

Master 1801

Chapter 1801 1801. Extinct Or Not?

The thoughts of a different and a mostly unknown monster potentially lurking beneath their feet was something that was able to be pushed away fairly quickly. It wasn't because everyone was not afraid of it. It was because they had to keep moving. Worrying about a single monster wasn't what they had to do right now. Instead, they had to worry about what they might find ahead.

There was a trail to follow, one that was definitely more than anyone had expected. "Ventus, your addition to the sand tornado seemed to be digging up more than I thought." Walker pointed out the earth crystals that had just been found by a few of the soldiers.

"It was not the plan to increase the strength. You can't say you are not happy to find those things though." Ventus looked at Waker. There was a little smile playing on her face. She knew that many who were finding the uncovered items lost to the desert were happy to do so. But everyone was also enjoying the clear path to follow rather than climbing over dunes here and there like before.

pαndα---nova| com "It is a little fun. I am learning a lot more and faster. But I am worried about what else might have been dug up by the sand tornado. We were originally going to move around to the opposite end and pass by one of the towers here in the desert. Now we are coming from the opposite side to follow the tornado. When it collides with the ruins, there's no telling what might happen."

"What do you mean? More will be uncovered. We already see it. The tornado is putting sand around for at least a mile. But where it hits is nearly swept away. The sands we are walking on are much denser too." Ventus was acting like a parent explaining something anyone should have seen. She was being nice but it was also a little condescending.

"That's what I don't like. We are going to show off more of whatever the ruins are and we might uncover more undead than we want. We might be fighting right away when we get there. The only hope I have is that the sun will still be high in the sky." This seemed to catch Ventus a little. She had regained enough energy to move without any soldiers directly around her. Not that her dragonkin didn't keep near her.

There were times that Walker wondered why the royal dragons had not brought their dragon champions or the draconic guardians. Unfortunately, they had left those in charge along with their

elders. Their territories were a very important part of being a royal dragon. Having the most loyal being in charge while they were gone was required. It was much more important to them than even the risks they were taking by traveling here. They could be replaced but their territories could be lost.

It was an interesting thought but it really spoke to the culture of dragons. They were easier to understand the longer that Walker was around them. He also noted that the dragonkin were just as loyal, if not more toward the royal dragons. Therefore, there was always someone moving to protect the royal dragons who were much more powerful and could defend from even more than the dragonkin could.

"Care to tell me what that is?" Ventus interrupted Walker's thoughts with a single question. She had been observing things around them as well. The large channel of dug out sand had not only revealed a few ancient things, but also some useful monster parts. Ventus saw one such potentially valuable find and had to ask.

The small black spike of wood sticking out from the ground was what Ventus had pointed to. Without much hesitation, Walker moved toward it only to find that it was still buried deeper than he thought. He couldn't just pull it free and needed to add a little manipulation to the sands. The earth mana could help him draw it up.

What was revealed was nothing of what anyone expected. The all around appraisal spoke clearly about what they had found. But that didn't mean that everyone understood it. Not that it would make sense in a general way anywhere or any time. This was not the place for such a monster to be found.

'Blackwood treant head

The blackwood treant is a desert growing monster. It is known to be born from the blackwood tree that grows mostly under the sands. It will only rise to the surface during the rare rain storms of the desert. They can be dormant for a hundred years without water until they gain enough to sprout and use their gathered nutrients for a massive growth spurt.

This blackwood treant head is long dead. Inside are unique pockets of condensed blackwood filled with nutrients great for growing plants at a higher quality. Unfortunately, the wood is fire resistant and will not burn easily. But this was a good thing since many ancient tribes once used them to make primitive forging tools.'

"It's a type of treant head. And apparently, there are trees that remain buried under desert sands waiting for the rare rainstorm to grow. I wonder how long everything here has been buried. It says that the blackwood trees only hibernate for a hundred years. They might be extinct or almost there with the way the desert is. With the odd white sands soaking up any possible moisture." Walker's theory seemed to make sense. It was sad though.

"That is actually something I can enlighten you about. We discovered juvenile blackwood sprouts a few years ago. A researcher managed to put them in a state of dormancy and bring them to active states now and then. We are able to keep a living species for the time being. Our Fel empire is not going to allow any form of plant, herb, or monster to go extinct like that." Ethan made sure to speak his praise of his own empire.

"We of the Rize empire would not allow that either. However, you are forcing them to exist in different places than they should. You should keep them in their natural environment. The desert and not your research areas. Not your fake greenhouse made to pretend as a desert. With your potions and prodding." with the Rize empire angels immediately pushing against the Fel empire angels, everyone learned a little more.

There wasn't just a difference in how the two empires thought when it came to elemental manas. It also came to how they operated. The Rize empire did not take kindly to the fact that the Fel empire would keep and isolate things within their research. Stopping them from their natural progression with potions and other skills. But the Fel empire saw this as necessary for research and species preservation.

"If the blackwood tree can be returned to the desert naturally without the influence of the weird expanding curse that is going on here, then I am fine with it. But if they can not do so, then it might not be worth it. There are limits and lines to everything. If you two can find a balance in your conversation, keep talking. If you refuse to listen to one another at all, then don't waste any time." Su spoke up with a slight growl in her voice.

It wasn't that Su was being mean. Instead, she was trying to encourage them to remain talking. The growl in her voice was mostly for show. It was a warning that if this was just baseless arguing that she would make sure it ended. A forceful, but clear way to see if the two empires could reach any form of balance in their ideal.

Everyone that heard her speak had a little more respect for her. The two empire's angels looked away trying to avoid her. However, the Genesis forces, especially the dragonkin, looked at Su with a better light in their eyes. They believed that Su was already amazing in other ways. Her level headed intrusion

in a conversation like this was just like their leaders though. A fair threat with a fair outcome. It was respectable.

"It was a good find. A different monster we have never seen and a different tree we have never seen. Ventus, I think you might have caused more mysteries than you might imagine." Walker laughed a little after he stored the treant head away. He was certain that they would see more things like this. He also had some hope they might find the cores or dormant slides of these monsters.

"This entire place is a mystery. It's hiding a lot. The wind currents are odd here and I want to understand them too." Ventus seemed very glad to see something unusual. For a dragon of her age, she had seen a lot. It was nice to feel curious and a bit of wonder.

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Chapter 1802 1802. Nature To Death

The movement through the carved out path of sand was proving to be much faster than expected. In just an hour of walking, the group had been able to cover a substantial distance. There was even the bonus of the sun being blocked by some of the higher dunes that had been built up by the tornado.

This shade gave the soldiers a welcome rest from the constant heat. It also was the perfect chance for everyone to drink water and snack on something. This was better yet because a lot of the monsters that had been seen were either defeated already or completely injured so they could be easily beaten. The few that had been unharmed rushed away after seeing such a large force moving through the desert.

The sand tornado was a very dangerous force of nature, however, with danger came fortune as well. The things that had been presented to them were too good. Many earth elemental mana crystals had been harvested along with other random chunks of ore. Some of the soldiers had even brought ancient golden coins that held small runes. They were roughly made proving that the quality of forging for many years ago was lesser but still decent enough to make something.

The insights from these ancient pieces here and there were very telling. It proved that this entire area of the outer circle of the desert had once been well off. It had not been a desert at all. It had been a forest or a prairie of sorts. Plenty of water and natural growth. Enough to have different monster bones and animal bones being found too. It had been radically different too many years ago.

While this was a little sad, time was that way. Nothing should stay the same forever, things would adapt and change as time moved on. This was why everyone was always trying to grow and push for new knowledge. The world was full of mysteries and with time, new things were learned.

