

Master 1831

Chapter 1831 1831. Results Of Insight

"You are going to take advantage of the small insight you just got in to multiple elemental manas so that you can fully combine and refine the high elf dagger technique. I had a feeling." Walker smiled as he saw Gil's eyes flash with determination.

"I knew that everyone would get some insight in their affinity related mana. That made sense. But when I was sitting here, I was thinking about how the elemental mana seems to be attracted to the styles I use when I battle with them. You saw it with the light elf dagger technique. I Can't control the mana but it wraps around the dagger slightly and gives me more strength."

"I am not like you, I don't use natural mana but it's definitely clear that the high elves used to be able to. I would say that they were high elves because they knew how to skip their affinities and call out all of them using their dagger styles and bow styles. Specifically, they could bring them all toward them and use natural mana in their dagger styles to be able to counter anything."

While this was impressive, Walker could only nod his head. He had thought of something similar when Gil had bounced ideas off him before. Whenever they rested, he and Gil seemed to find a few minutes to talk about their progress lately. It was just friends talking, hit now, it made a lot more sense. Walker would never have been able to influence the dagger styles of the elves. He just wasn't as passionate to fuse them and discover their intentions. But Gil was, he could do that and find new ways to reach the origin of the dagger styles.

Because Gil had such passion, it made Walker understand himself slightly. He too had his own goals. Lately, he had focused on natural mana and the other manas around. Life mana and death mana being the focus with a bit of space mana mixed in. These ideas had inspired him while Gil had been inspired by the fusion of all elven dagger techniques.

"Elven soldiers! Report to me when you have finished your rest!" Walker boomed out over everyone. Gil just smirked while heading to the edge of the temporary camp. He was going to start the lead toward the pyramid while Walker kept the elves occupied with other orders. This wasn't to stop the elves from learning of Gil's attempts but to keep them from breaking his concentration.

The elves had accepted Gil as another elf. Not as a human. But because of their admiration to the human that had fully immersed themselves in to elven culture, they had grown attached. It was the same for any hero or general. Their soldiers would do anything for them. Therefore, the elves might get over excited seeing Gil begin to succeed and accidentally break his concentration at a key moment.

"I will be asking all of you to take the rear position. No matter your range of attack, I want those with forward combat ability to search the buildings near you. Those with long range physical and al attacks will clear enemies lured out by those with forward combat ability. Those that can sneak will monitor the rear from any reforming, rear attacking, or other enemies that may try to come through hidden sections in this ruined city. I trust the sensitivity of the elven race to be able to protect us from these threats. We can not get ambushed while we carve our way through at the front!"

The change in positioning was harsh for the elves. They did not expect to be separated from their groups in this way because they had believed they would maintain their groups and follow Gil. But Walker had given them enough warning and explained that their high sensitivity to mana would be imperative. Especially since Elvers were naturally in tune to their mana more than other races. It was similar to the way angels were but without the need for exterior mana at all times.

"Dragonkin, follow the orders of your royal dragons and take the lead. The demi-human soldiers will be backing you now. Your strength will carve through the weaker undead faster." Walker was changing things for everyone. Some of the other soldiers already saw where they fit in and began moving. The humans in particular began taking the support roles.

It wasn't that humans were weaker, but they had less advantage than other races. They did not have mana sensitivity like elves or the general strength boost like demi-humans. Nor the toughness of a dwarf or dragonkin. But their minds worked well. They could adapt and alter their movements to support others perfectly. That was where humans gained their superiority to stand among the intelligent races of the world. Adaptability.

The royal dragons noticed things changing along with the rest of the party, but they all trusted Walker. Especially those that had fought beside him for a long time. The angels wondered what was happening since the groups they were about to separate in to were changed. But when the angels saw that a tougher formation had been created, they felt proud instead.

The angels had thought that they would just divide and conquer. Yes it was risky, but they had powerful dragons. They had gotten somewhat arrogant. As if they had realized this and were about to alter their battle styles, a leader had already caught everyone and managed to bring them all back to focus. It was

smart and efficient. Praise worthy for those that saw it and acted on it. Therefore, the angels respected Genesis just a little more if that.

The moment they all began marching forward was the moment that the ruins pulsed with a little more dark elemental mana. It seemed that whatever had just failed had succeeded in a small way. As proof of this, a few undead finally showed themselves. "Gil, it's on you now." Walker pointed at the mummified worshippers ahead of them. The side buildings appeared to have housed many of these worshippers and now was a place for them to hide and store more stone coffins.

