

Master 181

Chapter 181 - 181. Pride

The wide streets made way for them as they traveled down the center, glances from passing citizens and merchants were constant. It was not every day that such a large escort was leading a group down the center of the main road. Luckily hand pulled carts were the normal use for major transportation, this was due to the higher average strength of most citizens. They easily skirted the escort continuing on their delivery routes.

The party again passed by many food stalls, and gear merchants wanting to check things out. One thing that stood out missing seemed to be herbs and potions. There seemed to be few merchants selling them, this was in contrast to the Crystal kingdom which had an entire building dedicated to their development. They passed a larger building with groups similar to theirs, Walker took note that this was likely the adventurers guild in the city and wanted to remember where it was so they could return to check things out. Knowing Clara she would somehow manage to contact someone for them to meet. They did not plan to take any quests centered around the city but would most likely have a few on the way home. Even though they wanted to make some stops before they headed home they didn't plan to stay forever.

The massive circular walls of a coliseum grew taller as the escort approached, the dull roars of a crowd easily heard from well outside. There were plenty of warriors and audience pushing and shoving for admittance. This was a major part of the daily routine for some with high hopes to become high ranking military figures. The escort easily pierced through the crowd making room for the party to get inside the entrance. Unhappy shouts echoed behind them but were quickly stifled by the guards. The inside of the coliseum was intricately carved depicting large battles and dire stakes. Many of the carvings showed warriors of each generation that had made waves within that specific coliseum. This was a surprise to the party because the buildings on the outside were made rougher out of stone but here it was obvious a lot of time and effort went in to construction.

The demi-human man leading them through the corridors saw this, "I am also amazed every time I walk these halls. It makes even me someone without a warrior system want to plunge in to battle." His change in attitude from very astute to a bit more relaxed seemed to be due to the lessening of the escort. It was plain to see the large number of guards was stressful to him. This would easily be explained since at the gate he would only have two with him while doing his work.

"Yes it is very well done, there are many talented artists in your kingdom." Su seemed to be enjoying the carvings the most out of everyone. Her neck was craned upward even looking at the pictures on the ceiling. "How amazing it must have been to witness some of these battles, their drive to improve must be inspiring." This made the remaining guards and the demi-human leading them all stand much taller, it was very common for citizens to take great pride in their history.

"I hope you may share your king's words with our king as well, he is very passionate about such things. So much so that he strengthened our academy of the arts so they could better teach and later record such scenes." This was definitely a surprise, the party knew of the high praise for warriors but did not expect similar praise for other systems. They could not judge this book by its cover.

The rounded corridor came to a guarded set of doors leading in to the castle, the guards immediately opened the doors allowing the escort to proceed. The difference in the carvings became more focused on the growth of the country, scenes of the first king battling tribes in the plains for land. Soon the walls showed them building up walls and large armies. However the images became more disturbing, scenes of battle with demons using large scale became common. The hunting parties of said demons were prevalent. It would seem there was a deep rooted hatred of the demon race due to past wars. This would be very good to know and Walker desperately wanted to find some history books to learn more about what had transpired to cause such a war. The carvings changed yet again showing more peaceful times where the coliseums were built for the four generals under the king's authority. Scenes of chosen warriors fighting off competitors were much more common.

Just as they approached another set of doors Walker caught a glimpse of an unfinished carving, an older looking lion trait demi-human resting in a bed, they appeared sickly and surrounded by other similarly trait demi-humans. This must be some recent history if it was still not fully carved.

They halted in front of these doors. The guards opened them in to a large room that was wide open with stairs leading to balconies on the sides. This must be the main meeting room, the strange part was that there were no rugs or ornate decorations, more carvings on the walls and stairs but nothing else. Standing in the center was a tall man wearing tight fitting robes, long golden hair trailed down his back. From this angle, they could all tell his teeth were unusually sharp. His hands were well calloused and fell in to sharp claws. The man took notice of the opening door sending the four attendants nearby away. The demi-human that was leading the party approached the man standing expectantly. "Report." the man's voice was deep and powerful making their hair stand on end.

"My king I have escorted the emissaries from the Crystal kingdom here, I shall take my leave unless you require me as a scribe." With a simple wave of his hand the demi-human that led them had left with two guards leaving only the largest guard with them.

"So you are the ones sent to visit me, I did not expect those so young, and I did not expect them to send so called heroes. Especially the dragon. Your kingdom has been spreading some very interesting gossip. Many of my representatives have been updating me, I hear you have a good relationship with the

tamer's guild." The king did not yet introduce himself but left the party to make the first move in that respect.

"We greet you king of Ordist, My name is Walker the leader of the Omnipotent party. As you have said we are young and do have the blessing of fate to hold a title. We traveled with friends we made in the tamer's guild and were later hired by them as escorts. Thus we stopped there when we first arrived to complete our quest. We have brought documents as a favor from the tamer's guild, Walker retrieved them from his storage handing them to the king who grabbed them and tossed them aside. One of his attendants waiting at the side of the room moved to grab them before they touched the floor and retreated again. Undeterred Walker continued, "We also learned it was customary to bring a gift as part of our visit here." seeing the king's eyes light up at this Walker pulled the sword from the inventory as well. He unwrapped it revealing an intricate golden hilt in a golden scabbard, the head of a lion was etched multiple times on to it. Walker checked quickly with his appraisal skill.

'Earth splitting sword

+7atk, +5matk

When mana is channeled through it the mana is converted to earth elemental mana. This allows an attack to easily split the earth apart.'

"I present you with the earth splitting sword, this weapon was forged in the dragon fire of the Guild master's dragon Toro. It was a wondrous experience to witness." the King almost jumped to grab the new weapon. The metallic twang of it being unsheathed brought a orange yellow shine to reflect off it. Green lines were running down the blade emanating earth elemental mana. It had been finely polished and perfectly set with the handle. It was most certainly a high class weapon.

The king moved through some motions showing his expertise in wielding swords. His movements were solid and flowing without any hesitancy. His show of strength was not anything meant to show off but instead out of pure excitement and commitment. He wanted to feel the weight of the weapon and find the proper stances. He needed to know its strengths and weaknesses. Watching this for a few more minutes the king sheathed the sword once again, instead of tossing it aside like he did the papers he motioned for an attendant to take it. The attendant took the weapon gingerly as the king softly placed it in their hands. The respect for the weapon was impressive and none in the party had ever seen someone take such care.

Chapter 182 - 182. Coincidence

"This weapon is very balanced and has a very nice handle on the earth elemental mana it produces. Very high quality, I shall use it in my next battle against the generals." His toothy smile showed the sharpness of his teeth, they were like lions, able to tear flesh from bone at any moment. "My name is Rorick of the lion pride tribe. I am the current ruling king of Ordist. I am glad to see our allies are fostering proper warriors and sending them here to show off." a sneaky glint in his eyes said there would be more to this. "Since you have come all this way, how about joining one of the generals tournaments. Scylla appreciates the potential of the young and is currently having a tournament for those around your age. I would very much like to see your kingdom's future strength," There it was the all too perfect coincidence. The look in the king's eye said that this was far from normal, Walker suspected it was set up last minute to test how the Crystal kingdom was doing. Walker would need a harsh word with their king when they next met.

"Why of course we would be honored to participate in such a strong tradition in your kingdom. My fellow party member Su was very much intrigued by the carvings showcasing the history, "You truly have excellent artists and warriors." Walker was not putting all the pieces together and wanted to butter the king up a bit to see if they could gain some more knowledge. Maybe even some form of reward for themselves at the end.

Hearing this the king himself seemed to become more prideful while glancing to Su as Walker motioned to her. "Very good eyes for a strong looking young warrior, I hope to see just what you can do against our young ones. We should have three spots available so please choose who of you will join me watching from my personal balcony and who will enter in to the fun." This was a bit unexpected but was most likely intentional so that Walker could keep Midnight out of a fight. This would be a risk due to her being a monster, if great harm came to her there was no safeguard to pull her out. Knowing this was the king's intention Walker already knew who would go to fight.