"It looks like another pile of old bricks and stones. I wonder if this is just another thing blown by winds." Remey took a little extra pep to her step to get to the pile of stones. But when she made it there, she found that it was still partially buried in the sands. "Hey Walker, this is another place to check out with your appraisal!" she realized it was more than what she had thought and had to get him to take a real look at it.

"Sure thing. I wonder what this might be." The stones were somewhat carved but had been damaged through the winds and sands over the years. Any runes were far faded to the point that they were unable to be read or understood. But looking at the stones as whole left Walker wondering. The all around appraisal gave him a lot more insight.

'Fallen waypoint temple

This ancient temple was once left for those traveling to their main temple of worship. It was a resting point for worshippers and travelers alike. Many would come here and pray to their gods and even make some offerings. It was a place for peace in a way until it was altered by ulterior beliefs.

The red colorations on the stones are ancient blood that had stained the stone beyond what should still be left. It is a permanent marking of cruelty and evil. The changes from worship to a goddess of nature to a god of death left behind the desecrated fallen temples like this. There is nothing worth uncovering such a relic of an evil past.'

While the words were very strong, Walker still said them out loud. He was sure that it would be important for everyone to understand what they were dealing with. The level of danger that came with such an ancient culture changing their views.

However, this did enlighten them yet again. The small part of this fallen temple had been able to tell them that the race that lived here had once worshipped a goddess of nature. One that would be seen as good. One that definitely had to do with the growth of their ancient culture and race.

Unfortunately, it highlighted that blood had permanently stained the stones and bricks of this fallen temple. That the worship had become twisted and broken as some had worshipped death over everything else. That meant that the offerings had become sacrifices of evil. A very poor and nightmare causing thought.

"So, I don't like any of what you just said. Can we just get rid of it?" Remey was looking at the bricks and wondering how much might still be hidden under the sand. Her slight battle stance made it seem that she was waiting for an undead or a monster to just leap out of the sand and start a battle right then and there.

"I think we can just seal it back in sand and pass right on through. That seems best. It even said in the all around appraisal not to uncover it, right?" Gil had come behind them and listened carefully. He also thought it best not to go looking for something that literally warned of trouble.

"I agree. Every horror story I read in the library always had someone that ignored the basic facts. And the appraisal I did were part of those facts." Walker pulled the sands around the bricks he could see using his high earth sculpting skill. The sand started to condense as well causing the bricks to be left under a mass of harder sand.

While this might not make it remain covered forever, he could only hope that anyone else that found it would let it rest until it eventually returned to nature fully. "Goods riddance. I don't need any unhappy undead or cursed whatever with us. We already have to catch up to a literal sand tornado!" Remey seemed to fully support everything as she glared at the Fel angels who appeared to linger at the area Walker had covered up too much. Her harsh look did the trick and everyone moved forward well enough.

As they did though, more stones appeared here and there. They highlighted what had once been parts of a winding and crossing path of stones. This was only a small section here and there. The way that the land had clearly moved was enough to make the path they saw change here and there to avoid things. These things were found by Walker as he walked.

Whether it was part of broken stone or sand blasted trees, he could tell they were the reason why there were paths that appeared so oddly made. Many trails in the wilderness would follow the flow of nature and not be carved out. This was not like the dwarves who could make solid paths of cut stone toward a palace. That was more recent technology and than had ever been used. Especially since the kingdoms in Genesis had organized to make this happen.

The trails being found showed that the culture had been much less advanced than they had believed. Especially with the added worship of gods and beliefs in nature and death. While many knew that gods and goddesses were a thing, it wasn't that they needed someone or something to worship them. The dragons had once been revered as such but had put that to an end since they were not some unyielding force of nature.

But that brought up even more thoughts of what might have been around to cause a society to alter its beliefs from nature to death. That was a dramatic change. Nature was the growth of new things while death was, well, death.

"There are too many things we need to understand. I can see that there is a relationship with shadows and death. My darkness affinity leads me to it as a potential. That's why some of the younger dragons falter." Mordant was unhappy seeing this as a potential here.

"All dragons falter in ways. Even my light dragons have once become undead or lesser things. They were cleansed but it is more than a loss of morals." Rise saw that Mordant was questioning things. However, so was she. For a change like this to happen was drastic. Therefore, it should have been caused by an important puzzle piece they were missing.

"I will ask Walker to do more appraisals. We should gather more information. I don't want the ruins we find to hold the darkness dominator dragon ruins. If that's the case, I may have to destroy them instead of learning from them. I will not have our history tainted." Mordant's promise made Rise respect him much more. She saw him as her opposite but she had never doubted his standing. This just reinforced her feelings of respect to a fellow royal dragon that upheld their race.

Chapter 1803 1803. Natural Changes

Mordant's sudden questions about appraisals didn't catch Walker off guard at all. He had expected that one of the dragons would be asking him more questions at some point. There was a sure chance that the dragon blood that had been passed down in to whatever ancient race this was would have some effect on their history.

However, Walker also understood that this was just part of things. If there were dragon ruins somewhere under the sands, it would be imperative that the dragons found it. The undead in the ruins the army was marching to might hide secrets that involved this. It was just something everyone understood.

The Fel angels were paying close attention to the fact that Mordant had begun to carefully listen to every single all around appraisal. This had made them sure that the dragons might share some of their love for researching. They didn't have enough information to fully understand why Mordant was curious about all of this.

"I think that whatever is going on, it won't be the cause of dragons. You said that there is always the chance that a dragon might become undead or a rogue dragon can become evil. It's fine since there have also been unique dragons like the bone dragons. Midnight's father should have been one." Walker looked at Mordant. He wanted him to understand that Walker would not at all be holding him or the dragons accountable for the actions of others.

"Basically, those causing issues now aren't even around. Even if they are undead, there is no way that they have the same mentality after who knows how long. Their minds will be warped. Even if they were the greatest of heroes, they might not be able to act as one today." This was just Walker trying to put Mordant at ease. Yet, it did make Mordant relax a bit.

"There are light crystals too." Alice had been mainly focusing on those that had begun to suffer from dehydration or heat related ailments. It had been a lot to handle since some of the Genesis forces looked fine one second and then were walking like they were drunk another. This was just the reality of the desert and the fact that none of them were used to it.

Only a few of the demi-humans had the characteristics to easily resist the desert conditions. One was a feline trait demi-human. They had never been in the desert before but always had an affinity for the hotter seasons. Now that they were here in a desert for the first time in their life, they found that they were surprisingly more energetic and had an easier time moving through the sands than others. It was enlightening for them.

This was a very rare occurrence though. It made said demi-human and others similar to them have to join the healers as assistants. The fire affinity dragonkin had also been made to become assistants to the healers, and Alice in particular since she couldn't keep up with everyone due to the number of soldiers they had. Luckily, there were still some life mages that had remained with the group from the Fel empire. Their buffs were helping very much.

"More elemental crystals? We aren't just finding the earth crystals now?" Walker looked at the small light elemental crystal that Alice had brought Walker after finding it on the ground. It may have been small and lower quality but it was important.

"I haven't seen one yet, I wonder if this is because we are passing deeper in to the desert. Why is it not above the sands?" Mordant had even more questions as he had not seen anyone finding one. He had expected that the earth crystals would be more common and that even a darkness crystal might be found here and there. But a light crystal under the sand where light didn't hit at all was odd.

"I'm not sure, if the light hits the right spot constantly, then it makes sense that the light elemental crystals will form. But if it was buried then it may have degraded from whatever it was." this was not unheard of and Mordant had been thinking the very same thing. But that would mean that the light elemental crystal had been much larger. It had formed on the top of the sand during a very long period of constant light before it had been buried by a sand storm or other means.

"There are more though." Alice's small voice spoke up pointing ahead of the front line of soldiers marching. The small glittering of over a hundred tiny light elemental crystals made them all wonder just what had been uncovered next. There were too many things uncovered by the sand tornado that created new mysteries for them to wonder about.