As Gil dashed forward, other groups went in to the stone homes looking for runes to break. Their jobs were simple. Lure out undead and destroy the runes. The process could be done easily while the rest of the forces focused on the enemies ahead.

While the party took their places, Su prepared to rush in and defend Gil if need be. But what they watched was his flowing movements take advantage of the slow mummified worshippers. "That's the water elf dagger technique. See the slightly blue mana around his dagger?" Walker mumbled this but the others heard him. Especially Current who was unsure what the party was holding back.

But they did see the slight blue water elemental mana gather. A tough accomplishment since the water elemental mana was not very bountiful here. Yet, the pillars placed for years and years had trapped water elemental mana. Gil had managed to attract some of it regardless of his affinity. An amazing accomplishment for some.

"There's the shift to wind." Gil's body turned and leaped in to the air with a series of quick dagger stabs breaking apart the head and shoulders of one of the mummified worshippers. It was fast and looked as if Gil had hovered for a moment.

"Now for the earth style." Walker watched as Gil landed and took a strict stance. Immovable as one of the mummified worshippers struck out. Gil met the attack with both daggers and didn't even move an inch. His defense was solid while he followed up with a brutal cross slash attack as vengeance. "That was the fire elf technique.

The changes were flawless. Each style used to attack and defend in the best way. But when Gil seemed to duck and dodge under and behind the target, Walker was seeing the dark elf technique for the first time. Eh had not seen Gil use it yet because he had not watched Gil train. But here it was. A style that relied on dodging and hiding away behind targets to defeat them. Very great for assassination or major hits.

The white light that gathered around Gil next was an added bonus since Alice had long begun to sing again to help everyone get a buff. But for Gil, the light elemental mana had been attracted by his dagger style. He used it to slash downward and deal devastating damage to another mummified worshiper.

This wasn't the end of it all though. The more undead lured out by soldiers the more that Gil pushed himself to join the fray. The rest of the party didn't need to watch anymore. They trusted Gil to continue on without worry. They could separate and begin destroying runes now. Their focus was not needed right now. The small reward of insight on mana had already proven useful to many. Now they would use that insight to fight.

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Chapter 1832 1832. Combining Parts

"Walker said it was all connected. A cycle of elemental manas that came together to form natural mana." Gil was mumbling to himself. Some in his own head and some out loud. But he had not stopped since he started letting his body follow the hard trained movements of the different elven dagger styles.

It had been a long time since Gil had made his muscles memorize every single movement he could discern. While some had been easily learned from elves, others had been taken from accounts. Books from older generations. Or even ruins that were still not translated fully. All of it would be tougher to understand if he didn't have the help of the elves of today's generation.

This didn't mean that he was ahead of anyone though. Many of the elves had heard of his goals and begun to learn. The elemental dagger techniques had already started to resurface. Especially since the elves had begun to come together again. But there had been friction.

Not every single difference had been erased. The dark and the stone elves had been able to rectify their differences over many generations of isolation from the world. They chose to keep their union locked away from the rest of the world for safety and growth. But that wasn't followed by all elves.

The water elves and the fire elves had the same issues. Some of them wanted to assert their dominance over their elemental affinity compared to others. That was why Alma had so much trouble when the fire elves had begun to join them in Genesis.

The elves had all taken different sections to create their own homes. The water elves were near the rivers and got along amazingly with the merfolk. But the fire elves had wanted more space and a hotter environment. That would have encroached on the water elves' cool water. This had caused basic spats and arguments between the two showing why the elves had split in the first place.

The small differences would grow in to larger issues over time. Just the call of the dagger techniques wasn't enough for them to look and study each other's styles. Instead, they wanted proof that the high elven ways could be brought back. That the high and mighty elves that had wielded multiple elemental manas and united them many generations ago could even be glimpsed.

This had been the stubborn stop that Alma had found them at. The fire elves had refused to go further and the water elves remained stubborn as well. They had blown things over the top and claimed that they would not budge unless proof that the different elven ways could be brought together. That the hero of the elves would show them the proof since he had so highly pushed the high elven dagger goals on everyone.

As this had been one of the last issues that Alma had faced, Gil was not oblivious when they were leaving Genesis for this adventure. For this major quest to keep everyone safe. With this thought in the back of his mind, Gil had been worried the entire time. The elves that came with him were getting along greatly, but that didn't mean that they didn't have hidden enmity with the other elves. That they also weren't waiting for some sort of reason to split back up.