"Su, Remey, and myself will join. Gil, Midnight, and Onyx will watch with you. However I must know if there are any regulations to adhere to?" His choice on who to put in to the small tournament was staying the same no matter what but Walker had a striking suspicion that attack would be banned, they were a race that preferred brute force battle after all.

"Ah yes how silly of me, I almost forgot." The toothy grin was shown again as the youth had seen through his little trick. " is forbidden, you may enhance your body with it but cannot use ranged spells or status inducing spells. No poisons at all, if you are suspected of doing so you will be exiled from her forever. You must fight until your opponent is unable to continue. You may choose weapons from our general armory and use elemental to strengthen them but not give them al properties. You may forfeit but if you do so you will be charged a major fine as well as leave the city for five years. Other than that things are fairly simple, try not to mortally wound someone and you shall do fine." The king was smiling all the while, he knew that Walker was adept in from the gossip he had heard and wanted to see what this young hero could do without it as an option. He did internally praise Walker for keeping his archer

and monsters out of the battle, it was the correct decision as a leader. "Shall my attendants lead you to the proper coliseum? Your members can follow me to the balcony." Having Onyx go with Midnight, Walker watched as king Rorick headed up a staircase with Gil in tow, Midnight seemed unhappy to be left out but Onyx got her following Gil easily enough.

"Guests please allow us to guide you to lady general Scylla's coliseum." The same attendant that had taken the sword was the one guiding them. They left through the opposite door they entered, the walls were filled with similar carvings showing a variety of demi-humans with snake or reptilian themed traits. This must be the difference within the general's heritage as well. From what Walker knew, Scylla was the name of an ancient sea monster that had many snakes as it's limbs. It would not be a surprise if that bloodline surfaced in reptilian based demi-humans. The tales of the intense battles against the ancient monster fought before being trapped deep under the sea, eventually being lost to the centuries. The tale was both epic and sad, Walker wanted to believe it right to imprison an evil monster for life after they caused great damage but also found it sad to think of a being trapped forever. These were emotions a normal person should not feel for a monster, was he influenced too much by having monsters as companions?

Sounds of cheering and yelling became louder and louder until the three had been brought to a waiting room. Weapons lined the walls and a few younger demi-humans stood idly stretching and talking. They eyed the three carefully knowing that these were the opponents that they had been warned about battling. They had not been told of their abilities due to their mentors wanting them to face a true battle, In war they would not have the luxury of knowing an opponent's every move.

The attendant left them alone as soon as they had entered, all they three knew was at the opposite end of the room was a tunnel that led to the light of the open air coliseum. "I am going to look for some weapons to bring in with me, I want to be prepared." Walker was planning to bring a few with him in his storage since spatial was not an attack and therefore not banned. He was also thinking about how he might utilize earth elemental manipulation to strengthen a weapon without using it as a form of attack. He was mostly thinking of a strategy using cross slash and earth swords. It could take his opponent off guard in an instant.

Seeing two thin swords he began to plan how he would use these two and earth swords to his advantage. If he had the time he wished he could try and learn a skill that made better quality impromptu weapons out of the earth but he knew he was limited. Taking and carrying the swords as openly as possible to show the competition that he would be using them would hopefully give them a false sense of security. He proceeded to wander the room, the opponents were now ignoring him having seen his weapon choice, exactly as Walker wanted. He sneakily stored away an ax, one long spear, and even a small throwing dagger. The three may not be used exactly as intended but he would make the best of them for sure.

Remey and Su had seen every move he had made. " You really think you're so sneaky don't you?" Remey was giggling as she said this knowing that the poor opponents Walker was put up against were in for a rude awakening.

Remey I think you should go grab that staff over there," lowering to a whisper, " Make them think you are a mid range fighter so they force you in to close combat, then boom a fist to the head." Hearing his suggestion Remey smiled evilly. She loved this plan to surprise and crush her enemy before they knew what happened. She ran and snagged the wood staff surprising some of the demi-humans there since they thought she was going to use her knuckles but now they assumed they were to protect the tops of her hands while blocking with the staff.

Su most likely couldn't use these sorts of plans. Her armor and large shield gave her away, that being so she still walked over and grabbed a second shield. Walker wasn't sure what she was planning but didn't want to push her to tell him, he trusted her decisions.

Checking through all their gear the three made sure that everything was in order. There were a total of thirty two of them in the room waiting for the start. Every single one was trying to size the other up, some had already fought each other before while others were completely unknown. The three had hope that they were going to be unknown enough to surprise each opponent. The sounds from the tunnel became very loud signalling the start, an attendant entered and started to usher them out into the coliseum.

Chapter 183 - 183. Round One Start

The tunnel was dark due to the participants blocking the light, but once they reached the end the blinding sun was paired with the roar of the crowds. Rows and rows of spectators stood yelling and calling out to them. Many pointed out to certain Demi-human warriors to show their favorites or relations, they were celebrities. The massive open area in the center of the coliseum held only one other person. The woman standing in the center was much larger than an average person and wore very large clothing covering almost every inch of her body. Strange movements from under the purple clothing make it seem like there was another living thing underneath. The only things completely seen were her pale face highlighted by very red lips and piercing green eyes. Her hands were the same pale color as her face and were almost the same as any humans, but at the ends there were sharp needle like nails. Even though she was mostly covered up her aura was intimidating to say the least.

Many guards guided the participants in to four groups on four different sides of the woman. Su, Walker, and Remey had all been split up but keeping eyes on each other from where they stood. Once the groups had been put in to order the guards started to tamp their feet on the ground. The crowd

mirrored them causing the very ground to shake. Those next to the party members stood taller trying to show off more of their strengths.

The woman in the middle raised a hand and everyone stopped. The silence seemed much more deafening than the noise before. After a short pause the woman spoke, somehow her words reached everyone even though she did not actively yell, "Here stands some of our most prized young warriors. They strive daily to meet their potential. Today they shall battle in four small tournaments to show off their determination. The four champions shall have a bright future and gain rewards that shall put them on the correct path to be engraved in stone. One may even rise to general one day!" The audience shifted with energy, these young were really thought to have the chance to become generals? They would all be witness to the start of an epic.

Feeling the tension grow the woman spoke more, " four battles shall take place at once, there will be four rounds. The last round for each group shall determine the victor. I Scylla general of Ordist thanks the King for his grand inspiration for this year's tournament of the future!" With that being said the crowd burst in to a roar, hearing that their king had suggested that they knew that he cared for the strength of their future. Standing from the tallest balcony able to see every part of the battle area the king raises a hand holding a sword. The aura he released was enough to rouse every participant in this battle.

Guards began leading the four groups to the walls of the battle area. The participants leaned in a line along the wall, this would be their waiting area. Walker was taking the chance to analyze the ground to decide if he would be able to use the earth as a weapon. The ground had very dry layers of dust on top, but after digging his foot in he found that it became solid stone, the crafters that had built the coliseum had added dirt over top stone to soften falls. They were definitely wise craftsmen to make this decision.

Some of the nearby participants gave Walker strange looks wondering why he was playing in the dirt but ended up deciding he was a bit mentally lacking. They looked forward to an easy fight against him. There were plenty of different traits in the group Walker was in, the two he saw as the greatest competition were all glaring at each other. They had definitely fought before, the largest of the three had scaly looking green skin and yellow eyes. His face seemed to have a much wider mouth than others and reminded Walker of a crocodile he had seen pictures of in books as a child. The next was a smaller boy with reddish orange hair. He had a long tale and large ears. He seemed to crouch and almost tease the other two constantly. Thus was plain to see that he was a mischievous monkey. The third was the strangest, their entire body was covered in white and black spotted fur. His hands were more paw like and his eyes were sharp. If Walker could guess this contestant had some form of relation to felines. His eyes were quick and his body twitched ready for other movements, he would definitely be the toughest top beat with those obviously quick reflexes.