'Sand won crystal bed

This is a great span of stone that used to be a mountain. Over time, the water from rain and storms broke it down. Many years later, the constant exposure to hotter temperatures caused fire and light crystals to form. Over more time, the crystals were buried by the natural formation of a desert from high amounts of silt and hot weather. What was left is the base of the mountain forming the perfect crystal bed.

The mana crystals that are left are poor quality but will create spaces for high quality earth mana crystals to form within a hundred years.'

Walker read the all around appraisal out loud. He was certain that this wasn't some act of the desert expanding or a great mystery. Instead, this was the sign that they had entered the inner circle of the desert. "We aren't in the expanded section of the desert now. This is the spot where the desert naturally began to form." Walker was very happy to see this.

These signs were telling him that the desert did indeed belong here. It was an act of nature and would have formed anyways. But the race that had somehow come here had managed to expand it beyond

this area. Knowing the start of the desert might not seem that important, however, it could assist in the Fel empire's maps.

"You said this was the start of the desert!?" Ethan called over the mages that had shown him the maps before. In just a few seconds, they had the sand and earth map made yet again. This time it was less detailed to just show distance.

They were able to use their location, the time they had traveled, and the new information to show the massive expanse of sand that had grown. "We can learn how many years it has been expanding. If we trace it back, we might be able to understand when the undead began excavation. It may have been a mana signature or a set of runes that caused this, stored mana running out or a sealed monster." Ethan was making less sense.

"Can it help them? Will it make it easier to fight the undead?" Alice was still interjecting here and there. But her focus was the very same as Walker's, she and he, were both focused on how this information might directly be used to face the undead.

"The more information we have on anything is always better. We can use it in too many ways to count. We might be able to use it to counter the expansion and return life to the lands around here. Do you know how much we found just up to this point? You stored it all away with your spatial skills. The number of items that we will find under the sands could build entire cities!" Ethan's rambling was echoed by the other Fel empire angels. It was clear that this could be extremely valuable information to them in more than just this instance.

Soon the Rize angels were mumbling more. They clearly saw that this was a threat. The recovery of this desert region would cause the Fel empire to expand its strength rapidly. They couldn't let this happen while the Rize empire wanted for the mountains to slowly become occupied again. They would not be able to keep up with the Fel empire in this case.

"No, you can't just start digging this place up. There will be years and years before you can manage the storms, the monsters, and whatever else is buried here. You haven't forgotten the dangers just because you are excited?" Mordant looked down on the Fel and the Rize angels getting worked up. To him, these were just the ramblings of foolish people.

This let Walker breathe a sigh of relief. The angels getting all worked up could have caused many more issues. If they had gotten on each other's nerves too much with the situation, then they may have failed to cooperate as they moved further forward. "Can we take these light elemental crystals? We can use

them to strengthen ourselves before we get to the undead." The Rize angel captain asked quickly as he saw the topic being forcefully changed by Mordant.

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Chapter 1804 Cursed Theory

"You can use the light elemental crystals to get stronger?" Walker knew that the mages and many other system users had a way to use the light elemental crystals. Even Alice could coax the elemental mana from the light elemental mana crystals to help her healing songs.

"Yes, we have ways to pull the light from them and enhance our bodies. It comes at the cost of the crystal because it makes it unstable. These weaker crystals are ideal for it since they are not as useful in other places." The flying light swordsman of the Rize empire knew well that they were limited.

While Walker didn't know it, the angels of the Rize empire had their own rankings inside of the general rankings from angel, to archangel, and higher. The angels within each elemental hall had their own standings that allowed them to have access to certain things.

This went from elemental mana crystals, armor, weapons, and so much more. They wouldn't get access to certain qualities of food nor would they be able to take on certain quests. It all came down to the carefully controlled flow of information and education that the Rize empire believed in.

Because this was the way the angels of the Rize empire grew up, they believed it too. But they also had their own core beliefs that elemental prowess was the key to the world. That should have been the end all be all for them. Yet, the addition of the Fel empire had altered that and caused many fights and wars.

Now with Genesis intervening, the Rize soldiers saw their chance to get more things they could use in battle. They had been sent because they were lower ranked and would not have the risk of causing a war if they were lost to some undead. The empires would still fight but the strength of the Rize empire would not be massively brought down as it would be if higher tier soldiers were sent. This was similar to the Fel empire but they had sent their life mages and a unique healer so that they could show off and attract the Genesis empire to them.

While this made the Rize empire out to be a villain, this was just the product of years and years of being pushed to one side of beliefs. The Fel empire was no different with their solitary and research focused attitudes. They were less emotional and could not make the proper moral decisions at times because of their beliefs. There were many downsides to either empire's beliefs. It just came to a heading here where some of the angels that met Genesis had seen new potentials.

While these may have been the complicated cases, Walker didn't hesitate to ignore any underlying issues he could sense. He had no knowledge of most of this because he had not been able to delve in to the true cultures and inner workings of either empire. The tasks at hand had covered everything that they needed right now. The entire Genesis force was completely focused on helping either empire and then pushing to capture the criminals they were after.

"Take whatever you need, but any extra can be brought over to me so that I can take them out when Alice needs to sing. I know there is plenty of light here now, but starlight will not be enough for Alice to sing for a long time when the sun sets." As much as Walker felt the sun would set here, he was certain that something was amiss in the desert. It had been many hours now and the sun had barely moved.

"You understand it now? I can tell that you have understood what is going on other than the curse affecting the sands and turning them in to this white and water stealing sand." Rise spoke to Walker for the first time in a little while. Just as Mordant had been worried about the ruins and the potential that the ruins would be tainted, Rise had been focused elsewhere.

"The sun here isn't moving. The desert seems to have an odd mana around it causing the day and the nights to be longer. It is even slowing more although time for us is passing. It is not normal under any sort of natural means." The entire party and group of royal dragons stopped after hearing this. Eleven the Fel and Rize angels were stopped in place.

They had all been so busy with pushing toward storms, battling monsters, and avoiding other dangers that they had not realized that they had just been trudging along for more than should be normal. Their sense of time had been entirely lost to the slow moving sun and the intense heat that worse away at them.

"You're saying that it may have been more than just a few hours. It could be days and we are somehow still in the sun." Ethan softly mumbled. His fellow Fel empire angels all understood that this would be some form of time manipulation. A greater and worse possibility since they had nearly no knowledge of it at all.

There shouldn't be any time mage strong enough to do such a thing. Time runes weren't even possible to craft because the form and idea of them was too wild. It was all just theory for the entirety of the Fel empire. Their research would take many generations just to get close to properly manipulating a small area of time rather than an entire expanding desert.

"So you're saying that just the space and time of the desert are somehow being manipulated? These undead may have messed with this entire place in a much worse way. But maybe it's not space and time at all. What we know is that they messed with death mana. Isn't life and death part of space and time naturally? Something needs space to grow. Something needs time to die. Wouldn't there be a cost for messing with death mana?" Gil sounded like he was some wise monk having a brilliant idea.

Everyone heard it and wondered what the cost would be. "To use life mana, I had to pull at my own life mana inside me. The cost of abusing it could definitely cause issues to me. I know that. But if used right, I can help everyone and even attract more life mana to me. Not that I can yet. What about death?" Walker had a barely surface level understanding of both life and death. They were some hard things to scratch when it came to knowledge.

"Exactly, so what if they went against the death mana and forced themselves to stay here? They worshiped some god of death instead of a life bringing goddess. You said that at the waypoint temple. So basically, the natural flow of things got angry and they were cursed, right? But since they haven't been dealt with, the curse expands. Pretty much a natural retribution or something." Remey made it even more blunt.