The elves had split and a generational and elemental gap had formed. This was an issue that plagued Gil while he trained. Even here, on another continent, he strived to put the pieces together. Every single dagger style he shifted between was flawless. He had trained and was able to switch them instantly, but that was the issue.

With every slash and shift, Gil defeated an undead. The mummified worshippers fell to the flow of the water dagger style and then were brutally slashed by the fierce fire dagger style. But that was it. He used each one separately. That was why he was growling to himself within his mind about how he had to fuse them. How he had to unite them. That was why he was so trapped when he felt the small insights to elemental manas as the reward from the system.

The inspiration had been small, but Gil had been watching everyone. Asking the elves, the mages, and anyone he could get his hands on. Especially the elemental royal dragons. While some had barely given

him the time of day since they didn't understand why they should help him get stronger, he had still asked and gotten some answers.

It wasn't that the dragons didn't care, but a dragon got stronger through their own effort. Gil did not hate them for this but understood that he was going to have to find these answers for himself. That he had to understand the elemental manas more deeply and put them together. Therefore, when the system had opened his eyes more, he saw that flow of elemental manas around him more clearly. Especially when Walker brought them together in his body. When the natural mana that was attracted to Walker and Fleur condensed around him.

The tiniest of feelings had awakened within Gil. this tiny feeling that he was on the edge of something. This was his small insight. That the natural mana was everywhere, that elemental mana was just part of that. "I have the parts, I need to make them whole." that was what Gil had felt scream through his mind.

The elemental elven dagger techniques were perfectly crafted parts. They were amazing alone. Yes, they could even support entire kingdoms and groups of elves in everything they did. But they were parts.

This understanding began to shift how Gil saw himself. It was as if he was looking at his body. He could feel and sense the jerky shifts between the different styles. How he was striking fluidly then stopping and forcefully changing his stance.

It may have looked to others that he was ideally executing moves. Even to his party members, it was a flow to them. A perfect style. However, it was just using parts. The next mummified worshiper that came near Gil found itself locked in his gaze. It wasn't that Gil was doing anything, but the mana around him was being drawn toward the styles. That was how closely the elves had developed their style based on their neutral mana affinities.

When Gil had felt the enemy approach, he had let his instincts come over him and act. The odd way he moved used the darkness dagger style but he felt something else. A steel in his muscles. As if he had used the earth dagger style to take a strong and powerful stance with toughness in mind.

Gil's body moved around the undead worshiper and then struck upwards with force. A dodging and agile movement with the power and stability of the earth elven dagger style. The melding of earth and darkens had been enough to change the mana flow around him while also opening Gil's eyes.

This was like an explosion to Gil. he felt his heart beat faster and his eyes open wider. The world around him seemed to have faded a little. All that mattered was the battles and the instincts within him. He stopped caring about the reasons behind fusing the dagger styles and the fact that they were one style, not many.

As this event happened, Walker looked on and felt a change. The change had brought him from his sealing undead in sand and breaking of runes. The reason for this was because he had felt the mana shift. When he found Gil, Walker could see that the small amount of mana that normally attracted to each style had begun missing. That Gil's movements had melted together. He wasn't just attacking with single moves anymore. He was seemingly making new ones that were half one and half another.

"He's doing it." Walker laughed a little because this was an amazing sight. Gil did not have all elemental affinities, but the dagger styles were attracting significant elemental manas to Gil and mixing them. Specifically, they were blending the very same way that Walker had first learned to mix elemental manas to create natural mana.

Therefore, Walker and a few mages reacted. They sent mana toward Gil. For just a few moments, Walker watched as a mummified soldier charged at Gil. Yet, when it approached, the mana shifted and Gil appeared to gain much more strength.

In a flash, Gil moved to dodge and slash at the mummified soldier. The loss of an arm was nothing to it. But to Gil, it was the start. The natural mana that had gathered around him was strengthening his body. Making the dagger strike and break away the undead.

The thing that shocked everyone was that Gil's next overhead slash caused the mana around to ripple. The same way that Walker could when he used small amounts of natural mana to attack. But the result that no one expected was that the dagger strike caused the mummified soldier to crumble to dust. As if it had been severed from the control of the enemy behind it. Gil had been the first to properly purify the undead that had been causing issues for years.

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Chapter 1833 1833. High Elf Dagger Style

There were many eyes on Gil as they all realized what he had just done. The soldiers weren't the only ones that had frozen when the mummified soldier had fallen to dust and was not starting to move back together. The undead had also sensed something wrong and hesitated. This was proof that wherever was controlling the felt the attack somehow.

