

Master 1821

Chapter 1821 1821. Stronger Battle Force

"This undead spearman will be annoying later. If we encounter more we will need to deal with them first since they can use their own bones to hurt us and keep hurting us." Walker made sure to warn the soldiers and his party. He wanted everyone to know that the bones thrown would still harm them since the undead would repair its body and take back the thrown bone causing another injury.

"The wound was much worse because the bone was shifting within the healer's body. I Was able to help remove and stabilize them while they healed their body." Su affirmed this and ensured that there would be more damage if someone hadn't helped remove the bone. It was just worrisome since the healer was lucky they had been hit in the stomach and not in the ribs where the lungs were.

"So basically, you want me to rush ahead and crush any of those born throwing undead? They Were slow so that should be fine." Remey just shrugged a little. She wasn't taking it lightly but she was certain that they would be able to develop a stronger tactic to beat the undead now that they knew about the greater range of skills they had.

"We will be joining your group. The remaining passageways aside from where we came are safe. The rest of our group has joined and we are prepared to move forward with greater speed." The Fel angel and the Rize angel with the soldiers from Genesis had taken a balanced leading role. Since the two had been placed in the same group, they had made sure to stop one another from conflict.

This brought about an interesting balance when it came to their values. The Rize angel had at first, wanted to ignore the Fel angel and take over. Yet, the more they spoke the more similar their orders were. Especially when the Fel angel explained that they were a light mage. It made things easier since the two could actually work together with long and close range light elemental attacks.

From that point, the two were fine with splitting up their duties. The Genesis soldiers hadn't even argued. They all understood that the angels had a better handle on this continent than they did. From their standpoint, Genesis was just there to assist as well. With that being the general understanding, the only differences had been in what the Fel angel wanted to learn about light skill from, Genesis. The Rize Empire angel showed the same though.

The light elemental hall held too many secrets and the Genesis forces didn't hide much at all. They were transparent and honest, allowing for both the angels to glean some knowledge from what the Genesis forces shared. It was a way for the Rize angel to grow and surpass the limits that their elemental hall placed on them. It was also a way for the Fel angel to learn more and research deeper than before.

"Good, I wanted all of you to come. We have another passageway we scouted but that should connect to the largest grand hall passageway that was found earlier." Walker was glad that they had their plan together. But he was worried that Alice had not come yet. She had been leaving light elemental mana to purify the last ritual room. While it was important, it should have only taken her another song or two to perform the task. Therefore, Walker wanted to go back and check on her, she might be with Gil and Midnight after they had scouted ahead.

Without needing to say much, the soldiers came in to formation behind the party and followed to the previous room. The room was still filled with some light mana and signs that light elemental runes had been made by Alice's singing were clear. But what Walker found was that Alice was singing a song that created a shield over the entrance of the passageway that Midnight and Gil had scouted. Meanwhile, Gil and Midnight were seemingly preparing themselves for a battle.

"Good, you are back and you found more people. We have a big one ahead of us. Over a hundred mummified worshippers, multiple priests, and a bunch of those mummified amalgamations. They also have a ton of sacrificial blood and body parts. This is going to be bad." Gil tightened the wrappings on his hand and adjusted his arrow quiver. He was going to be able to use his arrows since the room ahead was so large.

"That bad?" Su sounded less like she was asking a question and more like she was preparing to battle mentally. Facing so many enemies was the same as starting a battle of war. But the conditions were worse. They were isolated within the underground ruins. The undead were at an advantage.

"Bad" Midnight growled out the word as light elemental mana seemed to flash between her scales. With Alice's assistance, she had managed to gather much more light elemental mana while she waited for the rest to arrive. Her seriousness was strict, the light in her eyes proved that she was ready to fight more than before.

"Alright, then we can't waste any time. Alice, thank you for blocking the passageway. We are going to march right down there." Alice gave a slight nod and ceased her song. She was not tired in the least yet, but the light elemental crystals had begun to run out. That meant that she would be more limited as time went on. Luckily, Walker had ensured that many were gathered from the crystal bed under the sand. Their quality was still very low, but that was fine. They were helping immensely.

"Stay behind me. I will need you to be my sword in this battle." Su made sure that Alice took a place behind her. She was sure that Alice could attack while using her song of swords. That way, Su could remain defending and use her light shield skill. They would double the usage of light elemental mana by recycling the mana that radiated in to the air. Alice's attacks would deal stronger damage because they would be affected by Su's skill and Su's shield would be stronger because of Alice's songs.

"I will take a place behind you too. I plan to bring out an arrow I worked on a little while ago." Gil smirked. He had been looking for ways to reuse some of the partially damaged arrows that he had fired before. Some would be destroyed, some needed basic repairs, but others were left as an irreparable but still usable mess. His idea had left him with a lot of free time tinkering that finally resulted in something he wouldn't use against real people or monsters because of the dangers that came from it.

"Another new arrow? You really have it in your head to become an elf outright, huh?" Remy teased Gil just like any other day, but when Gil looked at her, she was a little worried.

"The arrows I will use are a bit more dangerous, so just stay where I can see you and hide if you need to. Hopefully we can make use of all the light mana that will be around due to these two and the angels behind us." Gil was dead serious. Walker didn't even bother saying anything since he was so interested too.

"The flow of the runes that we noticed in the past rooms were all going toward these large pillars. I believe that there are more rooms below us. By the way some other runes are carved suggest a field of protection. Especially from light elemental mana and any interference otherwise." The light mage for the Fel empire saw the runes that Alice had made with a song/. He had been amazed by the versatility of the songstress and wondered just how powerful songs and mana could be together.

But he had also wanted to share his own research thus far. "Yes, that makes sense. We have a theory that this is just a massive stone protection or dome. There is most likely more undead and a ruined area beneath this. The sand wasn't always covering the ruins. We came in through the roof." Walker shared the theory more clearly and the soldiers along with the two angels looked like they fully understood.

With this to think about, they could not fathom how large or how many undead were in this ruin. Yet, they also understood that disrupting such a large ritual chamber would do them good. They would stop the undead below from getting any stronger while also ensuring that they had more space to operate as soldiers. They would get much closer to their own goals from this point on without having to worry

about the undead reaching back up to the surface and harming their defending forces that remained behind.

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Chapter 1822 1822. Destroyed Instantly

The movements of the group were close and quick. They were all ready to face the massive force of undead in the next ceremony hall. They could feel the pressure of mana as the rituals had begun. The lesser mummified priests had certainly begun their process to ensure they awakened more undead. More evil things that would continue to kill as much as they could.

"Let's get ready for this." Walker took a deep breath and used the multi buff skill on everyone. He was sure that they would need it since they were about to rush in to the thick of battle. However, his attempts were shaken by a sudden increase in pressure when it came to the mana ahead of them.

"They are raising those undead!" Everyone heard Walker. It was clearly what the mana and pressure was all about. What else could it be that was causing such a change. The cracking of bones, the sounds of undead, and even the feeling of dread that came around all of them was surely the rise of new enemies.

"Attack now!" Walker charged in to the chamber and began to create flames instead of another attack. He was sure that fire would be the most time against the high number of mummified worshippers. Even though it was dangerous to use flames in such a setting like the ruins, he had to do what would defeat the most undead at once.

Yet, when the entire group came to see what was in the massive ritual chamber, they all halted. Silent and in awe.

The pressure everyone had felt was not the undead. It was the royal dragons. Standing in different spaces with multiple undead torn to pieces before them. Their claws had even torn through the stone coffins destroying runes and shattering the bodies of the slumbering undead. Mordant stood in the center next to multiple lesser mummified priests. They were all slashed apart with a slow claw attack. As if they were nothing.

"You have impeccable timing Walker, we managed to find this room just now and proceeded to end any chance that they will raise these undead. I see that you managed to gather another group to meet us." Ventus spoke calmly. She was the only royal dragon that was not silent other than Rise who was using a light elemental skill to engrave a light draconic rune on the ground. One that radiated the light elemental mana she pushed in to it so that it would cleanse the area.