From what she had said, the entire group could think wider. Everyone always believed nature and the will of the world to be the end all be all. However, they could be wrong. What if it was greater. What if the elemental planes were not just the sum of everything? What if it expanded more? The thought was hard to conceive since no one really had the knowledge to understand it at all. Yet, what if?

"If this is all the results of what they did while they were Alice, then they probably had some messed up senses and twisted minds. They came back as undead and whatever bigger and badder undead that controls them is following the way they worshiped causing things to get even worse. I think that makes a lot more sense." Walker believed that their theories had a lot more basis now.

"We saw a lot of proof. All of this can be somewhat explained. Messed up nature because the natural cycle is broken. Elemental manas not acting as they should, the sand and the heat, then add in the way the sun isn't moving properly here... it's all this area and it could spread to everywhere if left alone." Su knew that things were harder to understand since the sun still could set and fall properly outside the

desert. But if space and time were brought in to it, then anything could be possible. It was just a bigger mystery.

"That means we should all start saving these light crystals. Ignus, you should look for figure crystals too. If the sun sets, we are in for a very cold and dark night." Walker realized that this was the ideal time to prepare before they made another push toward the ruins. The moment the sun set in this cursed desert was the moment that things would begin to shift away from their advantage. It would be all against them and in favor of these undead.

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Chapter 1805 1805. Crystal And Stone

eaglesnovel

The collection of the light crystals became a focus. The small amount of fire crystals that Ignus's dragonkin collected for him were also welcomed. Ignus seemed like he was more annoyed than anything that he and the other royal dragons had not noticed the shifting of the sun being slowed. However, they also lived much longer. It was hard for them to have the same sense of time as a human, let alone any other race. No one put the dragons at fault for this.

Whether Walker and the others realized it or not, their sense of time had been influenced too. They were human for the most part, but they too had other influences. Elemental spirits had bonded with them causing them to change at a fundamental level. That alone was enough for their lifespans to become layered. Adding in the elven, dragon, or other influences and the entire party was subject to a radically different flow of time than any human by comparison.

That wasn't the issue though, the crystal bed was. The soldiers marching through and collecting the many small glittering elemental mana crystals were slowed by this. Luckily, the crystal bed had mostly been cleaned of sand by the sand tornado. This allowed everyone to move unimpeded for the most part.

While this would normally be a good thing, the problem that they all faced now was the fact that the crystal bed was surprisingly sharper than many would think. As the words had naturally broken away from the mountain and turned it to sand, it had made the rocks sharper and sharper. The shaping of wind and sand over time didn't leave a perfectly smooth surface as many would think.

The stone tops were somewhat curved and sharp in odd directions that had followed the flow of winds over them. This allowed for the walking to become a challenge since many of the dragonkin did not have shoes nor required them. Their scales were often enough to resist many things. However, the addition of mana around the stone was causing some of the less resistant dragonkin to suffer.

There were also the angels and soldiers from Genesis who were noticing that their shoes or boots were being cut in to. Even those with forged metal boots or greaves were seeing the added wear and tear of them. It was making everyone uncomfortable when it came to the continuing exposure to these conditions.

Luckily, there were still earth mages and Walker with the group. It only took a little combined efforts to smooth things out. Therefore, a small group of mages formed with Walker at the front of the moving group. They were smoothing the more dangerous path while working in small sections they could see. This combined effort just added to the bonds with every soldier present that would have suffered some form of damage from all of this.

"Huh? I can't smooth this small hill here." One of the mages found that their skills was having absolutely no effect at all. "I'm not out of mana and this looks like the same stone as everywhere else."

The confusion was enough to reach Walker and two of the other mages drawing them over. "Maybe it is just more condensed. Let us add some mana and push it down." The spot didn't need to be forced down so much but it was better to have fewer things to trip over. That Was why they were working together after all.

While the four pushed their mana in to the ground to manipulate it, the sudden sound of cracking and the view of cracks appearing on the ground made them all jump back. "I think we might not have found stone." The other mage spoke and Walker pulled all three back with a little burst of wind mana added to his surroundings.

'Stone crystal golem

Naturally formed under the mountain as multiple elemental manas collided over time, the stone crystal golem is an earth and light affinity golem. It would have slumbered for the entirety of its lifespan but the exposure to both light and earth mana was enough to activate the core that formed over many years.

The stone crystal golem is able to use the light and earth mana within its body to cause it to rapidly assemble its body again after limbs are destroyed. It is also able to use the light mana to coat its body in a defensive light. Furthermore, it can manipulate the earth to make primitive clubs.

The stone crystal golem is considered rare because they can only form as the earth and mountains shift over time. They can not be tamed unless the core is taken and engraved with special earth and light elemental runes. Not many tamers have enough skill to do so without unique systems being present.'

While it was interesting to read a new appraisal for a golem that Walker had seen before, he had never seen a golem that was formed in this way. He had seen them in caves and knew that they existed in a crystal form. However, the golem that had broken through the ground was partially stone with light elemental crystals jutting out of its body. They appeared sharper but were just the natural formations of crystals.

The core was actually very easy to see. It was a stone and crystal orb that appeared to be surrounded by dense light elemental mana protecting it. The golem itself held a large shard of stone that it lashed out with. The earth mages and Walker had already retreated, but they still felt small bits of stone hit their bodies as the golem's club hit the ground.

"Now that is more fun!" Ignus growled out as he jumped forward. Remey was unsurprisingly, right next to him wearing her earth affinity knuckles. The two appeared to have been bored from all the calm and simple traveling. It was hard to believe that Ignus and Remey got along in this way since they were dragon and human. But many of the soldiers had already seen this happening within battles and even treated them somewhat similarly. Especially after Ignus had assisted Remey in controlling flames to make potions.

"Left and Right!" Remey shouted her moves out to Ignus and the two dashed to opposite ends. It seemed more like they were playing than they were fighting. The move pushed them to opposite ends while the stone crystal golem lifted the club back up. This shard of stone club started to sweep to the side trying to hit both of them, but that was nothing to the two.

Remey was agile enough to bend back and land on her feet again. The club had missed completely. Ignus had used his strength to completely knock the club to the side. A dragon's strength was high even in a dragonkin form as Ignus was right then.

The two punched out at the sides of the golem causing a crack to form toward the core. But as soon as it had formed, a burst of light overtook the body of the stone crystal golem. The crack was repaired and a solid layer of light mana was protecting the golem even better than before.

"We should just stand back." Gil stopped Walker from jumping in, but he had missed Midnight jumping forward. Su didn't manage to drag Midnight back either before a burst of flames left her mouth and hit the golem. The attack completely took the golem's attention and let Ignus and Remey have another chance to punch with even greater force.

The defense breaking punch that Remey unleashed with the earth affinity knuckles collated with the light mana. Before everyone was able to react to the cracking light elemental layer, Ignus had slashed with his claws. He had used his dragon advantage to slashed through the light elemental mana and the stone.

This left two massive craters exposing the stone crystal golem's core to the air even more. Just in time for Midnight to follow up with another attack of her own. She took a move from Onyx's books and spun around using her tail to attack. But what no one expected was that she had focused earth on it. She had watched Terron and Su use earth mana. She had trained with Walker. Now she used that experience.

The same feeling she had when she used her skeletal armor skills as used to draw earth mana instead. It gathered on her tail and she was able to perfectly combine them in to an earth hammer tail skill. The resounding crack as the stones shattered along with the core of the stone crystal golem left everyone wondering just what kind of people would play around like this. It was even more confusing when Remey and Ignus went to Midnight to laugh with her over their attacks. "Battle maniacs," Walker mumbled and shook his head hoping that they wouldn't be fooling around too much more.

