger shocking the angel soldiers again. When his tail slapped the slowed and injured flying spider from the air, they could only watch it get crushed.

Two single spiders had been defeated without issues. The following alarm being raised made all the forces prepared for attacks. It was the night and the silence of the large forest was broken so soon.

Anything that could hear was already being attracted to them. "Move aside, I see something in the tree there." Gil had better eyesight in general as an archer. Yet, he could see even better with the life mage buff.

His arrow was already drawn along with a glimmer of lighting. Gil wasn't waiting to test his new arrow. With a glint of a smile he released the arrow.

All the elves watched as the arrow flew through the darkness. It was brighter and showed off its strength before lodging in to something darker In the trees.

The screech and immediate burst of yellow light was followed by a small pop of thunder. Many of the nearby flying spiders found themselves shocked and stunned but everyone had seen the cave crawler illuminated as well.

Its odd body and larger mouth were high kites along with the eyes. But that one was as good as dead. The lightning had left a darker spot in its body and the fall from the tree had cracked its bones.

This was the end for it but that was that and there was nothing more that the cave crawler could do. Especially because the slight bang had just scared many of the monsters away. However, it had attracted more.

There were many of the other flying spiders recovering. But with the life mages buffs many soldiers and archers were attacking. The flying spiders barely noticed the wooden spikes set up around them too. The camp was defended well causing spiders to fly right in to spikes.

Remey and Su were prepare for intercept where they could protecting any healer. But the time that Alice started dining it was already over for the flying spiders that had been deafened by the shocking sound of thunder from Gil's arrow. Everyone was being bugged by the fairest of lights due to Alice's careful and quiet song.

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Chapter 1748 1748. Welcome Seran

The next flying spider that dove down met Su's shield bash head on. The cracking sound of the flying spider's carapace proved that she was more powerful than many had thought. Especially the angel soldiers that had not imagined for her to be able to move so quickly to defend a life mage.

The warmth that everyone felt as Alice's soft song had reached their ears was accompanied by the slight glow of light that Alice could control. She had managed to manipulate the moonlight to help them all see the ground. But the incredible control that they all saw was that the light had remained dim and low to the ground. It would not be attracting any other monsters.

The sound of something ignoring all the attempts any monster could make to be silent soon caught the attention of Onyx. His tail whipped out between two spikes slapping away a slightly larger cave crawler. It didn't seem to stop it though. One of the angel soldiers that had just received a buff from a life mage flapped his wings to finish the job.

Beneath him, three dragonkin were moving as well. Without any shouts or signals, the three dragonkin moved to each side of the cave crawler. The moment that the angel let gravity take control was when they attacked. All their swords struck at the same time causing the cave crawler to become trapped by the attacks.

The final attack came from Walker whipping out with the frost whip. The tip hit the cave crawler's open mouth. The result was a sudden freezing effect that caused it to freeze from the mouth down to its stabbed body. Before the ice could spread, the swords were removed and the dropped jaw of the angel was seen for a second. He had never fought with people who didn't know his style but worked so well on instinct.

Before any other of the flying spiders could flap down, there were three arrows that were shot out. They all had wind around them. Gil was right next to the archers that had fired them. They were the wind tupe wither spike arrows that he had made long ago. He had shared some of his arrows with the elves he had worked with so that they could all get a better feel for improving them. The result had been a better carved wither spike arrow.

This speed and accuracy was another shock to the angels because their archers were never that amazing. They were better able to create some arrows out of elemental manas but that was that. They were better for getting above an enemy and raining arrows down. But the elven archers could move and fire with extreme accuracy. They could also use elemental arrows with a better degree of control.

"Midnight, incoming spider!" Remey had jumped up off Midnight's back to punch down a spider. The result had been a sickening crack but the slight flame that had appeared on her fists had shown her another spider near them in the air.

Midnight had heard the warning and used her own wings to leap in to the air. The boost had brought her right in front of the flying spider. It had absolutely no time to dodge as Midnight's maw closed on its wing snapping it apart. The following attack was a small breath of flame that roasted the spider to a crisp.