"We were about to go to battle against this massive ritual hall. It seems you were faster though." The strength that the dragons had was overwhelming. The weak undead here were nothing in front of them. The entire group of soldiers behind the party knew that they would have taken five if not ten times the length of battle that the dragons did. They had dealt with such a place in an instant.

"Then we robbed you of the experience. I assume you also gained the quest to destroy the rituals. We managed to clear eighteen chambers smaller than this and now this one. I believe that we have also managed to find the direct route to the large hall. We would have gone from where you came next." Ventus was still calm, but there was a slight glint of violence in her eyes. She had not shown her battle prowess much. But in the last few hours she had greatly shown her power and violence.

"Then it sounds like it is time to group back up and march down to the real ruins. I assume you all already figured it out? Those pillars hold this entire dome up. We are breaking in through the roof. The ruins weren't always below the sand." Walker saw the other dragons react to his words finally. Especially since he had made a move to seal the undead in the sand too. They could all understand what he thought. The theory had come to them as well.

"That means we might have room to fly. I will bring the light of the sun to them."

"No, I can rain flames on them. It would end their attacks easily."

"Stop wasting mana. Both of you know that battling physically will be the best move. We may face a real challenge soon." Current was acting as the voice of reason. Lacking water, he was forced to fight with his strength and not use any skills that required water. It was very annoying and definitely causing him some strain.

"Current is right, reserve mana since Rise can make them all weaker with the light skills she has. Then Mordant can handle whatever masses there are while Ventus and I head to crush their leader." Mordant was acting as if there were no soldiers for the party even there. He had become wholly focused on defeating the undead himself now. It was odd, but none of the other dragons ignored it. The only one

seemingly struggling was Ignus who wanted to burn away the undead and reclaim the ruins of the flame dominator dragon left behind.

"We are ready to keep moving when Walker finished encasing the undead remains in sands and stone. Alice and I were ready to battle with light but we can hold on to more mana now that you are here." Su took a step to keep in line with Rise. they all knew that the more they relied on one another, the stronger their light skills would be. Especially since Rise had a massive amount of light elemental mana with her.

"Very good, I also see that the archer has an interesting arrow too?" Rise was focused on Gil who looked slightly disappointed but also had been prepared for battle.

"I did, it's a new way to use damaged arrows. I stuck the arrow heads together to make an exploding elemental arrow. A little of Remy's potion making and a lot of my arrow making." Gil showed the arrow head that appeared to be ready to break at any moment. Attached was the tiniest glass vial of an explosive potion that Remy had made. It was just enough to shatter the arrow head on impact.

"Hmm, very good. I can sense unstable light elemental mana within that crystal arrow head. If you use it, the undead will suffer greatly. I expect you to be using it when we make it to our next location." Rise was showing a lot more interest. It appeared that she had become very focused as well on battles against the undead. Right now she wanted to see one thing and one thing only, the destruction of more undead no matter the method.

"Mordant, we are heading to the large passageway now. That great hall or whatever will probably have some stronger undead. We will need to let the soldiers heal before pushing in to it." Walker made sure to speak with Mordant calmly. He knew that Mordant had the strongest ability in the ruins because of the darkness mana around. But also that Mordant was very angry when it came to the fact that it appeared those in this ruin had abused any and all darkness affinities they had. It, made him and anyone with the same affinity look evil to the core.

"I will let the soldiers gather. We are leading a grand battle to whatever leader they have." Mordant's calm response left only Ignus for Walker to worry about. But Remy was already speaking with him.

"Gil already bragged to Rise about my explosive potions, but I have more for us to use. These ones have a weird powder ore that was found. It's called yellow phosphorus. It's unpopular in alchemy but used in some forging. I managed to add it in to my explosive potions when my fellow founding alchemists

showed it off to me." Ignus had been easily distracted by the red and bubbling potion in Remey's hands. "A bigger space means I can finally let it loose."

The wicked grin that bloomed between the two made it certain that Ignus and Remey were going to be using these potions for all they were worth. It appeared that while Gil had been holding a new card to use, Remey had been holding one for some time as well. They had held them aside because of the dangers they showed and the brutality they had when used. But now that they had an evil force to use them on and could use them away from others, it was free reign to let them out.

The defending of their own force allowed Walker to accept the usage of these new weapons. But he also worried that the two were getting a little eccentric with their creations. The two had made some dangerous things again. The only one that seemed to feel the same as Walker was Midnight, but she was still hanging on to a lot of light elemental mana so she did not focus on him or the others too much. She wanted to use a powerful attack when she had the chance as well.

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Chapter 1823 1823. A Worse Undead

Now that the group had grown again with the dragons joining them, they were in a good position to meet the other groups. Therefore, they made a move toward the largest of the passageways that midnight had deemed the great hall. It was the best way to describe the large space that some of the dragons could even take their full forms in if they wanted. Not that it would leave them much room to move afterwards though.

The groups that were already waiting had many injuries being healed by the healers. Alice and Su jumped right in finding that many of them had wounds from bones and even a few decaying wounds from the darkness skills of the lesser mummified priests.

Overall, it seemed that the angels had been the ones to turn the tides on the ranged attackers while the Genesis forces had burned through the forces that moved the stone coffins. This had been confirmed by many of the soldiers who were glad to split up and attack where they were needed. But what really bugged everyone was the quest to disrupt rituals.

They had all expected the quest to end as they reached the grand hall passageway. It wasn't a ritual area at all so that meant that they should have destroyed the rituals they found here and there along the way. It also meant that they should have at least sensed where other rituals were taking place. If they could defeat all these ceremonies, then the issue would be stopped.

"I would say there is another ceremony of rituals happening. And I would also assume it is right in front of us. We also confirmed your theory that this is a large dome and that we are traveling above the real ruins." Once the Fel angels gathered to combine their observations, they had come to this conclusion naturally. Ethan made sure to share the information immediately with everyone.

"Each stone on the floor has the slightest curvature. We broke in to the side with enough curvature to allow us to slowly walk, but the passageways that drift down are impossible to travel and can not be used for anything but flow of runes and mana over time. That leaves the grand hall as the very top of this dome roof and also the central point that would allow us to travel safely to the inner ruins."

While this sounded good, the Fel and Rize angels all looked uncomfortable. While the Genesis soldiers had suffered some wounds, they had not suffered as many as the angels had. Regardless of that though, the fact that there were more undead ahead made them uncomfortable. The rituals had been close to succeeding. Therefore, there would be more undead already awakened ahead of them and still being awakened ahead of them.

"Listen here! We are marching on the largest chamber ahead. We will allow the dragons to take the lead. They will be using powerful attacks, do not get in their way. Their dragonkin are well educated on the safe places to be, listen to them. We are going to end this first link in the chain quest!" The one that spoke up was an unassuming soldier from Genesis. However, Walker had already heard a little about him.

The scorpion traited demi-human had been part of the army when taking over the demon lands. He had also been around when the party first visited the demi-human kingdom as a whole. This alone could just be a coincidence, but now that he was still here and not back in Genesis, it made an important note in everyone's mind.

This demi-human had been pushing himself and growing stronger. But more than that, he had developed a lot of respect from his fellow soldiers. Not just because of his strength, but the leadership skills he had. Now that he had taken the final step in leading the soldiers as a whole, no one argued.

Even the commanders above him had already accepted that this was an equal, if not a future general that deserved the respect.

"A good call. We need to march now or we will fall behind. Stick close and be ready for a good fight." Walker made sure to acknowledge the demi-human before pushing toward the front with the others. He wanted to make sure that those pushing to be better in everything they did had the proper encouragement. The demi-human had definitely earned it with just how the other soldiers treated him.

"That's one of the good ones. He was in a group with my dragonkin. He apparently can use his tail to deflect bone spears, arrows, and even weaker attacks while he is able to summon a stone scorpion claw. This under the sand ruins is ideal for him." Current shared what had been reported to him. He had not missed the fact that Walker had his eye on a new soldier standing out.