The three were in a line next to each other seemingly trash talking every so often while they all waited for the first two to be chosen to battle. Scylla walked a circle picking out two from each group to start. Once chosen the two would go towards the center of the battle area leaving enough space between them for the other battles to take place. There was more than enough room for all four battles at once and for none to bump shoulders. Scylla had picked out six so far none of which were Remey or Su, they would not be first to fight for their group. This was good, the two would be able to hide their skills for a bit longer. Walker, however, was not as lucky after Scylla pointed to the large green scaled skin participant she stopped in front of Walker, "and you". Those two words forced him to walk forward, he did not want to give up his preparations just yet but since he needed to he might as well take down the biggest participant doing so.

Looking like he had just won the lottery his crocodile like opponent smiled with his large mouth. The ghastly large teeth were a mustard yellow color. "You're too small to even be a snack for me, try and stay standing for a bit so I can impress the general." He had not introduced himself but Walker did not need to know his name.

"All the best to you as well, my name is Walker and I plan to show the might of my own kingdom." His opponent did nothing but snort and look down on him. For him the battle was already won.

Scylla yet again stood in the middle watching those who had taken position. She had chosen her favorites to win and was eager to put her theories in to practice. She repeated her same hand raise as before but this time they all knew that her lowering it would mean they start. The swift downward movement of her arm was barely able to be seen, but it was just slow enough for the participants to fly in to motion. Walker's opponent was the only one not to immediately rush in to a fight, instead he took large breaths causing his muscles to bulge. Veins stood out around his body, Walker knew this was a strengthening technique of some kind. Having almost doubled his muscles the opponent stomped forward, his speed seemed to have slowed. He was attempting to intimidate Walker to show off his might, but Walker wasn't the least bit affected.

Walker drew the two swords he had had and started to run towards his opponent, this was definitely unexpected to his opponent but welcomed. Walker approached dodging a wide swing, while he ducked under it he arced one sword up to try and deal some damage. The sword connected without any trouble but was unable to leave a decent wound. The scaly crocodile-like skin was showing its strength and easily stopped damage, the sword definitely made some effect though since the force instantly caused bruising.

With a grunt, his opponent swung again but Walker easily dodged, he was trying to avoid using the dance of the wild rabbit so he could use it to surprise others later. Now knowing his speed was faster

than his opponent Walker took full advantage landing strike after strike with both swords, the damage would have to slowly accumulate so he could save his mana.

The two fought this battle of attrition for some time, the audience definitely was getting tired of it since the battles had all come to a close much faster. Feeling this energy lower than usual Walker was about to swing his blade again when his opponent managed to block it. Using their other hand his opponent wrenched the sword from Walker throwing it aside. Now Walker only had the one sword, it was time to start acting. Walker made his strikes sloppy allowing his opponent to knock them aside each time. Falling for his act they started to become more bold in their blocks and swings. Walker's opponent was taking large steps in toward him with every attack. Finally, his opponent managed to knock the other sword out of his hands, now Walker had no weapon.

Chapter 184 - 184.Tricks

Without his swords Walker's opponent was completely convinced he had won. He puffed up his chest showing off his strength and body covered in bruises. This was a show of his body's toughness, no other could penetrate his skin! Throwing wide arcs with his fists he was basically playing with Walker, he was in the spotlight and wanted all eyes on him, not others could take his attention, there were no other fights going on.

The audience was tired of this playing and had begun to shout for an ending, their voices coming together to shake the walls yet again. Full of confidence and the taste of victory Walker's opponent came in for a massive punch to end the fight. This was exactly what Walker wanted.

He had prepared the earth underneath him using mana slowly to create a pair of swords, these were better than his last attempt because the floor of the arena was well made with tough stone. Now that his opponent took a massive step in there was no way he could adjust and dodge. Walker thrust his hands into the dust on the ground, pulling up the two swords he had made with his earth manipulation. Crossing them he pushed them in to his opponent's chest. His heart beat stopped in surprise, he had no idea where these blades had come from.

Using his cross slash two deep red lines were cut through his opponents tough skin, the cry of pain was loud enough to rival the cheers of the audience which were now surprised yelps as the underdog had made a comeback. After his cross slash Walker spun dodging his opponent's massive body as it fell to the ground. Crossing his swords he placed one foot on his opponents back and placed the crossed swords by his neck. His opponent was already unconscious due to blood loss and sheer shock. Not a single person witnessing this expected this. Some yelled about use but were silenced as Walker had not directly attacked with it but used it to make himself a weapon. "Victor!" Scylla pointed and shouted at Walker, he couldn't tell if she was emotionally influenced by the result at all. Taking a glance at the King's balcony the king was showing off his toothy grin very happy to see the results.

The other participants were not giving Walker another look. He was walking away from a fight having drawn it out and putting heavy damage on his opponent. Looking a bit sweaty but otherwise unharmed Walker had clearly fought a wise battle. The final decisive moment was luring in a tougher opponent to create a strong battle ending blow. After collecting the two swords Walker had dropped though the battle had caused the two he created to turn back in to crumpled earth. There was nothing to be said so he returned to the wall, many eyes on him wondering just how a caster like him had created such a strategy using swords. Many were trying to guess his system in the stands but none were right. Medical teams had already taken care of the defeated opponents making way for the next rounds.

Scylla had already started to decide the next battles, Su and Remey were both picked this time around. Su was cool as ever, standing with a rather skinny demi-human with very large eyes and hooked claws on his hands. Remey was bouncing side to side facing a demi-human that had a hard looking shell on the back of his arms and the back of his head and torso. This was definitely a demi-human with an armadillo trait, Remey would have a fun time wailing punch after punch on to the tough plating. She spun the wooden staff making it more convincing that she would use it in the battle to come. The crowd had already started cheering for their favorites, Walker noticed that the demi-human participant from his group with the feline trait was gaining the most attention, it would seem he was a favorite out of all the participants.

The fighting began in an instant, Scylla showed a slight smile as she had decided on who she believed would win. Remey naturally rushed in to her armadillo trait opponent. Surprising everyone, her opponent rolled himself in to a ball somehow maintaining and gaining rolling speed. The tough armor on his body protects him while doubling as a strong offensive attack. Remey made a show of using the wood staff to vault over the rolling opponent with ease. The crowd was eating this fast paced battle up and praising her for her unique style. Her opponent may have been fast and heavily defensive but she had just the skill that could shatter his defenses.

Remey rarely used it due to her love of punches but her armor breaking palm used a decent amount of mana to force energy in to the opponent's body and break through tough defenses. Walker had only seen her use it once but he remembered the stance she took to prepare it. Her legs were staggered and the staff held out in one hand while her right was pulled back palm to the ground. Her armadillo-like opponent sped towards her, his speed had increased as he traveled in a straight line. He was counting on this so that he wouldn't be able to dodge. Inches before they would collide Remey dropped the wooden staff and pushed forward with her other palm, the force stopped her opponent instantly while also causing Remey to skid backwards.

Seeing cracks all over the stopped opponents armor the audience had their breath taken away, Remey's opponent unfurled and crawled on the ground, he had taken some of the most severe damage in his life,

His breathing was ragged, he couldn't even hope to stand. After just a few more moments he had passed out and medical staff rushed to him using healing skills to mend his inner injuries. Remey picked up the staff whistling and twirling it like nothing had happened at all.

Su was attempting to slam her large and the smaller shield in to her opponent but every tiny movement she made was dodged, Her opponents large eyes gave him an ideal vantage of how her entire body changed while in motion. This made him able to predict where and how she would attack. Using his curved claws he was trying to land strikes after she failed to strike him but to his dismay his strikes seemed to narrowly deflect from her armor. Even more irritating for him she was able to dodge his attacks much more so than a normal defender would.

Su was keeping her cool knowing that his techniques were causing anger to build in her opponent, she wanted exactly that. She like Walker was playing a mind game, as soon as her opponent would mess up she would end it. While she battled in this way Walker began to realize that Su could duel wield shields, why had this never occurred to him? She was using her large black scaled shield and the smaller metal one from the preparation room. What if she had two medium side shields for each arm? He watched the battle more wanting to go have two new shields made for her so she could maximize her defense and increase her attack.