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Chapter 1806 1806. Climbing Dunes

"Are we certain that we need to bring them?" Ventus sighed as she looked at Ignus and Remey as they looked for another stone crystal golem. It was clear that they wanted to keep fighting opponents. All the long ranged attacks and the fact that they were just helping gather items had made them too pent up. The battles they were prepared for were not coming.

"I was wondering the same thing. If there wasn't a messed up wind current, I would ask you just to tell them to fly ahead. We can handle the path of the tornado ourselves." Walker joked a little with Ventus as he saw that she was looking at Ignus like she would a child. But she was the older of the two dragons in this case.

"Midnight, why did you rush right in? What if Remey or Ignus hit you with their attacks? You didn't even communicate to them that you were going in to join the fight!" Su was right on point reprimanding Midnight but only got the cold shoulder in return. It appeared that Midnight had been the very same as Remey and Ignus. Tired of moving around and not acting on what they could do against the monsters here.

"I'm surprised you used an earth hammer tail skill. I wasn't sure what you were doing when you pulled all the earth mana to yourself." Walker decided to break up the tension between Su and Midnight for the moment. He didn't want them to be like this for too much longer.

"I was also surprised. I could sense it when you made the move. I believed you would make a shield or some form of arm." Su caught on to Walker's desire and decided to support it. This did instantly make Midnight a little happier. She even went so far as to pull more earth mana toward herself and her tail again causing the stone to appear on it again.

She showed off the fact that she could whip her tail around with more force, but she was also slower because of this. The cost of a heavier attack came with the fact that she would have to slow herself and attack at the right time. While this was good in most ways since she could break tougher defenses, the cost was speed. Midnight was very fast when it came to attacking. She could use her shadow wrapping skill to efficiently move near something and attack with speed and surprise. That Was her strong suit.

Now that Midnight had developed a skill somewhat in opposition to her normal fighting style, it could be harder for her to use the skill. She would be unable to use it when she was hidden. But this also had some merit. It made her a more versatile dragon. Just the experience in eternal helped her learn how to apply the training of earth mana to other skills. It was similar to how Walker thought.

Walker didn't miss this though. He carefully examined the skill that Midnight used and thought about how Onyx moved his body to put more force in to the attacks with his tail. "If you wind up more and let gravity carry out more, then you will be able to hit harder. Your wings were more open when you used it in battle. That caused you to hit softer because they caught the air." Midnight heard Walker's thoughts and she nodded her head slightly. She seemed very glad for the attention on how to use the skill she just showed off for the first time.

What Walker and the others missed though was that the other royal dragons were watching. Ventus may not have said it, but the skill that Midnight used was one that the earth dragons often used and learned. She hadn't needed any teaching to figure it out, just the chance to understand the earth elemental mana around her.

That meant that Midnight would need less teaching than the average dragons as they grew. It was better than the natural battle that life threw at a young monster. She would learn through multiple means making her stronger overall. Making her a true dragon champion in more than just name and blood. It was the genius that they expected from a dragon champion.

It wasn't just that they found more respect for Midnight because she was able to learn the skills that dragons used more easily than others. It was also the fact that she was able to jump in to battle without hesitation and without destroying the teamwork of others. This was what they expected from the nature dragons champion. A balance between all of the elemental dragons.

"We need to keep the movement up, there are a lot more things we need to do before we get there." Ethan surprised the dragons and party with his sudden instance in movement. However, from what they saw, all the Fel empire soldiers had begun to prepare themselves for moving faster.

"It's the dehydration. If we stop pushing now, we will have to break in to the water we are bringing. If that's the case..." Ethan explained why and one of the other Fel angels showed his calculations for what the amount of water they needed to use and could not use was.

The time they had lost track of while moving here had added up. The cost was water used by the soldiers. Therefore, they were significantly lower on the water they should have. That being the case meant that either the army marching would soon lose some of their number to the sun or that the water would not be enough for the Fel empire forces waiting for them. Both were bad situations.

"Take advantage of the dunes' shadows. Move in them and save water. Only drink enough to wet your lips and mouth. Whoever has buff skills to deflect heat, reapply them. We are making this the full focus. We have water time." The strict order from Current put everyone on more of an edge.

As the water elemental dragon, Current was suffering more than others. As were the water mages and dragonkin. The water affinity Demi-humans also differed their fair share. Making the strict moving

formations would help them all but it also showed the degree that the sun had already affected them all.

The formations were hard to maintain while following the shadows. Mordant was able to assist by ordering his dragonkin to watch the edges. Having that be the case, they used their skills to stretch the shadows a bit. It helped block some heat and light from getting to everyone.

While the formations changed making it appear that travel was slower due to the thinned out marching lines, the angels watching the maps said otherwise. The path they were taking was following the sand tornado trail. It was allowing them to get through faster. Especially since they had mostly passed through the sharp storm of the crystal bed.

The further push to get over some of the massive sand dunes related to the oldest sections of the inner desert was where the trouble re-emerged. The natural winds and chaos of the area were the reason that some of the massive dunes existed. Even the largest of atoms could only influence them slightly. This was the case for the sand tornado. The massive dune they faced which separated them from seeing what the ruins looked like and potentially the current effects of the sand tornado on them was their obstacle.

As the forces began to march up, Walker found that they had to link arms in a massive chain. This was because everyone was shifting down with the loose sands. Especially because the storms had caused the sands to be piled higher. It had not settled under the sun's rays yet. Instead, the soft sand caused them all to slide down. Every step only made it half the distance that it should causing everyone to use more energy.

The earth mages attempted to force the sands together to maintain more of a base. The linked arms were only enough to start the formations up the dune, however, bypassing it was not an option. This was just the direction they had to travel. If they were to attempt to go around it, there were multiple dunes that rivaled this one in size. Not to mention that added hours to travel around it.

The only bonus to this was that there were many things that had fallen here when the storm came through. The sand tornado's winds had hit the dune and come up against tough to break object. This became a drop zone for many items small enough to be dragged and carried by it. Therefore, they were able to gather multiple crystals, wood, and other small bones to store away as they climbed in the heat.

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Chapter 1807 1807. Ruined Desert City

Making it over the massive dune brought everyone to a sight to behold. A true sight that showed off the strength of nature and the forces that were trying to resist it. Naturally, the forces were always the intelligent races that tried to create their own places against nature. While this protected them, it also seemed to challenge the very flow of the elemental world.

The entire army took formation but witnessed the sand tornado colliding with many partially uncovered stone structures. The stones seemed to have been carved and assembled like puzzle pieces. They fit together in ways that would cause many people to wonder how they had even been carved. The race that did it definitely took many years to properly assemble it.

This way of building had made it last years and years though. The uncovered stone temples and other buildings were perfectly resisting the high winds and sands as the storm burned itself out atop it. The winds were pushing the sands to break away the weakened layers of stone yet also allowing the entire army to see the depths of the city uncovered.

The massive dunes on either side were also being built up. It showed that not only had nature made this area like this, but also that the race had purposefully made these structures to redirect sands brought by sand storms and sand tornados alike. It required a lot of careful thought and years of understanding when it came to the ways of the desert storms.

Furthermore, the storm had drawn attention to another dune as well. On top of it were many soldiers preparing for battle. This was when the Fel angels saw them and began to move towards them. Ethan made it known that those were the soldiers stationed here to fight the undead that emerged. They had come out to see the storm pass over and become trapped in the unnatural structuring of the city. But they seemed not to worry at all. Apparently, this was not the first storm that had ever come to collide with the city while they were there.

The movements to meet the other forces of the Fel empire made everyone refocus where they were looking. However, this did not stop Walker from taking another look at the city. The uncovered ruins seemed to have been cut away and even repaired in places. While the winds broke some of the spots down, he still used his all around appraisal to understand what might be hiding within.