"I just wanted to give some extra encouragement. This is why Genesis is the way that it is and will be. Those who stand up and push to be better will rise while those that don't will remain where they stand. It all will come down to how much potential they want to have." Walker made sure that his views rang clearly as Current nodded thoughtfully. This was just a momentary distraction before the real fight.

As the entire force had rejoined, some had definitely proven to be stronger than before. Everyone had gained experience points for their efforts in defeating the undead and breaking the rituals. The larger ceremony rooms had many more rituals that had been broken causing many more experience points to ring out. This led to the soldiers more than preparing themselves for future battles. It was almost like an advanced training amp with everything risked on the line.

Before they had reached the end of what they expected to find, a massive stone door blocked the way. Without even thinking, Ignus stepped forward and wreathed his claws in flames. He slashed out sending dense flames at the door. Many would have been forced back just by the heat that radiated around him, but he managed to keep that in check while they all watched the massive door shatter and in some places burn. It was proof that Ignus had long stopped messing around. He wanted to battle with all he had now.

With The door crumbling, the massive great hall they expected was shown. Inside there were many undead. Lesser mummified priests, mummified amalgamations, mummified worshippers, undead spear men, and two more undead that they had yet to see. Walker was quick to use the all around appraisal on them.

'Mummified priest

Having been more devoted to the false death god, this priest is ranked higher than the lesser priests. In doing so, they have gained the better staff and the better skills of a higher ranked priest. They are able to control larger amounts of darkness mana to assist in raising their fellow under but also to attack.

The multi debuff skill; decaying field causes the enemies around the mummified priest to lose some of their strength constantly. It is a rough skill to face since it does not affect the fellow undead around them.

There is also...'

Walker was unhappy to see a higher ranked priest. But the largest undead that he saw was what caught his attention. It had on thicker armor which meant it was not normal at all.

'Undead heavy guard

The undead heavy guard is the special guard of the false death gods' ruins. Normally at the surface, the heavy guard would attack any that attempted to enter the resting place of many. It is an undead that has never slumbered due to the many runes it has carved on the tougher bones of its body. It has one goal and is not controlled at all. It can attack and move without orders as long as it guards these ruins.

The tough elephant bones added to its skeleton allow it to keep the heavy rusted armor on its body. It is able to withstand physical and al attacks to a very high degree. This undead is considered one of the stronger of the ruins.

Many had to perish for this undead to be born. Therefore, defeating it would free many trapped spirits related to it. These spirits can only be seen with unique skills but cause a natural debuffing field for physical and al attacks around the undead heavy guardian. This is similar to a curse to those that attack it and to the undead heavy guardian itself. However, due to its experimental nature, it is immune to the effects of the curses.'

Walker could have read more but he chose not to. Getting in to details on the suffering that came to creating this undead heavy guardian was not what he wanted to know. Instead, he wanted to be able to find a way to defeat it and make sure that there would be no more undead rising from their coffins. He had already seen three or four stepping out to attack them. He didn't need more.

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Chapter 1824 1824. Just A Little Water

"The undead heavy guard is the one in armor. It is the toughest here and has the ability to move without control. It is somewhat mindless in that way. It only wants to attack and defend. It is here to protect this place or wherever it is moved. Be careful since it's already being strengthened by those priests. But the mummified priest leading them has a debuff, we need to counter the rotting attacks it will hit everyone in the area with."

Sharing the information from the all around appraisals was a key, but also sharing that these two specific undead were the most dangerous was the most important fact. Especially since the mummified priest had already started to make a move while the lesser mummified priests were attacking as well.

"Midnight, start it off right!" Walker knew that Midnight had prepared and been holding an attack. The light elemental mana she had condensed was easy for many to sense, but Midnight was especially prepared to show it off. She didn't even need to be told twice, instead, she moved to the front of the group while the soldiers waited to be able to charge in at the mummified worshippers that were already reacting to their appearance.

Normally, the light elemental breath attack would be powerful, but since Midnight had held and condensed the light elemental mana in her chest longer and longer, she had been able to make it fuse with her golden flames. The white breath that spewed from her maw was much more dangerous to the undead or anything that was within its range. And that range had also extended.

"She fused her natural golden flame heart with the light elemental mana to create a fire and light fusion breath attack. Ignus and I should be able to use this." Rise sounded impressed But Ignus just huffed at her for suggesting that they worked together. He was stubborn after all, not that he didn't begin to do so anyways.

The two watched as the white flames hit the multiple mummified worshippers and even caught on to some of the mummified amalgamations. Even the darkness attacks sent by the lesser mummified priests were destroyed. It was the simple purifying effect that was added to the flames by the condensed light elemental mana.

Walker knew that it was the same as the attacks he had used on the undead in the first ruins they had ever gone. Unfortunately, these undead could rebuild themselves and his white flames would not be able to maintain a constant burning on them if they repaired themselves after they burned.

Rise had breathed in and so had Ignus. The two had come behind Midnight who had just lost her mana and needed a moment to gather herself. While the two had not clearly said they easily cooperated in fusing their skills, it was actually child's play to them. They understood light and flames well enough to make the two cooperate without much effort.

That was why everyone was easily accepting the second wave of more powerful white flames that came together and struck out over the many undead in front of them. While the duration was intentionally shorter, they had more mana behind them. Midnight's attacks had hit the mummified undead and managed to weaken them. The combination of Ignus and Rise attacking had been powerful enough to break away some of the runes that were on the coffins. They had perfectly interrupted multiple undead starting to awaken.

"Charge now!" Mordant gave the go ahead to the soldiers to push forward. He saw the opening and the weakened mummified worshippers. He himself, started to move through the shadows and ambushed two of the larger mummified amalgamations. He was certain that he could handle them in one single claw attack which would open up another path for the attacks coming from others.

The first ones that saw this were Remey and Gil. Remey moved with a much faster pace to take the lead and ignored the undead Mordant had just struck down. She had the lesser mummified priests in her sights while Gil brandished his daggers behind her. He was slicing at runes while he moved but also utilizing his flow of elven dagger techniques to maintain the safety of the area around him.

Any mummified worshiper that even got near him and Remey was slashed down in a single or dual cut. The daggers were sharp enough to sever the wrappings over the dried flesh and bones. But even more, Gil was using his refined eyes to be able to slight directly at the joints of the undead. Therefore, the attacks caused arms, legs, and even some ribs. His attacks had greatly damaged them due to the extreme accuracy. He was even appearing to be in a flow better than what Walker had seen him doing before.

The speed that the undead were being defeated was more that Walker could keep up with. He was glad that some of the earth mages had been there to cover the other undead in sand and earth to trap them before they could rebuild themselves.

Unfortunately, the entire army felt the sudden lowering of their abilities as they were hit with debuffs. The mummified priest had been able to gain enough space and time to attack while the undead heavy guardian was moving towards the first of the soldiers near it.

The debuff was weakening their defenses and would only keep pushing them. Therefore, Alice was forced to start her song. She would have been attacking but right now she had to focus on buffing everyone. She knew that Walker was going to use his multi buff skill over and over, yet, that would not do as much as she could.

The sweet words that came from Alice were enough to promote a calming sensation to everyone's minds. But the light that radiated around as some of the Rize angels tossed their own light elemental crystals around to boost the light elemental mana was better. It brought an invigorating feeling that also slightly healed upon contact. The light was similar to strings reaching out and briefly touching those that were most affected by the debuffs from the mummified priest.

When Su saw that the undead heavy guardian was moving toward the front row of soldiers without a care for the mummified worshippers, she pushed her way ahead as well. She watched the undead heavy guardian crush many of the mummified worshippers before lifting a large stone coffin cover and throwing it toward them.

The clang of Su's shield slamming together along with the sharp crack of stone was enough to make everyone shiver. But Su stood strong. She was only pushed back slightly because of how quickly she had reacted. She was not some weak woman here, she was the draconic guardian that had grown more and more powerful every single day.