"Defeat the nearby undead and push harder!" Mordant shouted out. The invigorated replies of multiple soldiers proved to make all the difference. While Gil was panting from the over exertion, he had shown them that they could destroy the undead. It was a major step.

"You managed to do it, huh?" Walker approached Gil with a mana potion in hand. He also had a small health potion. Gil hadn't noticed it, but he had gained many scratches, scrapes, and forming bruises from battling the way he did.

"It just makes sense now." Gil finally responded after drinking the potions and grabbing Walker's shoulders. "There is mana always around us and it just is. But the styles replicate the way those manas move so that they can be used to some small degree by everyone. Even the elves without the affinity, they should be able to use it. That's what the high elf dagger technique was. A way to fill in the weakness of an affinity."

The excited words and emotions that Gil had going on was enough to make anyone stunned. He had not reacted with such fervor before. "Then the high elves took the styles and fused them in to multiple. They weren't ever supposed to be elemental styles but moves. They are moves and the high elves had been able to mix them to create a better flow of moves and and and"

Walker grabbed Gil by the shoulders to calm him down this time, "and then the elemental manas mixed in to natural mana and gathered on the dagger. You felt a boost to your entire body then slashed. It used all the styles and natural mana to purify the undead. That means that using natural mana can sever the link between the undead and the one controlling them.

"I didn't think to use pure natural mana every single time I attacked. I never do that. It only use it to boost individual elemental manas or to help others boost themselves. If you attacked with natural mana alone, then I should be able to make a similar skill or attack. But should I really use natural mana to attack?" Walker was mostly talking out loud. But Gil was smiling like a fool. He saw that his own quest had been completed when it came to the high elf dagger technique.

Yet, Gil was more focused on the feeling he had. He could still feel natural mana within his body. As if it was trying to settle down there. He knew that he had a high wind affinity, that was just as it should be.

However, he had spent time around Walker and been influenced by natural mana a lot lately. This had to have some effect on him since the natural mana that came to him was not dissipating completely.

This feeling was the same as being woken up. As if half his body had been asleep and slightly numb for his whole life. "Walker, I am pretty sure that I will have a small affinity with natural mana now. I just feel it. That dagger style. The high elf dagger style can help people awaken affinities. And since you had natural mana around all of us at all times..." Walker opened his eyes wide and his jaw dropped.

"Then you were able to awaken some form of natural mana affinity because you were influenced. I get it, and the dagger style draws in natural mana which wouldn't normally happen with your system as an arcane archer or any form of rager or ranger. You basically broke the expectations of your system since you shouldn't be like that. It's awesome." The two seemed to be bonding over this while the undead seemed to have retreated.

"So, I know you two are binding, but can we keep moving? Gil looks fine enough to go off and slash some runes too. The other elves all just saw you too and are kind of upset. You shouldn't show off like that." Remey wasn't being mean. She left Gil with a soft punch to the shoulder. A sign of encouragement and congratulations while also reminding the two of their goals here.

When the two looked at the elves fighting vigorously, they understood it clearly. The elves had sensed the return of something that was lost for multiple generations. While there were not any high elves, their styles had been returned. Specifically, the high elf dagger style that had been revered as the top of the close combat styles to follow for any elf. It would radically improve their people to see and learn it.

On top of that, they saw their own weakness in Gil's sudden change. They all understood that while he was younger, he had accomplished more than them. He had managed to become their pillar of strength. How could they defend him if they were just some weak elves?

"I would say you lit a fire under them for sure." Walker prepared the multi buff skill again and released it toward the groups of elves heading in to the small stone buildings. Their efforts would not be ignored since they were working even harder to prevent everything.

"Don't just stand there. We saw that too. You have to use your manas to defeat the undead and cease their regrowth." Current stood in front of the two and was demanding their action. But the two didn't seem ready to do so yet. That was why he was slightly angry and demanding. He knew that things could move faster and that the party could take a more dominating role in this battle.

"I have to learn how to make an attack with natural mana. I use it to boost others and share mana to make skills stronger. Gil can't use that high elf technique constantly. If he does that before we face the real undead problem..." Walker left it at that. He knew that Gil could now battle with the undead at a much higher level than many of the others in the entire army that they had come with. Especially when they got inside the pyramid and found more powerful undead. They all knew that they would find them there.

"Current, take the time to let them rest. They will be more important later than now." Current had been on edge since there was so little water to use on his attacks and just in general. That was why Ventus and stepped in and calmed him down. She understood that she could manage things a little while in the ruins since she would also be at a disadvantage with the tighter spaces. Especially when they went inside the pyramid. She would be able to handle things where.