'Death's marrow ruins

These ruins were from a unique race of lizardkin. The lizard kin were somewhat peaceful until radical ideals began to grow during a famine. This famine pushed the beliefs toward the darker side of things and also brought about multiple theories that were only founded by those that desired power over all else.

The small amount of dragon blood in their veins had long separated them from the average lizardman, unfortunately, they would never be dragonkin and were stuck in between without wings. Their worship of death caused many necromancy related experiments. The death mana was not easily controlled and caused many unique undead to form.

Through these experiments, the blood was forced to crystallize within the bones becoming a crystal marrow of condensed life and death energies. Therefore, more undead were born in this unique way further encouraging the growth of their ideals. The city slumbered for many years before the mana within finally resurfaced. The race had sealed itself to be able to survive and reawaken after a certain time.

Cheating the natural flow of existence is foolish. The city and all the lands around were cursed to cause the beings never to awaken. Unfortunately, there were other forces that still caused some to awaken. This had caused the current growth of curses, death mana, undead monsters, and further issues.

There are many other creatures born within the depths that still slumber. If the ruins are properly uncovered, then the worship rituals of a false death god will continue causing more to awaken. Forced of over ten thousand undead slumber within the depths of the city ruins...'

While there was much more, Walker was caught up for a moment trying to understand the little he had just been able to read. He couldn't believe that the famine had caused such a drastic change in a society. There wasn't even evidence that he could appraise from where he stood that they had ever worshiped a goddess of life or harvest at all. They had completely altered everything about their culture.

While the loss of food was drastic, it seemed that there was some sense to save the people. By putting themes asleep, they could have managed to save some. Yet, they had chosen to go through the use of necromancy to make undead. A system type that was naturally hated because many resorted to evil means when using it. That didn't mean there weren't good necromancers. There was bad and good in every side of everything. It just depended on the being using such methods.

What truly hit Walker, was the sheer number of undead that were underneath the ruins. The entire population of ten thousand that had once grown to live in this place were put to slumber as undead here. That meant there would be more of the undead mummified worshippers and worse. It also went to say that the other undead monstrosities that were created would show themselves. There wouldn't only be the screeching evil things Walker had already seen once.

There was also the fact that these were another instance of having a small amount of dragon blood. While it was rough being less than a dragonkin but more than a lizard man, the only reason it seemed that this was used was because those that worshiped death had used it to pursue their goals. So much so that they had forcefully condensed all the blood in bodies to become crystals. A disgusting a brutal thing. But it created undead that could reform and recover from being crushed or broken. That was the monstrosities that Walker came to think about.

Looking toward the others, Walker showed everything he felt on his face. His anger and disgust were clear for his party and the royal dragons to see. It didn't take them long to come to him and hear every word of the all around appraisal he was able to do on the city. While the ruins were one thing to look at and wonder about, the information as an entirely new thing.

As Rise recoiled hearing about everything done here, Mordant looked ready to unleash his own wrath. He hated that some race had fallen so far. That they had latched on to the small amount of dragon relation they had to create even worse creatures. Ignus wanted to just burn away everything while Ventus hoped that the increase in the sand tornado caused even more damage.

"If this is going to be a losing battle, we need to get deeper in to that ruin and get rid of the source or defeat the sleeping undead." Su understood that beating them while they were not a threat would be the key here.

"That's why Midnight, Onyx, and Mordant are going to scout through those ruins. Right? Ventus just has to send a little power to break that tornado. It's already slowing." Gil was able to sense the lacking wind mana around. The sand tornado was being forced to a stop because of the intricate stone structures. But it would still be a while before the storm could dissipate due to the wind currents an added boost from Ventus that caused it to grow even more.

"Who cares about scouting, we should just charge in during the day and break it all down to nothing. Those demons will get here if we don't break it all first. Then we can wait and set a nice trap for that slime breeding bastard!" Remey was thinking a little differently. She wanted to get everything crushed here so that they could turn around and capture their original goal.

While it wasn't a bad thought process, it would not be able to get them where they needed to be. "We can't rush this. We have to carefully eradicate everything here. We have no idea if other ruins are here either. The crushing we need is not a kind that destroys it all. Instead, we need to crush the sources of it all with purification. With pure light." Rise was speaking more now that she knew where their enemy was. It also made everyone feel that they were a righteous force defeating evil. It was a unique trait that Rise seemed to have.

"No, we need to meet the other Fel empire forces. They don't know us and need to be in on a plan. Let's take it slow." Walker and Su spoke the same things. They wanted to guarantee a win here under every circumstance.

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Chapter 1808 1808. Joint Forces Planning

The Fel angels that were prepared to fight were still caught by the storm's presence. They had not expected it to this degree. They were watching many different things occur. The sands being torn up and thrown away. The pieces of ancient stone being torn from where they had been placed and thrown away toward the dunes. They also witnessed a few unfortunately undead reduced to broken pieces, but that actually increased their morale about their current battles.

What they had also not expected, were the forces from Genesis being so organized and prepared. They saw Ethan and recognized him as a leader within the Fel empire. He was someone that had been sent to deliver supplies before. They knew this and had communicated with their leaders enough to have this understanding.

The supplies had made Ethan and his team of soldiers well respected. This was their link to life. But when the Fel empire angels had heard that a new group from a different place entirely was coming to help, they had been very skeptical. Especially since there was mention of Rize empire angels being allowed to come.

This was something that put them on edge until they heard that two storms would collide and it was planned to be sent toward them. This made it feel that the new force and the Rize empire were working to cause problems. But the communication through al means had been enough to tell them that there

would be a sand tornado created specifically to destroy the enemy and prepare them for an attack on the ruins.

It was an odd and outlandish plan. Yet it also made it sound like there were forces that would be joining them that were much more powerful than they had ever known. Alone, they would wonder what was actually happening in this regard. But together, they saw the strength that was radiating from the dragons as they approached. Pure elemental strength that the Fel angels had discredited before they had actually seen it.

Their research and battle had not placed them in a position to understand these foreign beings. Let alone the fact that there were many races that the Fel empire angels had not seen. It was odd and made them all wonder just what were these traces and what strength they had. But when they saw that they followed younger people as well, it brought about even more questions. Yet, these questions were all already answered by the communications they had received. The information as all coming together as they saw the impossible sand tornado and the forces they never imagined.

Walker, on the other hand, was looking at many things. He saw the unique systems and weapons of the Fel Empire soldiers. He was watching their movements and how they acted when seeing the ruins be destroyed to some degree. While they were not witnessing the entire destruction but only a beginning attack, they were watching what the dragons were capable of to a degree.

"Your supplies have arrived!" Ethan called out to the Fel empire soldiers and a few came forward. One was clearly the highest of ranked angels there. He was not an archangel, but from the feeling that Walker got from him, he was definitely nearing the level required to be one. It was very similar to the archangel that he had met at the embassy.

"These are the Genesis and the Rize empire forces who have come to assist us. The storm will be allowed to rage on while we plan the attack. We want to begin it before the sun sets. It may be only a few hours..." Ethan had seen that the day had been going on more and more. The Fel angels reacted with seriousness hearing this. It meant that the planning phase would be done and over within an instant compared to how long the night would actually go on when it fell.

"Then I will prepare for the meeting. Soldiers, guard the dune and watch the ruins. Anything that changes is to be reported as soon as possible. Speak with the soldiers here and gather the supplies appropriately. Make your battle preparations!" the order from the powerful angel that spoke with Ethan went out and the Genesis forces also acted since they already knew what to do.

Meanwhile, the royal dragon, Walker's party, and a few of the more powerful soldiers followed them toward the Fel empire tent that was set up for battle planning. The tent was full of maps made of the immediate area but there were a few angels within that were clearly upset. They had been the ones to make these maps which were now forced to be altered due to the massive sand tornado which was rapidly losing strength outside.