"Let's see what some weak undead can do! Huh!? Think you can even lay a hand on me!" The taunt that rang out made the undead heavy guardian focus solely on her. It was perfect for leading it to crush more of the mummified worshippers while avoiding her allies.

"Defend!" the shout of warning came from Gil as he noticed all of the undead spear throwings had been guided to attack together. All of them were targeting the same what a battalion of archers would. They threw bone spears at the soldiers instantly and at the same time. If Gil had not had a dangerous feeling he would not have noticed to even shout let alone use his daggers to deflect one of the bone spears.

"Healers, pull back the injured and remove the bones. Have the earth mages seal them." Walker saw that no one was close enough to push in and crush the undead spear throwers. That meant he had to stop sealing undead and take the initiative here.

Without any hesitation, Walker pushed forward and began stepping through the air with the wind ripple skill. The dual swords appeared from his high spatial storage. The slight flicker of lightning reminded everyone of the lightning style he was able to use that made his movements quicker. But more importantly, Walker drew in light elemental mana from all of the light elemental skills being used.

The coating of light elemental mana that formed over Walker's dual swords seemed to react with the remnant white flames. Walker could only wish there was water around. He had the sense that he would have been able to call real lightning at the moment.

"Walker, use what I have!" Current had been silent and reserving his strength. But since he could tell what Walker was sensing, he reacted. The instincts of a royal dragon were truly worlds apart from others. Especially from one so versed in water elemental man that he could see where it would fit in ideally.

The feeling that Walker had as soon as Current sent a mist of water in to the air made his entire body feel like it was guided by an unknown force. Fire, water, light, and air elemental mana fused nearly effortlessly. But the addition of light elemental mana appeared to be the ideal boost to what Walker wanted to do.

Bright white sparks rippled off and around Walker's dual swords as he slashed at the undead spearman. Their bones cracked and shattered while the force of lightning spread around them. Walker could only breathe in a quick gulp of air before he turned and slashed at five more undead spearmen to his left. He could read the system later for whatever skill he had managed to gain while in a small state of enlightenment.

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Chapter 1825 1825. Another New Undead

'The skill white lightning slash has been taken from the white lightning knight. This skill has been learned through combination with skills that combine the proper elemental manas, utilize movement skills of the system requiring the skill, and the cooperation of additional buffs.

White lightning slash- 10 mana cost

While the mana cost is high, it can be reduced by understanding the fusion and manipulation of multiple elemental manas. It is not required to have the affinity with all these elemental manas, but to have an affinity with the fused versions of these elemental manas, lightning.

The slash gathers the elemental manas to create lightning while focusing on the light elemental mana as a purifying force. It is incredibly strong at fighting poisons, undead, and darkness type beasts. It is stronger when surrounded by water or in a storm situation. It is the prerequisite skill to multiple other skills.

The user gathers lightning on their sword or bladed weapon to slash and attack an enemy. It can be thrown a very short distance but will not be able to hit accurately. Lightning must be controlled for that. The strike attacks with physical and al damage.'

If Walker were to read the skill right then and there, he would understand that this was a more in depth description of skills than he was used to. This was odd, but would easily be figured out by one specific section of the description. The part where it spoke about a prerequisite skill.

This meant that this was a base line skill for other skills that a white lightning knight would learn. That alone would be enough to show off how adapt the system of a white lightning knight. But it also showed that the world had started to give more and more information than before.

From this, many theories could be made, some relating to the way that the world worked. Some that focused on the fact that Walker was always getting closer to the world in some way with his natural mana affinity. But some would create the simple theory that now, the mana was more balanced in the world. This alone might be letting the world move toward how it should have always been. But those theories were something Walker would come across later.

For the moment, Walker looked at the shattered and lightning burned bodies of the five undead spearmen that had attacked him after he slashed through others right in front of them. This had made the mummified priest react and begin to move backwards while it used darkness . The reason to retreat

was clear, it was moving towards a section of stone coffins that were a bit larger. That might hold more dangerous undead.

This did not escape the eyes of Mordant, he saw that Walker was making a move to catch the mummified priest. He, in turn, ignored the lesser mummified priests to allow them to fall to his dragonkin. In doing so, Walker sensed Mordant appearing behind the mummified priest while he attacked from the front.

The sudden meeting of Walker's slash and Mordant's ambush of claw swipes covered in darkness mana made the mummified priest split in two. Unfortunately, in the last moments before Walker slashed again, it vacated all of the mana it had in to the nearest stone coffin. The glow of runes increased before the coffin lid cracked open.

'Mummified soldier

The mummified soldier is one of the more powerful successful undead. By having runes carved on and in its body, the undead became more powerful while losing all will of its own. It follows close orders and is very deadly since it has a sword attached to its hand permanently. The wrappings used on its body have metal weaved in to increase its defenses.

It can wield a rotting darkness mana on its sword causing the wounds to bleed and be incredibly hard to heal. This also applies to its sharpened finger bones and toes which can scratch or jab at enemies. The same is for the teeth which are sharpened to be able to more easily cut in to enemies.

The undead soldier was one that was completely loyal to the ruler of its kingdom. Unfortunately, that loyalty was returned through destruction of its mind and the forceful alteration of its body. It is unable to think for itself and the soul that lingers is trapped until its entire body is destroyed for good.'

Walker took in a sharp breath before reading the all around appraisal out loud. He heard Mordant take in a sharp breath as well as he understood the horror of this mummified soldier. This was just a soldier. This entire ruin was sure to have many. That meant many trapped souls that had been loyal to their kingdom but betrayed and tortured to become eternal tools. Something horrendous to happen to anybody, even if they worshipped a false death god.

"I won't stop you from using a little more strength here." Walker saw a glint in Mordant's eyes. The desire to put this right so they could move on faster. That was why Walker stepped back. It was the only way to control his own heartache for the poor fate this soldier had endured.

While Mordant and Walker wrestled with this new threat, Su was in the process of guiding the undead heavy guardian toward a small group of mummified worshippers. It had been slamming its armored fists down on the ground to hit Su and failing. Its slow speed was easy for her to dodge.

When it finally swung its large arm again, it took down even more of its fellow undead, but with that, it had cleared enough for Su and Midnight to cease its existence. The armor had been an issue for ranged attacks, however, Midnight didn't need to worry about that. She had been gathering light elemental mana and attacking with breath attacks here and there. Rise was perfectly doing the same, but Rise had shifted to firing small shards of light elemental mana condensed in to spikes from her mouth. A skill that no one had expected but was greatly welcome.

This new form of elemental dragon breath proved that with greater manipulation came greater attacks of the same kind. The breath attack could easily disintegrate some of the undead, therefore, Midnight knew she could pass the armor on the undead heavy guardian's body to defeat it from the inside out.

Paired with Su who stopped and used the light shield to block the next attack, Midnight was able to get right up close and personal with her target. The moment that she leaped from the ground and landed on the neck of the undead heavy guardian was the moment that Su knew this fight was over.

No matter how tough an opponent, the closeness of an attack from Midnight could radically change the damage. The light elemental breath attack released and spread from the gaps in the armor to the inside bones and dried flesh of the undead heavy guardian. This left it more or less unable to even move in the least.

The collapsing armor signaled the end of the battle. Every other soldier had already defeated multiple opponents. All that was left were those that had to move with as much speed as possible to separate parts of the bodies and seal them in condensed sand for the time being. There were also those that immediately started breaking runes, cutting down the stone coffins, and looking for further passageways from this room.

The process was filled with a lot of rushing, but also a lot of sharing of information. Those of the Fel empire had begun to go through as much as possible to explain what they could. Walker's additional all around appraisal more than helped with what they were looking at. They had seen a lot of dangerous

things in their time, one being the undead above ground. Now they had seen undead they had never faced. More powerful undead that needed documenting.