"I saw that as well, the attack was what we needed. I expected as much." Ignus nodded. He didn't seem as fired up as he was before. Instead, he seemed calmer than earlier. It was odd since he should usually be angry that the undead had retreated and were nowhere to be found all of the sudden.

"Both of you can purify the area. That is a good thing. Now stop waiting here." Rise snapped at them from the air. She had taken Alice above the others to heal everyone and to also help spread light elemental mana around. Alice just kept up her song but definitely looked more energetic as well. She knew that they had another valuable attack to use against whatever undead was in charge here.

The only royal dragon that did not approach was Mordant. He seemed to be pushing further ahead than all the others. One of his dragonkin had just returned and given him a report. Clearly, the information was important since he had begun rushing toward the pyramid. It also proved that the scouts had been working hard. In that case, it meant Onyx was working very hard.

"Now that you two have discovered a way to fight, the world might share more information with us. The rewards of elemental insight and next, rune insight might be important. They might be the best way to combat these undead." Su had calmly returned to their side before speaking. Her mind had reached out to these possibilities first. Especially since it seemed that they would be making more use than everyone expected of the rewards the system gave. The rewards that were guided by the world.

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Chapter 1834 1834. Worse Ahead

While the soldiers all had a lot of morale boosts due to the fact that some had witnessed an undead be completely destroyed, they also understood that they were not done with their jobs. Although they had neared the pyramid, they were finding more and more of the death runes on the buildings, stone coffins, and even on the stone roads that they walked on.

"Some of the false death runes are carved roughly. They are new too. It means that some undead can carve them." Walker had been watching the runes they found carefully after he and Gil had finished talking. He couldn't focus on what they had witnessed Gil do too long. Other things came up.

"That's a problem since we have only seen the lesser mummified priests and mummified priests. I doubt they can make runes like that." Su wasn't just hinting at what everyone else was thinking. She was sure that there was more. "There has to be a high mummified priest that's doing it. Or a mummified rune carver. We already know they experimented with undead. How could they not make something like that?"

"I knew you would say that. But I can't break those things like Walker or Gil will. So how do we deal with that?" Remey seemed more frustrated knowing that she would be very limited in battle with an even more powerful al undead that focused on resting more undead.

"Fire and light." Midnight grabbed on to Remey's arm and made one of her claws light up with light elemental mana. She made a punching motion. Midnight had stayed in her dragonkin form after she had seen the other royal dragons fighting. Now that she could use the light claw attack, she was comfortable remaining like that until she saw a more powerful undead to fight. Then she would go back to her dragon form to give it her all with elemental dragon breath attacks.

"Yes yes, my elemental knuckles can do damage too. But If I had a natural elemental knuckles then I could crush them forever." Remey and Midnight both wished they could use the natural mana but were both staring at Gil and Waker hoping for some sort of guidance.

"The high elf dagger technique just fuses the small amounts of elemental mana they attract. It's not really something I control. It just gathers it and it boosts my body. But it also costs me a ton of mana and energy to use. You saw me after I used the high elf technique once." Gil tried his best to get their curious gazes to shift away.

"I will work on a way to buff everyone's weapons with natural mana. But I still need to figure out how to imbue an attack with only natural mana. Gil's style gathers mana all around him. The natural mana is just resting on his blade and in his body. But it's also because he has an affinity with natural mana because he is around it so much. His body grew to accept natural mana. All of you spend a lot of time near me too..."

This was the same with spatial mana. Walker had seen that the others might awaken a storage skill or a skill with spatial mana because he used it around them all the time when using his storage skill. Therefore, the same had happened with the natural mana. It was very clear that as they had all leveled up and trained, that the natural mana had been able to seep in to their bodies. This would be odd but for the fact that it was very healthy.

Natural mana was the key to the world in an essence. It was the perfect balance of elemental manas which made up the world. This could be seen as the foundation of all things that they knew to a degree. Thus, the party would all have some affinity with natural mana develop.

Midnight already had one due to her bond with Walker. She also had all affinities because of her unique blood and being a true dragon champion. Su also benefited from this as she was related to Midnight through binds as well. Her earth affinity would become stronger while she gained more affinities. But it was worth pointing out that she also had a light affinity by always being around whalers and training with them.