While Walker fantasized on the new formation possibilities Su had finally angered her opponent enough to get him to attack her. He was no longer watching as carefully but instead openly trying to strike the gaps in her armor. Thus she became more defensive, adding to his frustration. Her opponent jumped forward aiming at her neck, Su threw the smaller shield at him while he was in midair and unable to dodge. The force knocked him off course causing him to fall head first on to the ground right in front of Su's waiting shield. She thrust her shield down on his head, knocking him out. The crowd was loving the brutal use of the shield, seeing a defensive gear used perfectly for offense was a welcome sight being so rare in the kingdom.

Walker was proud to see Su execute such a well thought out plan in the midst of a battle, he wanted to head over and talk about why she chose that strategy but stopped himself, There was still one battle going on. The group he was in was completely occupied by the sight of the feline trait demi-human using massive leaps and bounds to jump and twist in the air, slashing as he did so. The agile flexibility would definitely make him the hardest to combat, on top of that he was extremely precise with a thin saber. Every slash added another wound to his opponent until it looked as if his opponent had crawled through a forest of thorns. In just a few more moves the opponent had become unable to lift their weapon being completely defeated. Without even a bead of sweat dropping the feline trait participant went back to the hall and leaned back with his eyes closed.

Chapter 185 - 185. Strength

The last two rounds went by without any major uproars. The only one who stood out was the participant with monkey-like traits who purposely jumped about antagonizing his opponent, Walker felt bad for the opponent seeing that they were easily outmatched and more used just as a training dummy. The numbers in each group were split in half to four and would again be split in half this round. Scylla seemed happier than before seeing that the weeds had been pulled and now the real fighters remained. This time she just pointed from where she stood to pair people up. Walker and Su avoided this round but Remey was chosen to fight a younger demi-human with a gorilla trait just like the guards. His traits seemed unusually strong causing black hair to sprout all over his body and giving him a slight hunch over.

This battle Remey was easily outmatched in strength, she would most likely be winning in speed but otherwise she needed to do her best to avoid a hit. The feline trait and the monkey trait participants from Walker's group were put against each other. The two created an aura so tense it could be cut. They had been rivals their entire lives and considered the two top fighters in their generation. Not a single citizen believed they wouldn't be high ranking within the army but the only question was who would be higher?

The other matches were being completely ignored due to the two rivals about to fight it out. However Walker was paying more attention to Remey because he was worried that her opponent may prove too tough. The battles started instantaneously, Remey led with the wooden staff pretending that it was her main weapon yet again. The gorilla trait opponent did not have a weapon but his fists were large enough to be considered weapons in their own right. Once the two came close enough Remey swung out with the wooden staff to goad her opponent in to a strike but instead countering it her opponent grabbed the staff and tore it from her grip. The snap of the staff being broken in to two was loud enough for Walker to hear from the opposite end of the arena. Remey was surprised but didn't worry too much since she didn't need it as a weapon, she had her knuckles.

Her opponent did not show any sign of feeling victory over this and had most likely figured out she was in no need of other weapons. Using his large fists the gorilla like demi-human swung downwards at Remey, his fist missed her leaving a sizable dent in the ground. Remey became much more serious after witnessing his brutal strength. She started to run around his side to get in to a good position to strike as a more exposed and sensitive area. Throwing out a jab with her left hand to distract him Remey followed up with a strong right hook, she was aiming for her opponents side to try and break some ribs which could slow him down completely.

Her hit was on point but stopped completely without doing much damage, a small bleeding cut was left but her gorilla trait opponent was tough. He swung his hand back at her clipping her left arm. She felt

much more pain than she should have and realized her shoulder had just been dislocated. Remey had not expected such a slight hit to cause so much damage.

She gritted her teeth, she wasn't allowed to give up but needed to avoid any other blows from this opponent. She used her speed again to try get a good angle, finding one she aimed for the back shoulder of her opponent. She wasn't able to lock her fingers together to use her hammer fist, instead she used her palm strike from the last battle. Her opponent was tough so in theory she could bypass that and do damage inside. She made contact and immediately jumped back avoiding another backhand as her opponent spun to meet her. She could see that his shoulder and arm dropped slightly, she may not have made a huge impact but enough to put her opponent off. If she could land a few more hits like that she may be able to avoid those awkward hits. She repeated her previous speedy run circling her opponent before stopping and darting towards them. Her target this time was the exposed back of his head.

Remey was about to land her blow when the gorilla trait demi-human sank low dodging her strike, with his hand he grabbed her leg and slammed her to the ground. His other hand held her good arm steady, completely incapacitating Remey. Scylla pointed at him announcing victory. Remey had lost, the medical staff were rushing in to look at her shoulder and now bruised leg. Her opponent had been hiding his own speed to lure her in to a trap, he knew she would go after his weak points so intentionally left them open. The gorilla trait demi-human was much more cunning than either walker or Remey had predicted.

Remey was furious with herself, she hadn't considered that she was being tricked and needed to reevaluate her strategies. She knew she had been warned in the past about rushing in and now it finally bit her in the butt. She swallowed her pride and nodded to her opponent who respectfully nodded back. She was representing her party and kingdom after all, she could not show that she was so frustrated. Leaving the arena and to a medical area, she was soon healed and brought upwards in the coliseum to join the king's balcony.

"You were quite surprising when you completely stopped the rolling with one strike, but you underestimate your opponent's intelligence. I quite like your act with the wooden staff. If you study it a bit more you may be able to complete a nice facade." The king said his piece while keeping eyes on the remaining battles. He was a battle maniac but did appreciate those that struggled to adjust and defeat opponents, it was the least he could do but offer some words.

Walker had seen everything and realized the same things as Remey, he would not be bothering her with any speeches since he knew well that Remey would beat herself up much more about the loss than any other could. He did however plan on training with her more since he knew she would be highly motivated to improve. If Su and Remey could spar more then Remey would be improving much more, Su had the same calm thinking that Remey's opponent had just used against her.

Focusing back on the most popular battle, Walker saw that while he had been focused on Remey's battle the feline trait and the monkey trait participants had been fighting a brutal battle. The feline trait demi-human was missing clumps of fur and had a few broken fingers. The jumps and twists in the air to strike with their saber was very few and far between now that he were panting heavily.

The moneley trait demi-human had many small slashes everywhere, one eye had been completely blinded by flowing blood from his head. He was definitely less flexible due to these wounds as they would open more when he bent his body to try and grapple his opponent. The two were still pushing constantly trying to get the advantage, however they could not find the proper openings. The saber swiped down only to be caught at the hilt by the monkey trait participant's tail. The feline trait opponent used a kick to push away the other so that he wouldn't be locked in to a choke hold. The two had several more collisions such as this without a clear winner being found. They were pushing themselves to the brink of exhaustion and it was only the second round, they would be in terrible shape for the final. They were either too arrogant to believe they would win no matter what or they knew that if they didn't give their all now they would only lose.

The two collided, they had no more skills and only technique left, their mana was depleted. They struck out toward each other barely making contact, they fell together hitting the ground in a puff of dust. Neither were conscious and neither were at any advantage. It was a double knock out! Walker darted his eyes to Scylla only to see her motion to take them both away. "Two participants have been eliminated to group three! Ties in battle are losses for both sides, no matter how hard the battle it is still a loss." Scylla had made the decision and even with the dismay of the crowd it stood.

Walker understood the logic but this was too strict, they two had shown amazing skill yet they were kicked out so easily. Seeing as he and one opponent in his group were the only two left that would make his fight the last. He took a deep breath and prepared himself, he would leave no trick behind as he wanted to win, everything he had to use he would use.

Chapter 186 - 186. Panic

The other battle finished almost directly after the two had tied. The medical staff had been prompt as before and cleared the arena. Even if the traditions around battle were tough in this country they did not hold back when it came to healing. Walker was still wondering about why they weren't using potions but was not in a position to focus on it at all. Scylla omitted Walker's group from the next fight so that all the participants would battle after for the final spots at the same time. Su had entered her area with a frog trait demi-human. She could see the webbed feet and fingers along with the larger chin. She was preparing herself for longer ranged attacks, she had witnessed bullfrogs catching flies before.