Seran could only watch as so many monsters were attracted but so many were defeated before they could actually attack. It was slowly looking like a hunt rather than a defensive setting. This wasn't a camping spot, this was a baiting spot to collect materials and create the perfect gathering of warriors to warm up and train.

"We aren't fighting, we are getting to know each other," Seran mumbled this out loud attracting the attention of Ignus who had begun to growl slightly. He loved the heat in the air as his dragonkin had begun to get fired up for the battle. They were enjoying themselves but the dragons were also being affected. They had been waiting for the wyverns slowly but surely. Battle was in a dragon's blood.

"What did you think would happen? Can your soldiers keep up or should we send our dragonkin to do all the work?" Ignus gave Seran a harsh glare that pushed Seran to draw a secondary sword.

"Then I will enter the battle without holding anything back. I need to prepare myself as well." Hearing that Seran was finally jumping in to battle properly, all the dragons looked at him. They wanted to see the true extent of a real angel soldier. One with the backing of an archangel. One that had the power to command others.

As the second sword was swung, a large force behind it slashed a flying spider in half. Seran had been a strong soldier but as he had risen in the ranks he had faced a hurdle. The Rize empire wanted the strongest of the strong to maintain their leadership. It was their numbers and strength that was able to hold the border during wars. Since Seran had seen some of these fights in real life he had been able to see where the numbers had let them down.

Therefore, as the numbers had always been their reason for winning, Seran had focused on strength. Those he trained as a higher commander and himself were always trained in strength. Individual strength that would let them be able to face multiple opponents at once. That was also how he had become a commander that controlled multiple teams that could handle wyverns.

"Team one, take down the tree to the right. There are fifteen spiders waiting for ambush. Team three, take to the sky and ambush the four cave crawlers fighting over the fallen spiders. Team five, split up and help the life mages. The Fel empire expects them unharmed." The orders were followed immediately.

With the additional order changing how the angels moved, the elves reacted as well. They fell back even more and started to take out the targets they could spot in the trees only. The dragonkin and demi-humans had returned to the circle of pointed branches made to pierce the spiders and cave crawlers. With the defensive line reinforced again, it was a simple matter to start cleaning through anything on the ground.

It appeared that the sounds attracting more monsters were becoming less and less since the monsters in the area had understood that a larger predator was around. Little did they know that it was actually a group of powerful warriors and not a predator. Yet, they could be called predators with the strength they had.

"Light fires!" Walker made the call as soon as five minutes had passed them by without a single monster appearing. The after dark attack had been many in number but the incredible teamwork that had flowed

once the angels and the Genesis forces had understood each other had stopped everything. Without a hitch, many of the human soldiers took to starting small fires to light the area. The life mages stopped their buffing skills and focused on healing. Alice also changed her song.

The light that rose up from the ground and became much larger was healing every small scratch or bruise that had appeared. Almost no one was injured due to the shielding of everyone the entire time. The life mages night vision buff had been the key to this.

Every flying spider that had been defeated was being gathered up along with the cave crawlers. These monsters hunted at night but were just so so compared to the strength that the group had. "Gil, you should be able to use the spider's bodies for arrows. They have a hollow leg once you get rid of the inner muscles. That shell could be a makeshift arrow." The idea was enough to get all the elves started on breaking down the bodies.

"Remey, focus on the cave crawlers. You should be able to make many different antidote potions against their odd way of poisoning things." Remey grimaced but used her dark red alchemy fires to begin making what she could.

The sudden change was too much proof that this was not a simple group. To go from battle seamlessly in to resting and preparation was something only those that trained for years could do. "Seran, that was very impressive. You should be able to split the wyvern scales, right?" Walker had seen the powerful strikes that easily split spiders in half.

"I can manage on my own but I am still not a match for an adult wyvern."

Seran did not boast or brag. He was honest.

"That's fine, you can handle weaker ones but when it comes to adults you can be the perfect attacker while others distract. I look forward to working with you." Walker offered his hand to shake Seran's. This was the official welcome he had been waiting for since he had no idea what Seran could do in battle.

"I am interested to see more of your ." Seran gestured to the frozen flying spiders and cave crawlers with an impressed look. Walker had intentionally used the frost whip with extra mana to freeze the monsters in place. It was a show of control and power.