"There is a massive staircase behind this coffin!" The coffin that was set up appeared to have been a temporary and movable seal for the staircase. It had been moved enough for the mummified worshippers and priests to come up and down. There was a dead silence that existed with it. But even more, was the sense of danger that came from below. As if it was a sign that no one living should dare to move down in to the nest of evil below.

"We are going to have to keep moving. Before that, everyone drink water, rest for an hour, then eat something!" Walker stopped the royal dragons from pushing on. He knew that they would keep going, but that would leave the soldiers with too much weakness and lack of energy.

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Chapter 1826 1826. A Small Stacking Strength

While the royal dragons showed some unrest in this decision, the entire force was able to rest properly. It also allowed for some of the scouts to check the massive stairway that had been found.

The scouts had discovered that the stairs were made of the same interlocking stones as the surface. They spread the weight out so it was incredibly hard to break the stones. Therefore, it would hold the weight of many soldiers easily. They could even carry up and down large items if they desired. That was how some of the stone coffins had made it here and there between ritual rooms.

This had made the group wonder just what was going on here. But for the time being, they were certain they had done as much as possible. The system had even reacted to prove that there were no more ceremonies going on. The rituals had been broken for the time being. But that didn't mean that more would not start if they remained resting.

'Chain quest: The mummified curse- completed

There has been a sudden spike in resurrection ceremonies done by the mummified worshippers trying to bring about their false god. They are cursed by the world for their damage to the natural flow of mana and encouraging the incursion of certain putter elemental forces.

Requirement: disrupt the large scale ceremony to tribute bodies to awaken the mummified wall guards

Reward: 1000 experience ritual rune formation broken, 10 heroic points per ritual rune broken, second link.'

'The first link has been completed...

Chain quest: mummified curse- second link

Requirement: descend to the true ruined city of the false death god and begin the invasion.

Reward: 1000 experience for every undead trapped, 5 heroic points for every undead trapped, small insight on manas, third link.'

Walker and many others saw their versions of the second link in the chain quest appear. They all knew that they had temporarily succeeded and the reason that they had to invade was simple. They had to get in to the main ruins so that they could cease any further attempts to raise even more undead. They already knew that thousands slumbered here. Any that awoke would be an issue.

Furthermore, there was the surprising bonus of a small insight on mana. That meant that every single soldier that participated and succeeded in this quest would be able to become stronger overall. While it wasn't just experience that they gained, it would be a direct way to lower the cost of the mana they used on skills which would drastically improve their battle styles. It would be a massive boost to the army as a whole. Even small increases could add up greatly.

"We are going to be marching down the steps in a formation. The scouts have warned that there are no rails or much protecting us from falling halfway down. That means we must be careful. You are not the undead, if you fall then you are dead!" Ethan came with the warnings for the soldiers without wings. He also worried that there would be al skills that would stop them from being able to fly at all as well. He didn't put it past this odd ruin.

"After this set of the chain quest completes, you will all need to rest for a short while again. It will be slightly harder to move forward if we do not take the time to rest. But if you do not have enough time to grasp the gift the quest is rewarding you with, let your superiors know. We are going to be getting stronger by leaps and bounds because of this. That can not be achieved if we do not move together to defeat the undead here."

While everyone had heard Ethan clearly, it was Walker's words that they dwelled on. Specifically because having a reward so obscure as insight to manas was hard to wrap their minds around. But knowing the complications of the world made it certain that it was a great reward. Mages were the ones that understood it greatly by compassion.

Some mages would receive quests to strengthen their understanding of their affinity elemental mana. Therefore, they were limited to a degree when it came to their growth. But for the normal soldiers, they were unsure how much stronger they could get. But they did understand that sometimes they received rewards that sped up their recovery time or even allowed them to gain slight enlightenment in a certain battle style they struggled with. Therefore, they understood this was a similar reward.

"Walker, if we manage to get this reward, I might complete the high elf dagger technique. I am close and using it here has been perfect. Forcing me not to use my bow and arrows to a degree since the area has too many allies and too tight of space was what I needed." Gil was fairly quiet while he spoke to Walker. He wanted to keep this to himself since it would be a very big deal for the elves that were with the army. Especially since they had left Alma behind and she would not be there to witness it coming together finally.

"I thought as much. It uses elemental mana to a degree as its inspiration. But when you use the light elf style, you have a little bit of light mana on your dagger blades. That means that the high elf technique can suit any elemental mana, right? That means that you might be able to use them the same as you use the arrows. I hope that's the case." Walker saw that Gil's eyes were very bright. He had been able to sense the same things but was having trouble catching the feeling that raised his main and really only affinity was Wind elemental mana.

"Then we can just keep going." Gil tightened his quiver and smiled widely while he headed toward the stairs. A few of the more diligent elven soldiers had been waiting for him. They always treated him better, but their eyes had been on him even more than usual. It was clear that they felt the growth of the elven dagger techniques and wanted to see what would happen. None of them had been able to split their learning to understand all dagger techniques, but a few had asked Gil to teach them corresponding techniques for their dual affinities and other reasons.

"Don't get away that quick. I need to make sure you're fine with something that Ignus and I will do." The rough question from Remy made Walker flinch a little. He had a bad feeling about what he was about to be asked.

"You already know about the explosive potions I have and that some of them make a blast of fire. That's what we want to use. You also said the scouts found some openings on the stairways. So, why don't we attack from above? Gil and the elves will attack that way too, so it should be fine, right!?"

"While I want to say no because it makes me get a bad feeling, yes. I don't see why it would be a bad thing to attack from so high up. But we should let everyone with good eyesight choose the targets. They might see some things we don't. Work with the archers." As soon as Walker agreed, Remy gave a vicious, devilish smile that one she could give.

After just a moment of Remy leaving Walker alone, he heard Ignus growl out with excitement. It was already clear that Ignus was ready to battle more and take back a draconic ruin. But knowing that he was able to use even more force without any worries of angering others was enough to bring him joy. But he wasn't the only one. The elves had heard Remy and Ignus and also looked for their explosive arrows and any other weird arrows that Gil had managed to help them with. It seemed that attacks from above would be the main attack method as the soldiers invaded.

"I think that using their attacks from height is wise. But it might have riled them all up a little too much." Su chimed in with exactly what Walker was thinking. Alice just silently nodded along. But Midnight was the only one that looked sad.

"I know you don't have any ranged attacks, but that's fine. I believe that you will do fine." Walker's cheering up of Midnight brought Su to a realization. They had been so involved with battles that she had not realized that Onyx was still not back with them.

"Walker, where is Onyx?" The single question added tension to the air.

"Don't worry, he is doing fine. He snuck through and guided a small group of Mordant's dragonkin, the elves, and a few others toward the ruined city already. He told me before he left the range of his skills. I think he is in the middle of a big breakthrough." Walker looked at the stairs they were all entering with a slight feeling of excitement. He knew that Onyx was working hard, so much so that Onyx might be many times stronger after all this.

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Chapter 1827 1827. Onyx The Scout

"Did you report to brother what we found?" Onyx waited a moment and saw the nod from the dark affinity dragonkin. The group he had taken after had been mostly made of those that could hide within the shadows or move without letting the undead notice them at all.

This made them have three of the dragonkin directly under Mordant, two demi- humans, and a few miscellaneous soldiers. One was an elf with a darkness affinity that had grown up in the elven city. They had been one of the few that were able to use darkness mana while also being a ranger.

The reason this was odd was because most elves hunted during the day and did not have a darkness affinity unless they were a dark elf. But this ranger had been able to gain a darkness affinity and also had a more unique system called a dark ranger. Therefore, they had been in charge of some night hunting and night protection of the city. When they came to Genesis, they fit right in and soon joined the forces leaving with Walker's party. This was simply just the best process for them.

The reason it was all so important was simple, they had grown very fond of the abyssal serpents and little heavenly serpents. The small interaction they'd had with them was when the little abyssal serpents had spotted them hiding in the shadows while doing a night patrol of the city. From there, they had become quite fond of the little serpents playing tag in the shadows. So much so that Onyx had allowed them to become one of the many babysitters and waters of the serpents as they had started to grow.