The two introduced themselves respectfully and with the motion from Scylla had begun battle. Surprising Su her opponent had made a massive leap putting themselves directly in front of her. She was forced to place the small shield in front of her since she could move that one faster. However with their mouth open a pink tongue shot out landing a hit right on to Su's face. She was knocked off her feet leaving her rolling in the dirt, the small shield flung from her grip. She managed to hold her main shield and use it to help her stand but was just in time for her opponent to release the next attack. Su was able to deflect this one out of instinct and regain her footing. She had taken a hard hit that shook her brain and blurred her vision but that was not enough to put her down. She was now prepared for her opponents strong legs and the same trick would not get her.

Knowing this her opponent got in close to her again using a series of kicks trying to put her off so they could use their tongue again. Su was blocking all of them expertly not letting any damage through. "Lets go you green faced toad!" Su taunted her opponent and slammed her shield forward. The sudden taunt caused her opponent to be distracted and landed a kick dead center on her shield. With her push she knocked her opponent on to the ground, this was the perfect chance to start her own attacks. Using her own kick she stomped on to her opponents foot wanting to damage them enough to slow their speed. Her opponent made a high pitched groan in response and tried desperately to stand on their now broken foot. The pain clouded their judgment as they used their tongue to lash out at Su to get her away, Su was expecting this and blocked with her free hand wrapping in around the tongue.

With her opponent stuck in close range she used her shield bash skill three times directly in the face of her opponent. The frog trait demi-human cursed itself for its panic before they were knocked to the ground and released by Su. Many in the audience were shaking their head, this was disgraceful to panic so wildly in a battle. The frog trait opponent had started out strong with a sound strategy utilizing their two strongest features, but pain had completely overshadowed all that work. This demonstration here today would lead to many lessons in pain tolerance for the unfortunate demi-human participant.

The battle having ended, Su was having her bruised cheek healed. Scylla was surveying the final pairs that would face off, this was her prediction in motion. The battle that her king had prepared was something that didn't seem to interest any of the other generals whatsoever. But she had always enjoyed scouting out young talent and pushing them in to the next stage of strength. This may also stem from a slight desire to cause pain to others but she blamed her monster bloodline for this. It was rare enough for those in the demi-human kingdom to have traits of monsters and often the person became influenced in some way by these traits. Motioning for each of the pairs to move forward in to the open areas she saw many possibilities, she had a firm grasp on the two winners from the second and fourth groups. The gorilla trait participant was well known for his strategy and analysis being much higher than someone his age normally has. The fourth group just had an above average martial arts user that seemed to already have terrified their opponent with their last show of skills, the match would be over easily and nobody seemed interested.

The two outliers were Su in the first group and Walker in the third group. Scylla had been learning a lot from Su as she fought and knew what to expect from a calm and collected shield user. On the contrary she had no idea what to expect from Walker who showed such a strange system, she even went so far to believe that he was incredibly limited by the rules that he could not directly attack with . For her if she allowed him to use it to attack she believed he would have finished the fights much faster. Feeling more excited than previous rounds she raised her hand to signal things would begin. With the same motion again she started the battle.

Walker was facing a very strange trait on a demi-human, instead of the usual animal trait this demi human had the traits of a slug. Specifically the slime that was produced by a slug. This would seem very weak to use to one's advantage but it seemed that they could cause the slime to be slippery or sticky. They basically could produce something that radically altered the immediate terrain for their opponent giving them many openings to use martial arts to knock them down in to defeat. This was one of the unusual outliers that became stronger only with a more intelligent use of the skill.

Su was facing an equally challenging opponent, the girl facing her was heavily augmented by the traits she possessed. Her traits came from a scorpion making one of her hands in to a large claw, she also had a very long stinger and tail as an extra limb. There were rules not to use deadly force so Su knew that her opponent would not be using poison or they would face severe consequences, but the crushing power of the claw could easily shred the tougher defenses she had. The girl was eyeing Su like she was prey to hunt which made Su want to fight her more to show she was not some easy target.

The battle having begun they started to feel each other out. Walker immediately started creating earth swords that rose from the ground around him, he made them so that they were spread enough to grab in an instant. He did not worry about his opponent grasping one because if this occurred he would just manipulate the earth to fall away in to dust. His opponent was not phased by this having seen the last instance of this . In reaction they threw blobs of their slime at the swords making them impossible to pull out, while this happened Walker was able to approach and attempt his first few attacks. The swords hit his opponent but slid off their body leaving only small cuts. This was the highly resistant skin and slime combination a slug had against predators in the wild. Walker saw that he could in fact cause some damage so used his higher agility to reign down small attacks, soon his swords became heavy and it was hard to lift his arms, they had become covered in the slug trait opponents slime. He could no longer use them, as if on cue his opponent lifted his leg to kick Walker, the only choice left was to drop the swords and back up.

Su was struggling herself on the opposite end, her opponent was attacking relentlessly. Her tail worked in tandem with her claw in an attempt to either piece through Su's defenses or sheer them away. Even worse, whenever Su thought she had blocked every attack her opponent would then use their leg or normal arm to lash out to try and put her off guard. Su had absolutely no room to push back. Her agility

was just not enough, however her opponent was unable to do any real damage so they were in a stalemate.

The two found themselves in a much more disadvantageous position in their respective battles than they had planned. Su was able to see what she needed to do to put herself in to victory but it required more agility, something she did not have. Walker had plenty of tricks left and was prepared to start using them, he still had the weapons that he had gathered from the preparation area. He could use the throwing knife to distract his opponent then go in with the ax. He could lure in and use the spear to pierce them. He could even utilize his scythe if need be to cause some more serious injuries using his crescent moon skill. It would all depend on how his opponent reacted.

Chapter 187 - 187. Giving It All

Su was stuck, she was wearing herself down more and more while her opponent didn't seem to be slowing. On the contrary, her opponent seemed to become even more ferocious. The attacks from her opponent's tail were trying to reach behind her and avoid her shield completely. Su was trying her best to back step and turn but the speed of her opponent's tail was well beyond her own speed. The scorpion trait demi-human took advantage of this, unleashing a flurry of strike with her tail. The speed was much faster than Su had every battle against, the strikes hit her armor missing her shield, she was completely off balance. Seeing this her opponent took advantage and thrust their large clawed hand forward. Reaching well past her shield and other hand it stopped open on Su's neck. The battle was stopped immediately by Scylla who named the scorpion trait demi-human the victor.

Su dropped to her knees barely able to catch her breath, she faced her complete opposite, speed without restriction. She was pushed to her absolute limit trying to block every attack and was completely outmatched, she needed to get stronger. She needed to be the fastest defender possible so not a single strike could get past her. The medics came to check on her and assist her out of the arena, she only had minor wounds but had exhausted all of her energy, she was required to rest immediately. She wanted to see Walker's fight but she had already started to fall unconscious from exhaustion.

Walker was without a weapon, every time he reached for an earth sword he found that it was already covered in his opponent's slime. His strategy to have a weapon always within reach was flawed. Having no choice but to switch things up he held his hand behind his back to hide his spatial inventory. The Throwing knife was taken out and he hurled it at his opponent.

'Skill knife throwing has been taken from the performer system. Would the user like to learn the skill knife throwing?'

Walker ignored the system not needing the distraction. His opponent was surprised by the throwing knife but not by much, they easily sidestepped the single knife moving directly in to Walker's raised

hand. His opponent had no idea why Walker was attacking without a single weapon or even a fist clenched. This kid had completely given up was the only possibility. Walker pulled the ax from his inventory which appeared in to his open hand, clenching the handle he swung downward.

'Skill chop has been taken from the woodsman system. Would the user like to learn the skill chop?'