"We are here to discuss battle tactics. I will not apologize for ignoring basic courtesy, but this is not the time. We are about to battle. We might proceed." While the dragons didn't care to learn about the names of these angels, Walker's party would have preferred to meet them. But the angel was right. They had to go to battle. There was not a little bit of time to waste with casual conversation.

"That's fine, we have some information from my all around appraisal skill. This palace is a grave made for the slumber of over ten thousand beings. They condensed their blood in to crystalized bones and they are fanatical worshippers of death. The population of this place was once high until famine. That means that these monsters have some intelligence but were lost to their beliefs. They used the small amount of ancient dragon blood to push their beliefs too. Their god is also regarded as a false death god. It means that they may be a little worse than we imagined."

Since Walker had so much information from his all around appraisal skill, he shared it immediately. This made a lot of the angels that were within the tent stop what they were thinking about entirely. They had not found any information about such things. They lacked the all around appraisal skill but had appraised other things in other ways. Now that they did have such information, they understood the degree of dangers.

"We will be pushing the storm to end sooner than later. The sun will set while we build a perimeter. The undead are lesser in the day so we can battle them appropriately." Walker knew this would be the plan regardless of his input. Therefore, Mordant stepped up next.

"As the sun sets, myself and others will enter using darkness related skills. We will scout every potential entrance and find ways for a small and powerful force to enter. They will be using condensed light, healing, and whatever other means possible to find the slumbering undead. They will eradicate them and hopefully find a way for more forces to enter the buried ruins." Mordant spoke and the Fel angels felt the serious force he was releasing as a royal dragon.

"Now, I understand you may also have some scouts, they will fall under myself and my dragonkin to be able to learn and find more. That is not up for debate. I am more specialized in this than any one of you." The Fel angels didn't even doubt this. It was just a feeling.

"From there I will use my mana to crush any undead that I can get a sight on. Especially when I have a path. They will be purified and defeated. I can not let the light see them unless I can see them myself." Rise spoke with a high standing tone. She was clearly ready to use the mana she had been forcefully gathering since she appeared within the desert. The high amount of light mana she gathered could not be looked down on in any way. It was similar to the high amount of mana that Onyx had also gathered. It was why he was still resting.

"That means that the Rize empire angels will also be joining us. Their specific light elemental skills will help us immensely. But Alice will be pushing in with us. She is a songstress with a small amount of angel bloodline. Enough that the Rize Empire light elemental hall wants her. I recommend that the light affinity angels stationed here join her." For Ethan to speak so highly of someone else made every angel open their eyes more. The Fel empire knew of the Rize Empire elemental halls and their beliefs in them. Therefore, they knew this was a large statement.

"Now, the genesis forces need to know where you will all fit in here. What you can do. I have not been here for some time and will not force my will on you." Ethan pointed to the powerful fel angel and looked for answers. It was only right to let him explain their strengths now that they had been fighting for some time.

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Chapter 1809 1809. Flames Sneak Traps

"Our forces are mostly light elemental system users. It has been researched to a degree that these brutal monsters can be handled with a few different methods. Flames are somewhat effective but the ashes will still eventually reform them in to undead. Therefore, our flame mages and flying flame swordsman are able to handle the weaker undead easily along with weakening the larger undead here."

The Fel angel in charge had a single hand from an undead brought, he made sure to show around the half ashen appearance as the undead hand was being reformed slowly but surely. Walker had wanted to see this sort of thing so that he could understand how long they would have when defeating the undead. It clearly showed him that the undead would only take minutes to reform when burned to dust. The hand was almost entirely reformed finger by finger as they watched.

"Then we have some light affinity soldiers. Some that match the style of the Rize forces you have brought. While our beliefs differ, the world seems to share the systems readily." There was a tinge of distaste in this but that was just the Fel empire angel's beliefs melting through the colder exterior that he put on as a researcher.

"We will have some called light shapers battling with you. They are not a group of battle soldiers. They create temporary weapons of light elemental manas. They are valuable and experiment with the shapes that light can take. While a sword they make out of pure light elemental mana may damage the user to a degree, this is mitigated through the special gloves or affinities someone may have. Then their weapons will last for ten to fifteen attacks depending on battle styles." Now this was what Walker wanted to hear. He had never heard of such a system use or skill set.

"You should be able to send them to me then. With my mana influence they can do better than they could following you. I can create an aura of light elemental mana readily available for those I deem as my own." Rise was very forceful with her words. She was not going to let anyone sit and waste their strength. She also liked that her dragonkin would be able to use the light weapons created easily.

"That can be arranged. I would prefer them to use their skills freely in this battle. I want to end the expansion of these undead sooner than later. A group of them sheared off from their city originally and caused five villages to perish at the edge of the desert. It is believed that they were collecting blood, body parts, and other things to bring back more undead. The angels lost in the battle have since gone missing permanently."

This was the kind of new information that they had to know. Knowing that the undead were actively taking bodies of defeated soldiers back with them was drastic and exceptionally important to the survival of the armies. They had to know that every loss was the growth of another undead that could come after them. That meant that if they failed, the undead would become much more powerful.

"That means that these things are racing each other by defeating living things. This is definitely bad." Mordant growled a little. He was sure that this meant that the undead they would face would be going after their blood as well.

Since the undead might have a sense that the dragons had more power to them, they would attack the dragons in mass if possible. That would then cause the dragons to act out with their strength more. Therefore, making the new battlefield much more dangerous. "I want to make sure that we attack with enough force to handle this. I will need to prepare to break that sand tornado sooner than." Ventus saw that they should speed up their planning. The sooner the better so that the scouts could get inside the ruins even if it wasn't the perfect time that would expand shadows for them to hide in.

"No, work with me." Ignus seemed to be thinking calmly for once. But it was clear that he had already given Remey a look. The two working together had made them understand their similar tendencies. But since Ignus had seen Remey's partner in action, he knew the value of the fires he could create with her and her partner backing her.

"The grand fire elemental spirit will add to my strength. That sand tornado can be altered. We make a flame tornado. I know it is written that we will not do such a thing in our records. But this is an outstanding time and situation where it will add a great deal of value to what we are trying to achieve." Ignus was looking at his fellow dragons who all had changed their expressions to ones of distaste.

"If fusing wind and fire to make a tornado of flames is against the rules, there must be a good reason." Su looked at the dragons and partially understood already. "Many things die when that was used. That was the case?"

"You are correct to assume that. When the last royal wind and fire dragons fought over territory, there was a set of attacks that destroyed the entire territory. The winds and the flames battled one another before leaving the control of both dragons. The result was an entire area of mountain melted and turned in to an uninhabitable land for ten years. The elder punished every fire and wind dragon for that and created new traditions to follow. That is why the current territorial disputes between Ignus and I are handled differently."

Since Ventus did not hide this, the Fel and Rize empire were able to learn a lot about the two elemental dragons. But it wasn't the information that they were stuck on. It was the years that the area was made inhospitable. "We can not destroy this area entirely. They are underground as well. The surface being attacked and made unable to attack would harm us more." The Fel angel that had been left to take the lead by Ethan was sure that this would hurt their entire process instead of helping them.

"That is why I am trying to gain the benefit of a grand fire elemental spirit. We have the ability to work with them unlike you and the other angels who killed them off." Ignus showed some anger at this. He had grown to respect the elemental spirits much more upon seeing how well they worked with others. Some might be mischievous or just plain annoying in his opinion. However, he did not see them as a poor or worthless race of creatures. They had strength and they were able to use it in too many ways to count.