There may have been many that did so, but not many could play the same games and hide within plain sight to help the little serpents grow up faster. To learn to spot dangers while keeping a lighter heart. When it came to this being the case, Onyx grew very respectful of the dark ranger and welcomed them to accompany his group to scout the passageways and stairway they discovered.

When they had all discovered that the stairwell had changed and was open to see the ruins below, they had sent one of their group to report and wait. Now they were back to moving down the stairs. Their goal was to search everything below and report back with the best plan to head deeper in to the ruins. However, as they descended, they learned more and more about what they had not expected.

The ruins were not some abandoned and dead stone city. Instead, there was evidence of trees here and there. Bushes and fully grown farms. Not that any of them were living now. They were all seemingly petrified in place. Like they had been somehow turned to stone with the life sucked out of them.

While this was unnerving, it proved that the city had not always been some desolate palace. It had once been alive and prospering. There were also places that appeared to have once been a small market or town square. Things that most ruins would not have once they had been left for so many years without upkeep.

Yet, again, there was the fact that the city appeared to be more than met the eye. It wasn't in a ruined state. There were no piles of rubble or broken stone. Some dust, yes, but nothing that screamed ruins. Someone had cleaned things up as they fell apart. Even some stones appeared to have been poorly reassembled. As if the hands that had done it were attached to a drunk and not a talented craftsman.

"There are a few undead here." Onyx managed to spot them while the group of his moved faster down the stairs. They reached the bottom without any issues and discovered a group of undead holding short swords attached to where their hands should have been a shields in the other. The small round shield were made of what only could be bone and wrapped in a dense white fabric. The swords had rusted slightly but that had given them a more dangerous appearance.

"These undead are tougher. I will report it." one of Mordant's dragonkin moved back torn apart the dangers of more deadly undead below. Especially the fact that they guarded the bottom of the stairs. Luckily, the group was well versed in hiding and the undead didn't show any sign of movements.

"Move this way, toward the large building to the side." The building was large and appeared to have once been a place of storage. Inside, they found that there were empty stone coffins. The door which had once been there had long disintegrated. Most likely it had been wood and slowly rotted to dust over the years.

What was astounding were the small piles of sand everywhere. It was not the yellow desert sands but they were small piles of white sand. The same that was already theorized to be part of a curse. That made everyone more uncomfortable. The reason being, that the sand shifted ever so slightly when they neared it. As if attracted to anything that might be alive and has any moisture in it.

"Be wary of the white sand. It is cursed. We should avoid it in large quantities." Onyx noticed this but didn't do anything but warn those that were not able to hide in the shadows. The undead were more

deadly here and the curse that they all knew about was apparently stronger. But the area was cool. Almost cold.

The lack of sunlight had been able to keep the sand buried ruins cooler than if it was open to the sun. The dim light here was odd though. Onyx was looking for the source wondering why he could see well without needing to use his natural night vision. It wasn't that he was an abyssal serpent that he could see but because of something bringing a safe kind of light that didn't affect the undead. Most likely something from many years in the past that the undead no longer needed. Most of them didn't have eyes anyways, they were rotted undead bodies.

Without much effort, the group skirted by the undead around the stairs and toward the light. They soon found a massive crystal pillar that radiated mana through it. The light was from the mana and not from actual light elemental mana. Instead, it was the crystal naturally giving off the blue glow of what Onyx could feel was water elemental mana. Naturally, the pillar and white sand all around it. A seeming counter to the white sand and the curse that made the sands steal away water.

"The undead are smart enough to leave these here and allow the sands to remain. That's why the curse hasn't destroyed them completely." Onyx had a revelation then and there. The undead already had dried out and brittle bodies regardless of their strength. That was because their bodies lacked the natural water even in the average skeleton.

Yet, when the curse attacked them, the white sands stole the water to disintegrate their bodies and return them to the natural flow of nature. But without doing so, the sands of the curse constantly attacked everything causing the desert to grow and become worse over time. That was why the world had issued a quest with such a high reward.

The issues with these wyverns could be managed. They would be a terrible species to fight, but they were headed toward becoming a kind of intelligent race already. The undead here would never reach that. They would breed death and pain. They would ruin the entire world and push in to everything they could to destroy for their false god. A drastic difference between the Rize and Fel empire territories and issues.

"We are going to send another to report this. Then we are heading inside those other buildings. We need to make our way to the large temple." Onyx had spotted one place that had stood out over everything.

One large temple with massive stairs all along it leading to a massive platform. This platform was clearly set up for a larger ritual. The guarantee that Onyx felt was that there were powerful undead within that temple. Undead that were waiting to be awakened and brought to the surface. That was why things were so quiet. The rituals above had been stopped but what was happening below was still in the works.

As if to prove this, there were sudden sounds of marching. This made all of the group hide and watch as over a hundred undead mummified soldiers marched by them and began moving in to other stone structures to retrieve stone coffins. They were preparing.

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Chapter 1828 1828. From Up High

"Wait, three scouts returned?" Walker knew that they had just started moving down the stairs, but the fact that three scouts had come within just a few minutes of one another was a bad sign. Especially since the army was just starting to descend.

"The first scout said that they had undead right at the bottom of the stairs. That means a fight. The second said that there were many empty stone coffins around and they were being moved. The third said that the scouts are about to enter the largest building where the most undead are moving in and out. They wanted to let everyone know that they would have to enter there for them in battle."

Gil had been the one to speak with the scouts. It was easy to see that Mordant was preparing mentally for a real battle. The undead that the royal dragons had faced were nothing in comparison to what they could do. The fact that this space below them was the real ruined city proved that they would be able to take a more popper form.

There was also the added fact that the party was ready to support the dragons in finding the flame dominators' ruins. The legacy there was what Ignus would be after over everything else. Especially if the undead had dared to break or harm it in any form. That would cause all the dragons to run their rage as fuel for their skills and attacks on the ruins.

"So we are going to meet after we handle the undead at the stairs. I assume they would be stronger if the scouts came to warn us." Walker glanced at Su, "Onyx and his group are doing well. They managed

to get very deep in these ruins without any trouble yet. But I think they will be preparing for an all out attack soon."

The reason that Walker had this feeling was simple, he knew that Onyx had saved a lot of light elemental mana. So much that he had been processing it and able to grow slightly in his time just resting on Walker's shoulder in the desert. For a monster like an abyssal serpent, the constant sunlight was a huge boost to his health and for him to store the much needed mana for battle. Not to mention the fact that he was now in such a dimly lit and shadowed area that was high in darkness mana. It was the perfect balance for Onyx with his dual affinities.

"That's not all though. There was more. Some water affinity rune pillar. Apparently, it has some water mana trapped in it that attracts the white sands. The scout said it was older so it was most likely there to help plants and such in the city. But now it was left to help the sands avoid the undead. They are smarter down there." Gil's voice took a deeper tone as he repeated what he was told. The scout had reported and left with the other two immediately. They had to return to their jobs as well.

"Now that's not good." Remey sounded annoyed more than anything. She didn't want to deal with more of the sands that they had already figured out were cursed by the world for the things the monsters here had done.

"So the sands were definitely part of the curse and the undead someone figured out how to avoid them. I kind of hate that." Walker was very annoyed. Even Midnight was growling slightly. She was very unhappy to hear that she would have to worry about sand sticking to her scales and ruining her looks. But her pride aside, she was very annoyed that the undead would be using something very valuable like special runes to block the natural flow of the world.

Just as Walker had been getting closer to the world, Midnight had bonds with him. She too had been growing closer to the world. Without her noticing, her affinities had been growing too. She had trained in different elemental means. That was normal, but she had used them and mixed them now and then. Not to the degree that Walker did, but enough for more natural mana to hang around her and flow through her body. Therefore, she felt wronged hearing that the undead stopped the world from returning them to the natural flow of things.