The system went ignored again as the blade of the ax came down on the slug trait demi-human, he used his arm to block it causing a severe gash to be made. The white of bone and flowing blood was enough to cause the opponent to retreat to a safe distance while grumbling and using a large amount of their sticky slime to force the wound to stop dripping blood. Walker saw this and pushed forward, winding his arm back he threw the ax aiming for his opponent who was still trying to stop the bleeding. This attack did not go unnoticed and his opponent dropped flat top the ground as the ax brushed past their head. When they looked back up Walker was pulling a long spear from his inventory and thrusting it toward them. His opponent rolled to avoid four quick stabs barely keeping distance.

' Skill quick stab has been taken from the spear man system. Would the user like to learn the skill quick stab?.'

Again the system was ignored, Walker was facing down his opponent that had rolled on to their feet holding their arm with gritted teeth. They threw slime directly at Walker who blocked it with the spear unfortunately causing it to follow the path of the swords and become unusable. Wanting to end this fast before Walker pulled another weapon out of nowhere the slug trait demi-human charged forward, their hand full of sticky slime ready to smack Walker to the ground. Unfortunately, Walker was not done, the scythe appeared in Walker's hands. With a twist the blade was rushing toward his opponent, naturally, there was no way to stop the momentum they had built up. Walker used the crescent moon skill sending a slash of energy at his opponent's legs.

Walker's opponent had turned extremely pale, they had no way to dodge, no way to block, and no way to stop the terrifying crescent shaped attack from destroying their legs. Within an instant Scylla appeared holding a small black fan downwards, the crescent moon landed and dispersed into a gust of wind. Scylla had just stepped in to end the fight herself. "The victor is decided!" her shout brought the crowd in to an uproar of cheering. They had all witnessed amazing spatial and the term weapons master was being said over and over. "No need to lose some legs, how will you train if you need to rest for some months. Very interesting young emissary." Scylla said these things to Walker's opponent and then to him. She had moved faster than a blink of an eye and stopped Walker's attack without a single bit of resistance. That was the strength of one of the four generals of Ordlist.

Walker's opponent was stone faced, Scylla had just said he was about to lose his legs, if Walker had aimed higher then they would have been split in half. Walker himself was trying to push himself out of his stunned state, he was still trying to make sense of the strength Scylla had. He had almost lost complete sight that he was just named the victor of his group. Looking about he found the other three victors stood tall as the audience cheered, Walker had finished up his battle last. Scylla had returned to the middle to patiently allow the young warriors their time in the spotlight.

Walker looked upwards at the king's balcony, Gil and Remey were going wild cheering for him. Even the king gave a wave down to the four of them. Having started to calm down, attendants came out to lead the four back out of the arena, as they left Scylla was giving an ending announcement.

The winners of this tournament however quickly it was put together were supposedly going to be given a huge opportunity. The second that the news had reached the king that emissaries from the Crystal kingdom had arrived he gathered as much information as possible, The rumors and gossip came flowing in about how fast the Omnipotent party had jumped up the tiers in the adventures guild. On top of that they had also had a very fruitful adventure to the ancient ruins, bringing back a heavy amount of knowledge and defeating many enemies. This was all besides the fact that they all instantaneously gained the hero title, even the monster in the party had! The king had issued an order to his general, they utilized their soldiers to notify the most promising talents at their age and put together a small one day tournament. This allowed the king to see what the Crystal kingdom had raised, also what those new title holders could do. The two kingdoms may not have any ill intentions between the two but having more information on the other was still useful.

Seeing the completion of his little plan he told the party members with him to follow to the room they had first met in. He wished to speak to them now that they had all done battle. Walker was led away from the other three back to the king's room to find everyone waiting. Su was led in just a moment before him and was being asked millions of questions by Remey and Gil who had been worried about her. They had no idea how adept Su was at using two shields in battle and they had all been amazed by it. "Su we are definitely getting you new shields". Walker's words offered a greeting and also a promise, as the leader of the party he had let her down by not even considering that Su as a shield bearer could dual wield shields. Most defenders would not choose to do so due to the weight, but if they could make two lighter shields Su would double her blocking ability.

Su herself was a bit embarrassed hearing that Walker was already planning to do more for her, she had lost yet she was still being praised. "Remey that armadillo got crushed, you need to use your palm skills more, they are insane!" Walker wanted to encourage her since she would understandably be unhappy with the results of the battle. But if she was convinced to use them more often her flexibility in battle would greatly increase. Remey hit him in the shoulder a bit softer than usual but he could tell he had made the right move. Walker really wanted to pick Gil's brain on what he had spotted by observing but at the moment he had to focus on king Rorick.

Chapter 188 - 188. Root Of Hate

King Rorick was watching the party interact finding it very refreshing from the normal proper demeanor of all his attendants. "Ehm" he cleared his throat to remind the still young adventurers of where they were, his amusement plain on his face. "How did you three enjoy the annual tournament?" keeping up his ruse that this was a normal event the king gave a toothy grin.

"Yes it was very interesting to see how widely the warriors use the traits they are born with. I feel our party has learned a great deal from today." Su nodded intently as Walker's words were exactly true. The king smiled even more.

"I am glad you all enjoyed yourselves then, I had prepared some nice mentors for the four winners but unfortunately you Walker, will not be able to stay for a year long mentor-ship. Hmm what to do, I plan to send a customary thank you gift to your King when you leave, Ah I will figure something out for then." He hadn't expected one of the party to win against their best up and coming warriors but was pleasantly surprised to see it happen. "What did you think of meeting my general Scylla, she is one of the most powerful people in the entire kingdom."

"Her presence was very forward, I was very surprised to see her block that last attack, I couldn't even see her move!" Walker was showing his heart on his sleeve by speaking his mind. Scylla's action was still stuck in his head.

"Ha! Yes I think she is rather amazing as well, you know she wasn't born here. Scylla was born to the demons as one of their slaves, but through a significant amount of effort and her mastery over her system she came to this kingdom. My Father helped her learn to be a proper general and placed her as my direct guard until I became king. You could say she has watched me grow up." This was a bit more than they had planned to learn about general Scylla but it was nice to hear that a king was much more down to earth than the nobles and royalty they were used to. However hearing that Scylla had once been a slave was enough to wipe the smiles from the party.

"Ah yes I figured your king may not have been as forthcoming as we are here. My gate manager said you all seemed fairly clueless about carrying the medals your emissaries carry." After a long sigh and a bit more disappointment king Rorick continued. "Our kingdom has always had a bit of a disagreement with the demons, naturally due to some of their stronger ranking demons liking to toy with our populace. They are a kingdom where strength reigns supreme, no matter your birth you are considered trash until you gain strength." King Rorick's eyes grew cold. "Over the past years the demons have become much

more active and begun to ignore their normal power struggle. They have formed a group building up their strength again, taking slaves of other kingdoms. Now that is not enough to cause anything like war but their greater demons have been sending more intellectual trickery than usual, the most recent being potions." King Rorick clenched his fists almost shaking, "Some merchants came selling many potions at a lower cost claiming they wanted to enter the market with a stronger health potion, naturally this gained momentum well. Many citizens bought them and consumed them. The results? Slow painful death." Pausing while staring off at the wall king Rorick seemed to take hold of his emotions again, "many were healed instantly then over the next week withered away bleeding mana into the air and no longer able to generate it. We hunted the merchant only to find that they had fled the city and left everything behind. We found evidence that they had been a demon but we could not find their escape route, we are currently hunting them believing they are somehow hiding in the city still. This is why your escort was so strong, we can not risk anything."

Walker was silent along with the rest of the party, this was why they had yet to see any potions being used or sold. The fact that the Demi-humans did not get along with demons was common knowledge and even outlined in their history. They even banned them from their city due to pay disputes. However the fact that one had managed to poison so many of the citizens was pure evil, Walker did not want to believe an entire race was evil. He had seen monsters like Midnight who were much more than just some killing machine monster, but were all demons really alike? Walker also began to connect the dots between some of the newer carvings on the stone walls, but held himself back not wanting to cause a scene.

"King Rorick, should I understand that you wish us to bring this information to our king?" Walker wanted to thank him for the worry and additional escort but first needed to follow the proper business respects.