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Chapter 1749 1749. Remy Strategy

In the grand scheme of things, the attack by monsters at night had been small. But it had done much more than just defeat a few monsters. It had let any larger monsters around know that a stronger being had entered their forest.

Many people would be worried about this attracting territorial monsters. However, the angels had already explained that in this area of the Rize empire that the monsters were fewer in number. The normal instincts to battle for territory would be stomped out by the fact that they needed to survive. It would be surprising how the survival instinct took over any instinct to protect a small territory in a massive forest.

The elven scouts were moving around with mordant's dragonkin. They had confirmed this a few hours before sunrise. "Since there are a lot of monsters leaving the area, then we will have a better chance moving forward." Gil was happy with this since would be able to focus on refining the arrows he was making.

"I was more worried about the terrain moving up. We already saw that massive tree that was struck by lightning. If we encounter more fallen trees of that size..." Su was the one that had the worries over this. It was mainly because she was sure that their movement would significantly decline due to these obstacles.

"As the forest becomes thicker, you will not want to fly either. That is why from this point on we are marching." Seran had made his point as well. If the forest thickened then everyone would need to be on watch for what might pop out or just in general block their way.

"This forest is larger and will get thicker with bushes and other plants. That we already know, but what about as we climb the mountains soon? Will there be more rocks and a combination or is it a dead set change from forest to mountain?" Walker's question was valid. He had no knowledge of what the terrain might change to be like.

"They are indeed a mix. The rocks will jut in to the forest causing many falls and unexpected small cliffs. But this also creates a decent place to get water as we travel. It is also home to more cave crawlers before we enter the real mountains. Here we will need to rely on hiking and some earth to check the route for safety." Seran's knowledge was just what Walker needed to make sure that they were traveling in safety.

"Then from here on out we will need the scouts to pull back and stay closer to us. Any earth mages we have will pair up with scouts. Su, can you handle organizing them?"

"It can be done easily. I want to see what buffs the life mages can give them that will help us sense the dangers beneath our feet too." Walker nodded. It was a good idea. The life mages had a very wide range of buffs that had already been proven to help them at night. If they had a body sense buff or similar buff, it could help them with the feeling of the ground beneath them.

"Hiking the mountains will be fine. I can put my earth affinity knuckles on and try to dig in to the cliff more. Just leave me as an anchor." Remey volunteering this was a little of a surprise but as the group took the lead and let scouts ahead, Walker started to catch on that Remey had been feeling a bit useless. Her lack of ranged attack had been an issue.

"What about the progress with your explosive potions? Any new ones that you have been able to learn lately?" Walker knew that Remey was definitely feeling that she was not able to help the best that she could. It was written on her face.

First, they had been on the ship for some time where Remey had been unable to do anything other than alchemy. That was nice in the sense that she had made some major advancements in her potions. She had also learned to make specific antidote potions for some poisons that monsters naturally had within their bodies. But that had been the extent of things.

Besides the training she had done, Remey had stayed stagnant in most things because of her lack of swimming, long distance battle, and general lack of flight. Even Su was better able to move against the threats around since they had gotten to Sigil.

"I have a few potions that can be used but they are dangerous. If I use them in the wrong place at the wrong time I will hurt everyone instead of helping. Take a poison fog potion. Once I toss it and break it, the potion evaporates and becomes a numbing mist that causes everything that breathes it to pass out. Great against groups but if the wind moves..."

This was a lot more thought out than Walker had expected. He had thought that Remey was just silent because he was annoyed but he had actually been very wrong. She was contemplating how to best use the potions she had to fight while they were on the move. It wasn't just that, Remey was trying to diversify her alchemy and close combat skills. Lately she had just been an alchemist.

"If you use it on a wyvern you might be able to slow it down. Let alone a group of them in a cave..." Walker thought that Remey was going to be able to do much more than he expected.

"That was what I was thinking. I have the antidotes already made. It would be easy to add it to some fabric we could tie over our mouths and noses. That way we will be able to cause the wyverns to weaken without using skills at all. Then I can dig in to a spot on the mountain and take them by surprise. How often do you think a wyvern looks up? They think they are strong like dragons. Dragons never look up either. They are arrogant."