"If there is water mana down there, that's a very good thing. What would happen if the more powerful undead suddenly found that they were more hydrated?" Current had been keeping himself silent lately. He had done a lot to keep everyone from overheating and becoming dehydrated. But now that he saw a way to use his strengths again and stop relying on physical force, he was excited.

"So you can make them get encased in the white sand. It won't bother us while we crush the weaker undead." Remey was right behind Current in this plan. It did seem that the turn of a bonus to the undead in to a bane for the undead would be a great way to make use of what was all around them in the ruins.

"Gil, this seems to be the spot. You should take the lead. Remey and Ignus too." Walker saw the starway change. The opened up section made it feel that they were a little freer than before. But it also brought some stress. The stairs went well in to the air compared to where the ground was. The massive interlocking stone dome that was made clearly took a lot of effort. It also blocked all the sun. it was a mystical thing when realizing the depths of the construction and the knowledge needed for it.

However, that was fanatical. Those that worshiped a false death god had also been obsessed. They had been able to force terrible experiments on their fellow people while also creating such a thing. Countless lives would have been lost to make things along with countless undead raised. The entire thing was amazing but also tragic.

From where Walker was, he could see the massive structure that Onyx had sent a scout to tell them about. It was similar to a pyramid but had more steps. The large platform on the top also proved to be covered in a high density of darkness, death, and other manas. Walker could only sense them slightly from the highest he was at, but he was still able to sense them.

With sharper eyes, the archers could see some of the trees and larger bushes that had become ghosts of what they could have been. The once vibrant life that could have been here was stuck in a deathly state. Unable to rot away and return to the proper cycle of life. The elves in particular felt a sense of dread while witnessing it. A sense of pain that made them want to fix it all immediately.

"Now for those arrows." Gil looked down and spotted a moving group of undead. His arrow was the odd one with multiple light elemental arrow head pieces fixed together. On the tip was a very small vial of Remey's explosive potion. The perfect balance of unstable and dangerous. In a single breath, he drew it and released the arrow. The slight amount of wind that gathered around it pushed the arrow toward the direction he intended.

The arrow was not able to fly far due to the added weight on it, that was why Gil had used the wind to boost it. However, he had also understood the unstable nature of his creation. The fact that this arrow was only good for places that he would not hit an ally at all.

The arrow seemed to fall for far too long. But when it did, every single soldier saw the results. A single burst of light followed by multiple smaller bursts of light. Some of them even appeared to be shards or spikes of light that jolted back upward in to the air. The resounding bang that followed a second later was enough to prove the force that had just hit the undead group below. "Now that, is an arrow that can clear the undead. Fire!" Gil shouted and multiple elves fired similar arrows with lesser weight.

"Don't let them outdo us. Ignus can fly in here and I can carry three bags of my potions!" Remy laughed like a mad scientist when Ignus grabbed her up after Walker returned her potion bags. He had asked her what they were potions for and now he knew. He just worried that Remy was getting out of hand by making so many when she could have focused on healing potions.

The following explosions of light arrows and the red flames of explosive potions were enough to make every soldier shake their head. They nearly felt bad for the undead groups moving below. Especially as they saw Ignus holding Remy in the air and dropping the explosive potions on groups of undead that were trying to carry stone coffins. A vicious aerial attack has begun.

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Chapter 1829 1829. Chaos For The Undead

While there was a lot of awe and stopped soldiers while the attacks rained down from above, there were also many undead moving. From what the archers could spot, many undead had emerged and begun to look for the source of the attacks. There were also undead that used spells to create places with dark shields.

The dark shields were a skill that Gil and the rest of the party had seen before. Dark wall was something that the darkness mages were able to use to block many attacks. It used darkness mana and their own shadow to make a wall that defended them. The fact that the undead mummified priests could use it was to be expected.

What Walker could see as he had descended was also the rising quality of the undead. He did not spot many of the lesser mummified priests and only saw groups of mummified priests. That also meant to him that there would be many more high ranked undead when the soldiers tried to invade the massive central building.

As much as exploring the entire ruined city would be important, they all understood that the large building, the pyramid, was where they should go. That had many undead going in and out with the stone coffins which meant there would be a ritual happening there to raise them.

This also meant that this was the most likely place for the flame dominator dragon's ruins to be. It had been below the ground here somewhere which meant that the flame dominator had gone far to make sure it was protected. Unfortunately, this twisted race had somehow found it in a desert and built over it using decent rune formations. Then they became much worse and started twisting their ideals and seeking greater power. Therefore, they tried to break in to the legacy of the dragon and became undead.

It was a rough guess at the actual events but it was enough. Now the plan was simple. Since Ignus, Remey, and the archers were moving slowly to maintain their attacks on the ruins, the soldiers were marching faster. They would get to the bottom and the archers would be behind them. If all went well, then a lot of the weaker undead would be broken and could be trapped while the larger and more powerful undead were injured. This could make them easier to defeat.

"I can see three more of those undead heavy guardians. They are marching toward the stairs and will most likely be an enemy for you!" Gil's shouts made it to Walker. He was ready to face whatever threat he had to. With the last battle just above he had managed to find a better form of swordsmanship to use. The lighting style with the white lightning slash would be great to carve through the tough armor of the undead heavy guardians marching towards them.

There was also the added bonus that Current was beginning to sense the many rune pillars with trapped water mana. He was able to easily feel it and take control of it. Then he would be able to use that mana to lead the white sands to attack certain undead. It would be the same as planting traps. A little water mana here and there would cause the undead to be trapped by the very curses they caused.

"We are pushing ahead." Ventus saw that Ignus was taking advantage of the wings that the royal dragons had in their dragonkin form. She wanted to take to the air as well and knew that she could skip the stairways completely.

"I will head down too. Midnight, you too." With a leap off the edge, Walker and Midnight took to the air trying to glide down. Walker used the wind ripple skill to step here and there while Midnight utilized her wings. The skeletal armor overlapped her body making it appear that she had another growth spurt without Walker even noticing.

The winged demi-human soldiers also jumped while the Fel and Rize angels didn't see any reason to stay behind. The Genesis soldiers left behind would join them shortly, they were just going to use their wings to clear the path below in advance. It also showed off the superiority the angels had when it came to versatile battle styles using their natural wings. They didn't want to keep being outdone by the new forces that had shown up to make waves between their two empires.

It was also easy to see that the Fel and the Rize angels had long passed their differences to the side. It wasn't because they had the desire to make friends and forget what the others believed. It was the very simple understanding that the threat here was not caused by either of them and would cause a lot more damage if left alone. Just like the wyverns would have tried to take more territory and been a plague to both empires, the undead were a plague here.

No one would have missed the very clear future that the undead would bring both the empires. An entire continent of cursed desert that would dry up the oceans next. The many undead roaming while new undead were created from every single innocent being that dared to breathe. Too many dangers that no one wanted to worry about under any circumstance.

Su hadn't missed that change in cooperation. She had already started to reinforce it when she heard the Fel and the Rize angels interacting. They had shared their knowledge of light elemental skills with one another. That had also drawn in the dragonkin that Rise had brought with her. That left them all speaking about was to use the light elemental mana against undead enemies and how to get stronger. A very good way of bonding.

The few comments about the Rize empire and a dragon named Rise had come up. But the moment that it did, the light affinity dragonkin had moved and clamped hands over the angel's mouths. They knew very well that their royal dragon would not take kindly to an insult. They also understood that the foolish angels might relate their royal dragon somehow to the formation of their city. But that would be foolish. It would just cause some trouble. For now though, they did their best to make sure the pronunciation were correct and no new allies were lost to an insult of a dragon many times stronger than them.

Stepping down from where they were, Walker was not surprised to see that Rise had carried Alice down. It seemed that she was very happy with the way Alice used her skills. The songs seemed to greatly please Rise while also showing her the unique ways that Alice could manipulate light with just the will behind her melodies. It enlightened Rise who felt she had long made her way close to the pique of what she could do with light elemental mana before she tried going in to the light elemental plane where she would be weak by comparison.