"Smart boy, yes I will leave you with documents delivered by my general to you upon your exit. We will be asking for support in certain matters and have found we can rely on your kingdom." King Rorick had started to soften again having finished the heavier matters, he was glad that younger emissaries had come over the strict and stubborn usual ones. Things would proceed much more efficiently if backed by one with a hero title.

"We shall do our best." Walker bowed slightly as a sign of respect. "And we thank you for your additional escort, however, we will go sightseeing tomorrow and wish to be left to our own devices. If this is tough for you to allow, we can sign documentation that it is our choice so you can rest easy and be free of retaliation." Walker knew that they could be used as pawns for their kingdom to attack Ordist, so it was only wise that they leave a record of dropping their escort to prevent any undo futures.

A wave of king Rorick's hand brought an attendant over with documents. They stood in front of Walker allowing him to fill out their desire to be relieved of an escort and that they would take full responsibility

for their own well being. "While in my city please remain at attention, I do not trust a demon to let such an opportunity lie untouched." With this final warning king Rorick turned, allowing his attendants to lead the party out.

The weight that just dropped on their shoulders was enough to break a back. The Demi-humans and demons had always been at odds but at this moment it seemed that things were close to boiling over. Walker only feared that the art showing wars against demons were about to repeat themselves. The previous escort led them back to the tamers guild with no issue, the past ruckus from before seemingly forgotten.

The party ignored anyone that asked them to head anywhere, choosing instead to find an empty place in the sleeping quarters so they could speak privately. Today was a lot to digest and they needed the time to understand.

"When we were entering the doors of the king's chambers did anyone else see the newest carvings?" Leading off Walker was about to explain his theory. Seeing everyone shake their heads no he took a deep breath, "there was the start of a carving, it showed an older king laying on a bed surrounded by others. It looked like they were sick. I believe that the previous king consumed one of the potions that King Rorick spoke of." Everyone but Midnight seemed surprised and conflicted.

"Naturally they would want to catch the culprit no matter what. I understand why they sent such a strong escort now, they had just faced great hardship." Su understood immediately.

"so why don't they just go and punch the demon's faces? They are more than strong enough." Remey was angry for them, the idea of potions which should heal being used to poison was disgusting to her.

"They can't their hands are tied, they don't have the demon in question and can't get answers. Without an interrogation of Ordist does anything against the demons, the demons will be justified to attack and no one can help defend Ordist. It's all politics. However I have a feeling Walker had some ideas about that?" Gil had one eye brow raised knowing exactly what Walker was thinking.

"Well, Gil you're spot on. I think we should go sightseeing tomorrow, visit this city's adventurers guild, look around the markets, get her the things we want or need. While doing all that we keep our eyes out and let trouble find us. If king Rorick is right, then the culprit may take advantage of us being here. Basically we are fish bait." The party wore devilish smiles, even Midnight seemed eager to reel in prey this way.

Chapter 189 - 189. Popular

No one bothered them as when Laurence had noticed the party, he saw them deep in conversation. Many of the tamer's had heard of the tournament and pushed for entrance. Those that had gained entrance returned to tell the tale. Not often did an outsider even place in a tournament, let alone one that had been thrown together so fast. The gossip about the party even having members on the King's balcony skyrocketed. Many citizens knew that they were adventurers from the Crystal kingdom and even had acquired a title at an incredibly young age. Overnight they had become the most talked about sensation.

Walker had checked his system learning the three skills from his last round in the Colosseum's arena.

'Knife throwing- 1 mana cost

Uses a small knife as a projectile. Can cause a stunned and bleeding effect. The more surprised the user is the longer they are stunned.

Chop- 2 mana cost

Used only with an ax this skill allows the user to cut through some of the toughest trees. Often used for clearing land bones can also be cleaved by this skill.

Quick stab- 1 mana cost per stab

More reliant on the users stamina, the users thrust out with spear or similar bladed weapon as fast as possible. The more this attack lands the higher the damage will rise.'

They party all woke up early so they could put their sightseeing in to action. They geared up keeping everything as close to them as possible, they wanted to be sure that if anything happened they could react within an instant. Wanting to try some of the local foods they didn't eat breakfast which seemed to make Midnight slightly agitated, however after some promising words of new treats Walker managed to lighten her mood. Not many were out and about in the large open space training this early in the morning. Many tamers that trained at night had already finished and many that trained in the morning had yet to wake.

Onyx was enjoying the sunrise while on his favorite spot, Walker's shoulders, Walker swore onyx had gotten heavier again and decided he would start measuring him every so often. Walker was a bit jealous that Onyx could survive just by absorbing light mana and converting it in to energy for his body. Although he wasn't sure if he could ever make a switch to eating that since lastly all he could think about was his mother's apple pie.

The group spotted a familiar face training nearer to the gate they were about to leave from. "Good morning Elise and Stella! One of the first to rise, you must be really excited to train lately." Elise and Stella paused, sweat already glossy on their bodies.

"Walker! Exactly who we needed, we need another flame doll this time to make it smaller than Stella so we can have a harder time hitting it." Her excitement rammed in to Walker, he had no choice but to say yes. It was obvious by the large pile of straw nearby that she would hound him until he did it anyways.

Walker started the fire gradually shaping a smaller flame doll in the shape of Stella, everyone watched, still fairly amazed by the process of the skill. After a few moments the small flame doll harpy took to the air awaiting Walker's order. "So what do you need it to do? Once I give it an order it will keep at it, we will be out all day so you will have to destroy it if you decide to stop before we get back."

Elise was not deterred by this at all, instead she grabbed Walker's hands shaking them in glee. " You're awesome, just have it dodge and try to attack us. We will battle until we can't then destroy it!" After issuing this order to the flame doll it immediately targeted Stella who was still on the ground. This caused Stella to jump in to the air to dodge. Before the party was caught up they headed away, Elise waving at them yelling about bringing her back steamed cream buns.

The tamers at the fence were reluctant to let the party out of the gate without any of their higher ups there to approve it, however without any reason not to they lowered the fence. On their way not free of any escort the party realized many of the early morning workers were stopping to stare at them. Some even gave them waves of greeting which was very surprising. "So has anyone else noticed that we are the center of attention? Did we make that big an impression yesterday? There weren't even that many people?" Gil was all together too puzzled by this treatment. The next man that gave him a wave he stopped. " Ah yes good morning to you as well, if i could bother you for a moment. Can you tell us why everyone seems to be greeting us?" The man was much more surprised by this question that the party was getting all the attention.

"Well who wouldn't want to greet the heroes in the morning?!" the man laughed and headed on his way. Naturally they were all a bit struck by this, even in their home kingdom they hadn't received such gestures. Small parts of them were beginning to like this demi-human kingdom a bit more than their

home. Shaking the thoughts from their heads they decided it was not worth stressing about and continued towards the smell of cooking food. First on the to do list was breakfast!

Walker planned on using his adventure plaque to pay for the meals directly from the guild bank account. This was one huge advantage of being in another city with an adventurers guild. They were some of the first to make it to the market area, the large road only occupied by those on their way to work or transporting goods. Many food stalls were just putting up shop, some set up small sitting areas wanting to entice customers to sit and enjoy various foods. The nearest was serving a variety of chilled fruits that were freshly sliced, Gil had jumped for those wanting to taste the fruits so he could find out the names for his mother. He was reveling in the dream of being able to eat his favorites every day. The colorful variety he had in a paper wrapping was very eye-catching, "These green ones are kiwi, the orange is called a mango, this other yellow one is a banana, we've had it shipped in to our kingdom a lot. Oh this one is..." Gill was eventually tuned out by everyone as they were too hungry to listen to him go on and on about food.

Onyx had left Walker's shoulders and hitched a ride on Midnight's back. The two moved from stall to stall, smelling the air looking for something good. Midnight naturally stopped at a larger stall that had a significant amount of smoke around it. There was a man constantly fanning flames underneath a massive metal oven. The smoke billowed out of a stack in the oven, even as strong as it was the smell of the smoke and slices were pleasant. Seeing the man jump slightly Walker knew that Onyx had just spoken to him.