For a lot of those that had seen this and understood things about affinities, it was stunning. Many people would grow up and only have the affinities they were born with. Only in unique situations would anyone gain other affinities. Yet, here they learned that being exposed to a certain mana for long periods of time while growing could cause them to develop an affinity. That did make sense though. Everyone adapted to the life they lived while they grew up.

"Fine fine fine. I will figure things out when I can. But as soon as we find a way to make a natural mana attracting knuckles that attach to my gloves, I am using that thing every day!" Remey pointed at Walker knowing it would be him of all people that figured this out.

"I think we should be worried about what the undead are doing. They retreated after that attack by Gil." Ventus voiced her worries. She wanted to ensure that they were really safe for the moment while they were destroying runes. It was easy to see that an intelligent force had made the undead retreat. But would it still let them keep breaking away the runes it needed to keep attacking the rest of the world?

"I would expect them to be preparing to defeat us. They already know we are attacking on a larger scale. Whatever undead is around wants us to walk in to a trap." The surety that was behind this theory made a lot of sense. However, it was the one that said it that shocked everyone.

Right in front of everyone was Onyx and the other scouting members. They had all revealed themselves from the shadows. "Onyx, good job. But what do you mean an ambush?" Walker wanted to praise Onyx and the other scouts more. But his words and sudden appearance put everyone on edge.

"We managed to enter the pyramid but had to retreat after just a few corridors. It houses powerful undead. Even some undead monsters. Some which are preparing to ambush at the closest row of large stone buildings. They look like lizards but they are covered in metal spikes and bandages." Onyx motioned with his head for one of the scouts to move forward.

The scout showed a drawing of what they had seen. It was exactly as Onyx had said. The large size was easily more than would be able to be taken down by the average soldier. It would be an ambush that could take down half the army if not more! Not to mention the fact that the undead could reform and be a much harder beast to face as it attacked them from behind after reforming.

"Can you show me where? I will get an all around appraisal on the undead so we can prepare better." Walker didn't hesitate to start moving. Mordant also joined him so he could help them hide in the shadows while getting more details.

The sudden changes made the soldiers stop. They could take this chance to rest for a moment and also prepare for a harder battle. They had all known this would come. Dangerous undead that were more than just mummified worshippers, soldiers, or even the heavy guardians that required them to work together to defeat. These undead were made for killing and nothing else.

Rise took charge along with Su and Alice to begin healing and preparing anything they needed. The pushing from Rise was enough to ensure that every single soldier, no matter their affiliation, worked hard. She was the driving force behind a lot of the blogger pushes to purify the undead here.

"I don't like the idea that we might be facing undead monsters. We already know that some of these undead used the weak dragon blood in them to become these twisted things. What would happen if they had worse monsters?" Mordant said this as if he was trying to avoid a future he had seen.

"I thought of that too. It's why I keep holding back so much and relying on the soldiers to work on the weaker undead. It's the same for the other dragons too though. There's enough space to use your dragon forms out here in this domed city. You all know there are worse things though." Walker pointed out the obvious.

"Like an ambush. We should be prepared and not give away our actual strength." Mordant spoke softly before they hid themselves in the shadows following Onyx toward the pyramid.

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Chapter 1835 1835. Starving

The shadows that the three used to hide themselves were thicker than normal. A group of ambushers would definitely be careful for any slight disturbance. They had to be ready to pounce on their enemies if they wanted to be able to properly ambush anything.

"This is the place." Onyx brought them to an open space. It seemed that large roads had been made all around the massive pyramid. While it was barren now, there were signs that this had once been a popular and flourishing market area. Naturally, it made sense. This was the focal point of the city.

"If this was built to worship a goddess of nature or growth, then it makes sense. A place where all the produce and goods would be brought is right near where they worship. But now..." Walker didn't even want to say another word. He hated that some place like this would seem so desolate.

Just creating a place like this would be a massive achievement. But one test of strength. One single famine had caused an entire intelligent race to fall in to madness and become monsters. If these beings had strived for more and resisted the temptations of evil, then they might be yet another race that stood high in the world. A race of advanced beings different from the dragonkin and lizardmen all together. Not monsters, but powerful in their own right.

"This is the cost they paid for losing their way. It can't be fixed now." Mordant's solemn voice just reinforced the depressing feelings that Walker had. The tragic sadness that was just what anyone would feel when they realized how much was lost because these beings had turned their backs on the natural flow of the world. Turned their backs on their beliefs because of one failed experience.

"Those streets are the trap. It's open and the large stone buildings are filled with stone coffins that are empty now. It's the perfect place for them to hide." Onyx directed the two toward the large stone buildings. They had been some form of mercantile warehouse or goods storage at some point. Many years ago for certain.