"That is the being that will allow me to pull back the flames and stop them. I assure you that Ventus will do the same with assistance from Gil and his partner." Ignus pointed out Gil and proved that he was

planning things much more ahead than anyone had given him credit for. His hot headed attitude had made Walker forget that this was a royal dragon, leader of an entire group. The one above all other fire dragons.

"Turn the undead in the ruins to ash, send in the scouts with a safer chance to learn about the ruins. They will also get some buffs to resist the fire. Then we have a better chance to learn and to make it through overall. I like it." Gil agreed. He was certain that he and his partner would more than make this all work. Especially since Ventus was always open to working together with others. She was very adaptive.

"That leaves us with a chance. Alice and I will spread some unique light elemental traps. I believe that she had a purification song?" Rise had not missed a single thing Alice did. That was just how she was when it came to light elemental skills.

"I do." Alice immediately agreed. She was prepared for many situations. Doing this would only help that much more.

"Then we have our plan of attack first. Burn them away, scout the lands, place purification traps, then plan the forces to enter the ruins appropriately. Let's do this." Walker saw that the Fel angels were surprised but did not hesitate. They agreed with this plan. It was more than they could do alone. That was why they had been stuck there defending and not attacking for so long. Now they would finally be able to push forward with their attacks and do something about an ongoing issue.

"I will leave it to all of you. My forces are ready at any time to fight. We will not lose years of research and blood today." The Fel angels all appeared to become much more battle hardened after hearing this from their leader.

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Chapter 1810 1810. Controlled Flames And Winds

The idea that Remey and Ignus were about to work together again made many of the Genesis forces wonder just what would happen. They knew that Remey was able to work with her partner very well. The grand fire elemental spirit had always played around in the flames. It even moved around Remey with high energy when she was annoyed by something.

However, the idea that the flames Ignus used would be controlled to any degree was baffling. Many had seen him use his physical strength to crush monsters just because he was bored. Now they were going to see the same attitude used to battle with flames. Flames that he warned he may not be able to control since they would also be mixed with wind!

Many of the earth mages were already working to create barriers. The sands were harder to manipulate since they were broken up and soft. Some of the sand didn't even react to their earth mana manipulations because of the mysterious curses caused by the ruins. This alone made things feel more unnerving.

What Current also seemed to be doing was adding the water around them to the sands that didn't steal it away. Walker had made sure that Current had control of whatever water necessary. The Fel angels had also moved to make sure that they would be able to drink what they could and be able to hold out for a proper amount of time.

The many months and even years that some of the Fel angels had been in the desert had led to very good calculations when it came to water usage. This made it easier for Walker to give Current and the water affinity soldiers water. Therefore, they would have their skill reinforced and more usable when it came to battle. Not that anyone would be able to form ice anywhere during the heat of the desert. Even in the night, it would be too warm for some time before a sudden drop in temperature came.

Furthermore, there was the fact that some of the water mages needed the water just to use skills at all. They could not rely on any hope that within the ruins there might be trapped water. The undead had all proven to be very water deficient. They were just wrapped bones and some dried skins. It was the strange way that they had been preserved. The mummified looks were not just what kept them different from other undead. It was also the fact that they had been preserved with their very blood condensed in to their bones. No water needed. It also appeared to keep the normal rot of undead down. A scary thought.

As Ignus condensed and prepared to attack, Remey was speaking with her partner to also prepare. Their role would be to boost Ignus's control of flames after he had let them mix with the wind. That would allow Gil and Ventus to remain focused on breaking the last of the wind that caused the sand tornado to exist.

The bonus was that the fire and wind elemental mages would also be joining the battle for control after the skills were used. It would make things easier even to the smallest degree. While this seemed like a

massive use of mana before a big fight, the benefits would pay for themselves. Eradicating the few undead that were out in the sun would make it easier for the scouts to enter the surface ruins and discover what was going on. That would be making things safer and more efficient overall.

The moment that everyone felt the air around them change and come to a new hotter level of heat made them immediately move away from the places they stood. The entire force moved behind the runes and the sand walls made. Walker did his best to cast the multi buff skill on as many people as possible. The benefits of having the buffs would allow them to move and escape the direct heat that was growing.

Flames had coated the entirety of Ignus's dragon form. He was showing off the nearly white flames that came from extreme heat boosted by the natural heat of the desert. These white flames were nothing like the flames that were melding with light elemental mana. They had grown because of the highest possible temperature instead of the purification abilities of light.

With one single explosive burst of heat, the flames left Ignus and were spewed in to the winds all around the breaking up sand tornado. There wasn't a single bit of smoke because of the intense heat. Those with resistances were able to witness things much better than others, Walker being one of them was able to stand completely in awe of a specialized dragon breath attack.

This was the level of someone who had risen to their elemental pique. A being that had studied flames for years and learned the best ways they could to condense the fire elemental mana within them. A dragon that had expanded their strength to use their elemental breath attack to the best of their ability. As Walker was amazed, so was Midnight. She had never expected that this was the degree a real fire breath could reach. It made her want to witness every single elemental dragon's breath at the highest level possible. Even Ventus seemed to have held something back when using her wind elemental breath attack on the tornado to control the wind currents.

The instantaneous melting of sand within the tornado was what changed everything. The molten sand became glass when it hit the dunes. This was why there were multiple barriers of sand to protect everyone. The extreme heat had made some of the sand melt just as the winds and the flames mixed. The intensity was casting the dunes around to solidify and melt. It was easy to see how it would create an area that was inhabitable. Covered in molten rocks and stone. The magma fields even seemed cold compared to such high field flames.

"Now we stop it!" Remey shouted out as the grand flame spirit started to empower Ignus again. The sudden draw of fire elemental mana was like someone draining a pond. The mana had been forced to move in a certain way to join the now flaming tornado. Yet, it was under double the concentration as

before. The fire elemental was benign forcefully torn from where it wanted to be as the natural creation was more important to the flow.

When Gil allowed his partner to join Ventus from the sky, the changes were more drastic. The angels witnessing this saw the superiority of elemental spirits. They only knew these as the fire and wind grand elemental spirits. Powerful beings that could somehow influence manas better than others and would really attack others according to the genesis forces. Yet, what they saw now was terrifying.

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The fear that angels had since they relied on the elemental mana around them to sue mana overall was large. Their elemental spirits could halt this as that was why they had been hunted on the Sigil continent. Now that the fear was being shown, the angels believed they had to respect Genesis much more due to their relationships with such beings and the fact that they had enough control over them to cause such events to occur here.

As the wind was forcefully changed again, the build of the runs was helping. The design that broke up the flow of wind naturally caused the wind mana to break down from the flow that the flames needed as fuel. The flames were being pulled away and Ignus was greedily taking the fire mana away. It was a tiring event for the two dragons and two grand elemental spirits. Yet, it was much quicker than expected.

It seemed to have only been minutes since all this happened, but it had been nearly half an hour of constant elemental pressure. The show before every soldier had become something they could never forget in their lives. The dragon race working together would make anyone wonder just what they were by comparison. Just how they could get stronger.

What was revealed after the flames and wind were suddenly gone was nothing that anyone could explain easily. There was an entire section of sand dune sides melted in to a molten slowly moving glass. There was also the fact that many undead had been reduced to dust that was falling on to the ruins. Their attempts to reform failed as they continued to burn on the molten glass.

The ruin design showed much more wear and tear than imagined. Some of the stones had shattered under the drastic change of heat while others had burned because of the materials that held them together. This was good though, some dark passages had been exposed letting the scouts have a view of where they could go to gather information.

All that was left was Current's order to make it rain. The final step to cause the area to be safe for the scouts that would need to resist the literal molten area. There was barely steam though. The cursed sands caused the water to be absorbed rapidly, but that held the temperature drop much more dramatically than before. It even made more stone structures crack and opened more for the scouts to explore.

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