This last comment was heard by Rise who opened her mouth to respond before realizing that Remey was incredibly and undeniably correct. She had always been the highest in the sky to get closer to the sun. to absorb and meditate about the light elemental mana around her. Why would she look up any higher? It was stunning to know that a major weakness had existed within her and every dragon's actions for so long that it was an accidental habit not to look up.

"So you want to smoke out the caves or ruins with potions, we will all have prepared masks with antidotes, and then you want to climb a wall of a cave using your earth affinity knuckles so you can drop down on a wyvern and beat it senseless?" Walker shook his head with a smirk. He should have expected this from Remey. She had never changed. She was just a bit more strategic.

"That's the rough plan. I can have the angels pretend to be bats and follow me too." Her evil grin proved that Remey was more or less saying that she wanted to take the angels to be her new battle partners.

"Then do it. Talk with Seran. I'm sure that he and his angel soldiers will like your tactics. Onyx should like them too since he could bind a wyvern while everyone else pushes in to defeat it." Remey's eyes glistened a little as she heard Walker telling her to take over. It was clear that she had been worried that the tactic would seem too dangerous.

However, Walker could tell that the tactic would work. It was a gut feeling mostly but also the fact that he trusted Remey and her potions. If she said that they would numb and slow something, he believed her. If she said she would trust her strength to climb to the top of a cave, he would trust her. And if she was planning on knocking a wyvern senseless with her fists, then hopefully the wyverns found religion and prayed for their protection. Remey's real punches were no joke.

"Up ahead is a larger dip. We are going to bypass it and take a right path along it. Watch out for the edges." The scouts passed on this information changing the course of the walk they were taking. From what Walker could see, the large dip wasn't too much. But there was stagnant water at the bottom. These spots would become larger and more common the higher they moved.

Even though the entire force didn't feel they were moving higher, they certainly were. The size of the trees proved this to be true. They Were receiving more runoff from the mountains. More nutrients. They could all say that they had finally entered the real depths of the mountain base forest of massive trees.

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Chapter 1750 1750. Seeds And Rotting Wood

Stagnant water had seemed to pool here and there as Walker looked at the random dips. "What causes these random dips in the ground? It doesn't look like it's shifting from the mountains shifting. I would assume trees, but these places seem to be missing trees." Since Walker wanted to know, Seran and the other angels that heard his questions were fine with explaining the difference in the terrain. They had come through here many times and needed the knowledge to survive.

"It's actually from where trees used to be. The monsters and insects eat away tree stumps from fallen trees. Then the space is washed away by water. After all the roots and stump are gone, this is left. Rocks are exposed making larger and larger pits as more water pools."

"I see, so that means that the roots and stump must be pretty nutritious to those monsters and insects." Walker was thinking about how the trees must grow and knew that because of all the nutrients from the mountain and in the soil would cause the tree itself to be the perfect food. "That must be why we don't see many smaller trees either."

"If there are not many smaller trees it is because things eat them. I wonder what they are." Gil overheard this and wished that he had Alma there. He was sure that she would have more insight about the way that the forest grew and survived. The trees were massive after all and he had a feeling she would be able to answer more questions about their seeds.

"This forest is also very fast growing. We have tried to take the wood for a few generations. The Rize empire used to get all the wood we could from here before we have trouble with the wyverns. The forest is self sufficient. Any tree cut down often is replaced with two or three in the next year." Seran had a good appreciation of nature in general.

"Midnight avoid the water there. It's not worth the risk." Walker caught Midnight exploring the smaller dip that they were passing. He could see pooled water and some rotting wood in it. In response, Midnight hissed at him before she began scratching at the rotten stump and revealing small brown seeds.

"Those are seeds from that tree? What tree is it Walker?" Remey had seen the small interaction and wanted the seeds immediately. It wasn't because she wanted to grow them but just like Gil, she wanted to show them to Alma. She had been with Alice, Alma, and Su when examining some herbs and talking about healing potions. As far as she was concerned, she would be helping out here.