The man grabbed some thick gloves and pulled a whole smoked horned rabbit from the oven. The plume of smoke released added a whole other level of eye burning. Midnight was not fazed by this at all and watched as the food was wrapped in papers for her. Walker started to rush to catch up so he could pay since Midnight wouldn't know. However he was stunned to see her turn and present her adventurers plaque which the man gratefully accepted as payment. She then grabbed hold of her meal and turned around, "Since when do you know how to pay!" Walker was thrown for a loop over Midnight's mastery of payment.

"Brother, we watched everyone many times pay and learned ourselves. No need to worry we were able to get a discount since we were so polite." Not only did Onyx and Midnight act polite enough to get a discount but they both understood how to use gold. He almost wanted to fall down on his butt he was so amazed. They were just too good.

Walker followed their lead deciding to get a wrapped sandwich of some of the smoked horned rabbit and fresh sliced vegetables. The man was more than happy to help him as well while praising the adorable snake and dragon siblings. This put Walker even further in to a dazed state but he quickly recovered when the food was placed in his hands. His hunger had reached its peak, time to eat!

Everyone ate way too much food as they walked, so much so that they swore they may burst. With their breakfast taken care of Walker decided their best course of action was to kill some time stopping by the adventurers guild here in the city to check it out. The other merchants would not be setting up shop for some time as many would not come early to buy their wares.

Heading toward the location of the guild, they found it easily. They had passed it just yesterday and even without that they could hear the familiar hustle and bustle over quests as back home had. From the street that could see that there were many demi-humans pushing even to get in the door. It would seem the quest rush in the city was much higher than back home. Walker wondered why this may be and figured asking when they got close wouldn't hurt. With the Ordist kingdom adventurers guild building in front of them they took their first steps toward the door.

Chapter 190 - 190. Ordist Adventurer's Guild

The party was prepared to push and shove their own way inside to check things out but instead were surprised to see the people parting for them to enter. Many mumbled about the color of their plaque. Apparently those with silver tier plaques really made an impression here. Noticing that there were few groups like them around was an even stranger fact. The party easily made it to the front counter where things seemed to be pure chaos, staff rushed around carrying large piles of documents, many started to drop and not a single one stopped for them. If Clara was here to see this she would have a heart attack.

Soon a woman with cheetah spots all over her body stopped from rushing around to greet them, Hello there, welcome to the adventurers guild. May I ask which quest you are accepting today?" The woman eyed their plaques and knew the group must be there to accept a challenging quest. "With so many of you gathered together it must be a very big quest. We rarely see such a group." This further confused them since it was very normal for groups to form a party, it was actually the rules in their kingdom.

" Well actually our party is just visiting from the Crystal kingdom. We decided we should broaden our horizons by stopping in here to learn how this city's guild operates." The cheetah woman was fairly taken back, it was a very rare occurrence for those of another city to stop in especially in a party.

"Oh you must forgive me, it is rather rare to see a party form here unless it is a large quest, Many prefer to travel as solo or duo groups here. I am sure this is very different but it is the preference of the king, his rules help keep each individual as powerful as possible in case we ever need our strength." after a short pause. "It is often very busy in the mornings, within two more hours every quest but a handful will be gone, it is part of the competition to earn a right to battle in the coliseums. One must be at the bronze tier as an adventurer, then they just complete twenty quests to assist the city. This system is very advantageous for the growth and functions here." this was actually a very great idea, it was plain to see the citizens drive to be involved with anything related to the coliseums, and if they always had

challengers they would need a way to regulate it. On top of this they also geared that drive to assist the city itself not only helping growth but also ingraining the adventurers guild in to the traditions of the demi-human culture.

"That is very different from our home but it sounds like it must be quite the life." Walker was showing how unimpressed he was yet again in his face.

"Would you like to take a quest while here or are you all here to exchange items from travels? I am sure you came across many different enemies on the way through the plains." The cheetah woman had nailed their goals down solid. Walker was very much hoping to sell the snow imp bodies they had gathered, he wanted to hold on to the greater ice imp until they were back home but the snow imps were of no great use to them. They had left most to the rabbit tribe but still managed to keep seven of them from their hunts and travels.

"Where would we bring snow imp bodies to be dissected and appraised for gold?" Walker couldn't locate a staircase to go to a downstairs discretion area.

"Of course, you can just bring them to the counter, we can take them for appraisal in the work space in the back." Having her this Walker realized that the counter was in fact much more reinforced than their home guild was. "If you have exceptionally large prey to have dealt with you can have carriers come to where you have it held to pick it up." Ah that would make sense, Walker could tell that based on some of the equipment the pushing adventurers had they were most likely trying to grab carrier quests.

"No it's ok we have them with us." Walker confused the woman who wasn't seeing any other bodies with them at all. When Walker began to pull them from his inventory more than just the cheetah woman behind the counter were stunned. Multiple staff members stopped in their tracks. Even the noise in the hall lowered as those with a view were sunned. The rare space and the higher tier party dropping some snow imps with severe damage on the counter was not a normal sight.

Quickly recovering the cheetah woman moved very fast to grab an appraiser. She was very in her element using her speed to dodge around the staff still moving around in the chaos. She returned in the blink of an eye dragging an older looking man who had larger leathery ears. The man seemed to have some traits of a bat and had a blindfold covering his eyes. Making several clicking sounds with his tongue towards the pile of snow imps he nodded his head. It was very impressive to see an appraiser that was able to use sounds to appraise monster remains. With a whisper to the cheetah woman's ear he turned to head back to where he had just come from.

"Our appraiser says some are damaged very much and it will affect the price. All together the guild will offer a total of three hundred and fifty gold. This is reduced from four hundred due to damage, Due to your status as silver tier adventurers we will waive the dissection fee this time. Would you like the gold directly or have it deposited in to your party account?" Signalling that Walker wanted it in the party account he held out his plaque. After some small the transaction was complete and some other staff grabbed the snow imps to bring them off to dissection. "Will there be anything else you need while here?"

Walker thought for a moment, "Actually we are looking for some materials we may want to craft with, are there any specific places in the market to check that may be more unique?" This was most likely the best place to ask since the guild would directly sell the materials to a forge or to merchants that used the market place.

"Oh of course, there is one shop that always brings in very strange items. A young woman and her father recently started here about two months ago, they said they couldn't set up shop until after the crisis had passed but now they wanted to sell their wares as much as they could. They are known for their red and green fabric carpets you can;t miss them on the market road!" This was exactly the kind of place Walker wanted to check out. Strange items? Perfect, maybe his appraisal skill could sniff out something amazing.

"Thank you for all your help today! We will definitely tell our guild manager about our time here, I wish you luck with the crowd." Giving a thankful smile the cheetah woman was off in a blink. There were many more in need of help after all. The party easily left as many parted again for their exit. This was overall much easier than they expected after seeing the large crowd.

Making their way back to the market road more and more demi-humans were on the streets. They still waved every so often but it seemed the general morning rush was enough to keep most focused on themselves.

They were all happy to have eaten earlier because not the stalls were so swarmed with customers that getting anything to eat seemed i possible. Some merchants had already opened shop trying to sell various clothing, tools, and even gems. However these didn't really interest them since they were mostly after materials. Walker couldn't forget that he wanted everyone in the party to have some form of item that could store mana for later use. This meant that he would need to find unique materials to give to a blacksmith to create better equipment. Judging by what they currently saw nothing really jumped out saying that it would be useful.

They continued down to almost the middle of the large road before they spotted a large patch of red and green carpeting. The space had three medium wood tables holding a large variety of different materials, gear, accessories, and even a few staffs. The variety was astounding. In the very middle a man sat cross legged eyes closed almost waiting for something. A smaller girl rushed around trying to attract attention from any that walked by. Some stopped and asked her questions while others ignored her. The girl seemed to be doing all the work, something was definitely putting Walker off though...