"Alice, Rise. if you two want to start setting up an area of control, we can deal with those undead soldiers." Walker saw a nod from Alice and Rise. the two seemed to want to begin like that already. Especially as the light elemental angels flew down to join them. They had become somewhat of an unofficial force that followed the two by this time. Not to mention the light affinity healers that also joined Alice in everything she did because of their close ties to the cathedral and education around Alice.

When Current and Mordant landed next to them, they saw the damaged undead heavy guardians meeting up with the mummified soldiers. They knew that they would be able to challenge one each with their physical strength easily. But Walker had moved ahead of them already toward one of the undead heavy guardians.

"As much as he says he wants peace, that smile on his face says he is more of a battling dragon than he admits." Current's comment before he made his move to charge in as well proved to be exactly what all the dragons had thought when they saw Walker in battle.

As Walker had never noticed it, the serious expression he usually had was long gone. He had slowly shifted to a brutal smile while he solved the problems of battle. While he used mana in different ways to attack. While he felt himself getting stronger again and again. It was the same feeling that came with any reward after a lot of work. But for Walker, it also came with the knowledge that he was making the world a better place for people. They he would be able to help others with this effort. That's what he was thinking as his sword stabbed forward toward the gap in the undead heavy guardian's armor. Right by its knee.

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Chapter 1830 1830. Invade The Ruins!

The slashes from Rise's claws came with dreadful consequences for the undead. Each slash was similar to how Mordant would wrap his claws in darkness mana and send out long ranged attacks with them. But when it came to Rise, she added light elemental mana. These attacks easily cut through the undead like butter.

This led Walker to immobilize the three undead heavy guardians by using the white lightning slash. It was enough to cut their knees in the small spaces of the armor they wore. Stopping them temporarily was perfect for lining them up. Rise just had to slash at them and end their lives while the earth mages came behind to seal them for as long as possible.

The added bonus of Alice's song became a buff that slightly gathered around every soldier as they began facing the mummified soldiers. It was enough to both weaken the undead struck and help the other replenish their energy.

The flow of mana was a little harder to grasp since the darkness mana in this place was overlapping with what the group wanted to handle. Not that it was an issue for those that use the darkness mana. Once Fel empire angel was standing out significantly when it came to what Walker and Mordant could see.

From what they had learned, the angel that was directly working under Ethan was known as a shadow whisperer. It was a mage that dealt with the darkness mana of shadows specifically. While he was not able to hide in shadows or move through them, he was able to do similar things as Alice but much smaller.

The whispers he used were embedded with his mana. At a word he could create spikes of darkness from his shadow that pierced over twenty of the mummified worshippers. Even greater than that was when he used his skill to raise multiple dark walls made of other soldiers' shadows. He was both offensive and defensive in this area because he had more mana to manipulate than he normally would.

He had been sent because Ethan needed someone to counter some of the lesser mummified priests' darkness mana. Yet, now that he was here, he was showing off the strength of the Fel empire very well. So much so that a lot of the dragonkin and mages had begun working with him. His support was perfect for weakening the undead that were grouping up and trying to push in to the soldiers' formations.

Midnight was also using her abilities in the shadows to her advantage. She had been able to tear through the undead very well by replicating Mordant and Rise's use of claw attacks. What had surprised Walker was when she took her dragonkin form as well and still manipulated the mana around her claws. But what truly took his breath away was when she used one claw with light elemental mana and one with darkness elemental mana.

It was easy to see that this had come from Onyx. She and Onyx were very close. To her, Onyx was her little brother. But when it came to elemental mana, Onyx was the boss. He could control darkness and light elemental manas together within his body to feed himself and to battle. Therefore, it would only make sense that she learned from him. It was the same way that he had learned from her in battle. To put force where it was needed and to sneak through the shadows better. They had both worked together to become stronger in these respects.

All Midnight had needed were examples to follow. The two elemental dragons with her were royal dragons thought to be at the very top of what they could do in their own elemental affinities. The light and the darkness opposed one another but had worked well together before. Midnight used her past experiences and those she watched before her eyes to unlock skills she would naturally learn sooner.

This made a very impressive show as Midnight struck out against the undead again and again. The wings on her back flapped out pushing some wind as well, knocking multiple mummified worshippers down or in to a stumble. This gave her the freedom to attack over and over without losing her pace. Let alone being stuck by a single undead.

The attacks from above gradually died down. A silence that made everyone feel shivers slowly crept over them. "This doesn't feel right." Su had rejoined the group and was watching the surroundings. There were no undead around coming from buildings or even trying to group together. The only undead in the distance seemed to be retreating from the area toward the largest pyramid which the army would be going toward next.

Before Walker could speak back to Su, a rumble began. The entire ruins seemed to shake slightly as darkness mana surged around them. The entire ruin was in chaos around them as the mana seemed to be manipulated by an unseen being. Runes lit up here and there as the mana surged. But suddenly a cracking sound stopped it all.

A set of runes along the nearest building appeared to have shattered due to weakness. This was the case over many different areas which had stopped any control over the entire ruined city. While that made many breathe a sigh of relief, it also presented an issue.

"I can not halt that control. The runes around are able to bolster whatever controls that mana. I have a lot of control over darkness, but even with a grand elemental spirit as my backing, we can not forcefully remove whatever that was." Mordant put a nail in the coffin by saying that. Everyone understood that royal dragons were powerful. Yet even he couldn't stop that and take over control.

"That has to be whatever impurities seeped through. That wasn't only darkness. The feeling that chilled us all was worse. It was death. While weak, it stopped my light for a second. That is what controls all of those undead." Rise had sharper senses as a light affinity dragon. However, it appeared that everyone with light affinity had sensed that most of all.

"So basically, you're saying that Ignus and I just bombed those undead constantly just to have it do nothing? That whatever undead death darkness monster thing is in there can stop purifying, raise more

undead, and then ignore our attacks?" Remy appeared to be more than unhappy with what she had heard. She and Ignus might have just returned to the group a moment ago, but they both looked angry.

"That is exactly the issue. That monster is our target. Mordant can weaken its control of darkness. Rise can use her strength to deal with whatever guards it has. Ignus and I will burn it to ash. That is all we need to do. The rest should destroy more runes." Ventus saw a clear way to make them get the upper hand. Her calm thinking and flow of battle strategy never ceased while they fought.

"Then that's what we do. All the soldiers will spear out on their groups and begin destroying runes. It looks like we have some distance to cover until we can get to the pyramid there. That means we have a lot of undead to fight." Walker's eyes turned to the chain quest next.

Chain quest: mummified curse- second link

Requirement: descend to the true ruined city of the false death god and begin the invasion.

Reward: 1000 experience for every undead trapped, 5 heroic points for every undead trapped, small insight on manas, third link.'

'The second link has been completed.

Chain quest: mummified curse- third link

Requirement: the runes around the mummified ruins are causing the undead to rise, repair themselves, and worse. Destroy the runes to weaken all the undead.

Reward: 300 experience for every rune destroyed, 2 heroic points, insight on rune formations.'

The chain quest seemed to be helping them understand mana and runes so that they could handle the issues around. But for the moment that the invasion started and the undead were forced back, they had all gained something.

The reward to have insight on elemental manas was different for everyone. While only a small insight, everyone felt that they were slightly closer to what they had been training. That was why Midnight had so easily brought together the light and darkness claw slashes during battle. They had already jumped in to battle.

For the others, these insights just smoothed out their training. While some soldiers had been close to a breakthrough in understanding already, it had been the last little bit they needed. Now the army would be able to use their skills more efficiently in the longer battles toward the pyramid itself. Towards the source of the undead and the issues they faced.

"Walker, I will need you to help me out here. I have an idea." Gil just needed to ask, it was clear that he had gained a lot more from an insight on mana than expected. Especially since he was preparing his daggers. It meant only one thing.

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