Now, they held attackers. Violent undead waiting for their prey to walk on by. "So that is why they retreated. The undead leading them realized we were a larger force than before and has decided to ambush us and destroy us in one swoop. Efficient, but foolish." Mordant knew what he would do in opposition to such an attack. He would show his draconic strength and destroy the enemy. The undead was different. Devious and brutal in the methods chosen.

"Let me get closer for an all around appraisal." Walker used his darkness mana manipulation to draw more of the shadows out and around him. To anyone watching, they would see the shadows shifting slightly, but other than that, no one would notice that Walker was there.

What Walker saw though, was much worse. He could make out the shapes in the darkness of the storage area easily. His ability to use darkness elemental mana made it easier for him to sense things in and around it. Therefore, he could sense the general shape of the large undead monster hiding.

'Mummified spiky lizard

The mummified spiky lizard has had its bone spikes replaced with metal spikes to make it more deadly. This process was done while the spiky lizard was alive and caused great pain. In that process, the basic intellect of the spiky lizard was lost making it a blank slate to be controlled.

The mummified spiky lizard can use its spikes to dig in to many opponents while fighting. Because the spikes are covered in dried rotten flesh, it makes the attacks have a very high chance of infection. There is also the fact that the wrappings on the body of the mummified spiky lizards are dusted in different poisonous powders.

These are very dangerous undead monsters created with a brutal mind. These mummified spiky lizards should be destroyed or they will repair their bodies to attack again. However, they have a very high weakness to fire due to the fact that they have been active longer than many other undead around them.

These...'

Walker could have read more from the all around appraisal. Yet, he didn't feel like dragging himself any lower by reading about the brutal experiments done on these spiky lizards before they had been made in to undead.

Upon walking back toward Onyx and Mordant, Walker shared what he had learned. "I think that they began experimenting with monsters first. Then they gained strength within their own race and caused them to be fooled. The one behind all of this grew too strong and took over. That's my theory." Walker ended his explanation with this. The theory of how the city and race had ended up like this made a little more sense.

"Every race has its evil. I assume this evil was lucky enough to grow in silence before they took over. Ignus will be glad to hear this though. Weakness to fire and the fact that the close combat fighters should not approach." Mordant was sure that he would play a role in trapping some of these mummified spiky lizards. He could stop their movements while Ignus burned them to ash.

"Brother, the undead with them too." Onyx had mentioned more than just the spiky lizards. From what Walker saw, there were five mummified spiky lizards. However, he had not evaluated the other undead around. They looked similar to the mummified worshippers so he had not focused on them.

'Starving mummy

The starving mummy is an undead that was starved and then changed in to an undead through specific methods used by a high priest of famine. This act caused the mummy to be exceptionally ravenous and brutal in its attacks. The bones of its fingers have become cut and sharp by its contact clawing.

While the starving mummy will attack everything it can that is not like itself, it will also sometimes attack itself just to get a single bite of anything. Its hunger can never be satiated, but it will attempt to do so with anything living.

They have a very high speed of regeneration because of this powerful hunger that assailed them in life and death and now undeath. Furthermore, they are able to resist elemental mana attacks with this obsession over hunger.'

"That will be a problem. They are resistant to elemental manas because they can reform their bodies faster. They can all attack themselves and others at the cost of harming their enemy. They will also eat anything that lives. Meaning, they want to eat us alive." Walker saw the starving mummy scraping at its own unwrapped bone arm. Its claws cutting in to it as if trying to tear away flesh that was no longer there as a snack.

"It is the one I worry about after the lizards. They are many while the lizards are few." Onyx had managed to count them all. He knew exactly the number of danger they would face. "Five mummified spiky lizards and twenty starving mummies that want to destroy us and eat us." Onyx's words were heavy, but important. Unless Ignus used more strength, then even he could be overwhelmed for a short time.

"Then we have to let Ignus battle openly, or we all fight him. It hurts that there are more than there should be when it comes to enemies. They are spread out too. They block every path we could take. Even if we start to circle around toward the opposite side of this pyramid, I have a feeling they will prepare more for us to face..." Walker's thoughts were simple but troublesome. From what he could tell, the undead had planned to attack their army here. It was an easy attack too since their large space around them could be a better route to move the ambushing undead in to position again and again.

With this new information, the three slowly retreated. Walker made a point to slash away any runes he saw on the way. It would hopefully help them in the long run. It also might make the undead in control shift the positioning of the ambushing undead slightly. But it was unlikely since the army was all in one spot and about to head to the pyramid.