Walker gave Midnight a slightly annoyed look. He wasn't happy that she had scratched at a rotting log in a place that could definitely have something dangerous hiding in it. His face told Midnight everything and she stepped back a little.

'Swamp oak seed

Even though these trees can grow everywhere, they require a very watery and muddy area to take root. The seeds will be stored in the center of the tree so that when it lives its fifty year life cycle and rots, the seeds can use the body of the tree to grow.

As water pools and eventually overflows the space where the swamp oak grew, they will float to other puddles and in the streams to find a place to take root. The wood is surprisingly soft and great to be used for growing certain grubs if one is to tame insect type monsters.

The wood is also very buoyant until water logged so it is ideal for temporary fishing bobbers or small floating platforms. It also has a great deal of nutrients that helps smaller plants grow. These smaller plants will hide the smaller seedlings until they are able to go through a massive growth spurt. They can reach a height of one hundred feet after fifty years. Then it will become top heavy and fall.'

The all around appraisal was very informational. The uses for the swamp oak was large since it could make things as simple as fishing bobbers to floating rafts. Even better way the fact that they could be used to add nutrients to the soil after it was already rotten and water logged. But the true key was that the tree could live for a set space of life; fifty years. That made it predictable as long as it was protected.

"So it can be used to help us grow herbs and be sold around Genesis. We can give these to Gil's mother." Remey didn't see much use for her other than helping herbs grow better. But this was a good thing. She wouldn't hound him to grab even more seeds since there would be people with better systems that could grow them.

Midnight looked at Walker with her own glare this time. He had shared the appraisal and she was sure that she had found something decent. "Don't give me that look. What if there were monsters' eggs or parasites or something in there? What if that pool of water around it had something venomous?" Walker was a little harsh but Midnight was being rebellious and shook her head at him.

"Walker is right. I expect you to have him check the next pool before you risk anything. You are a dragon but that doesn't mean you are invincible." Su chimed in and Midnight lowered her head. If Su was joining Walker then it was true that Midnight had made a poor judgment of risks.

"Neither of you will want to explore the upcoming dips. This portion of the forest had a storm pass three years ago. It is more dangerous but less large monsters live around it so we will follow through with our march." Seran had talent he map out to show Walker. Everyone gathered around and saw what he was speaking about.

"We know of the storm as well. There were many along the border that had to flee from it in our kingdom." The crystal healer had listened carefully since he was very curious about what the others were doing. It was also slower for the whalers since everyone was just marching along right now. No one needed healing.

It also went to say that the life mages, healers, and crystal mage were researchers in their own right. They wanted to see what Genesis had to offer. They had also been instructed to study the actions of genesis soldiers since all of the Fel empire was interested in what genesis had to offer them that they had yet to share. It would be an important report.

"The storm traveled through. It was thought to be a failed experiment before we realized that a typhoon tiger had been born in the area. A very rare monster that will ignore most things before it ascends to the wind elemental plane. It only comes here to defend its young. It had run in to monsters and sent a tornado to fend them off."

"I'm sorry, but a typhoon tiger?" Gil looked at the crystal healer as if he had just heard another language.

"Yes, a typhoon tiger. There are many different monsters that come to this continent to have their children at certain times. Just because a being goes to an elemental plane does not mean they can't return. We also have summoners but they are too rare in the fel empire. We have yet to attempt research within the elemental planes. We lack the strength to go there." Now, this was news. Not even Seran didn't seem surprised to hear this.

"Genesis is just beginning to touch on pure elemental manas and the fact that the elemental planes can be reached. But it seems that the Sigil continent is larger and has more access to the elemental planes because of this. We should look in to the information we have later." Walker made it clear that this was something both empires could use to trade information with them as their own cards.

Doing so did one thing, it gave the empires a little power and an important way for them to feel more equal with Genesis since Genesis had many unique things they had shown off already. But it also showed that Genesis was willing to learn in everything.

"Regardless of causes, the trees here fell sooner than they should have and this area was plagued by some monsters immediately. Now it has many pools and sharper stones exposed. Not to mention falls in to the pools from the top layer of soil." Seran reiterated the dangers while the soldiers passed the warning down the line. This left the party and especially the dragons to think about the elemental planes and what information they might be able to learn.