"I think we will send Ignus to battle. It's the best option and Ignus will be able to do the most." Walker said this to Mordant specifically. It just made sense to reserve overall strength while Ignus kept the undead outside at bay.

"I agree with that. Ignus can do more outside than inside. His flames here will be able to handle many more undead as they escape the pyramid or try to come to the pyramid." Mordant's agreement was all Walker needed before they reached the army. He would ask Ignus immediately before he had a few words with Onyx.

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Chapter 1836 1836. Burn Them To Ash!

The figures appearing from the shadows was enough to bring the party and royal dragons together. A few of the angels moved as well. But from what everyone could tell, the angels appeared to be suffering the most. It was something that Walker took note of before he even made a report or put his plan in to motion.

"Ethan, what seems to be the issues? Both you and the Rize empire angels are slower and look worse off than before." Walker didn't say this to put them down. It was his worries that made it clear to them that he was trying to ensure their safety over all else.

"Mana, you already know how an angel relies on their wings to gather mana for us. But here, there is only that odd toxic death mana and a lot of darkness mana. We are all different affinities and lack the mana we need. We are losing elemental mana crystals too fast as well." This seemed to be worse than Walker executed.

"I was lucky to stock up then. I always have a lot on hand when it comes to my spatial storage. I have to keep a lot on hand." Walker had emptied his storage when they set out on their journey, but that didn't mean he left behind important items.

Since the storage had been emptied, Walker had gotten rid of excess monster parts, weapons he would never use, and odds and ends that just piled up. He had kept potions, elemental mana crystals, his useful weapons, and the things he needed to use the portable forge skill. Otherwise, he had the newest items he had found or been given since coming to a new continent.

Upon seeing the many elemental mana crystals that Walker had, the angels immediately looked to be in better spirits. Once they each started to take the mana crystals, the other soldiers also started to get a little more upbeat. Even though no one had said anything, when they had seen some of their fellow soldiers weaker than before, it had affected their mentality. These things were always there when it came to an army mentality. They could be swayed one way or another based on feelings. Morale was important!

"What did you find? Any way around an ambush?" Gil was the first to ask. He was sure he could fight now, but as Walker had said, he should prepare for worse battles later. The fact that the high elven dagger style could allow him to manipulate the natural mana to even the tiniest degree and attack with it was amazing. He had to use it when he needed it most so that they could destroy powerful undead without needing to seal them in sand.

"We were able to find the mummified spiky lizards. Monsters that were experimented on and ruined in to old and brutal undead. But they were not alone." Onyx started recounting the things Walker had used his all around appraisal on. "The starving mummy is the worst since they will do whatever they need to take a bite and eat things alive. They are faster and regenerate faster. All that's left of them for life is the feeling of hunger that they wish to fulfill."

This left a silence among those that listened. A being that died of hunger was brought back just to keep feeling the torturous hunger that had killed it in life. A terrible existence for those that had no choice in how they suffered during life. "We can rid them of this forceful resurrection." Rise softly commented on what they could do. She would gladly purify them forever so that there would not be any suffering.

Compared to those that suffered as experiments, the starving mummies were more pitiable. They had no choice in anything just like those experimented on. However, they also perished in another way that most likely happened before the ruler of these undead had come to power at all.

"The idea is that we can't just let them wait for us out. They can move wherever we move since there is a very clear cut market area around the old pyramid. Even the buildings there are large enough to hide many undead from us. That means we can only face them. Or we could only have one person face them." Walker took the lead after Onyx finished telling everyone what they had scouted.

"You want me to deal with them?" Ignus was slightly annoyed that Walker was trying to look at him and put everything on him. He was a royal dragon and should be respected more. How could they just drop it all on him.

"That's not just the pain. Because you can take your full form here and can easily reduce these undead to ash, we want you to handle it. The spikes on the mummified spiky lizards and the wrappings on their bodies have poisonous powders all over them. If we touch them we are poisoned. But if you burn them, the poison is gone and they can be sealed or continuously burned."

The explanation with Mordant nodding behind Walker helped to calm Ignus a little. "Then I will stay here too. The earth mages will move inside the entrances of the pyramid with Walker at the lead. They will handle the undead here. Between Ignus's flames and my wind, we can create flames that constantly burn the undead to ash. No matter how fast they regenerate." Ventus saw that the reason Walker wanted Ignus here was simple, a guaranteed defense against undead that were ravenous and quick to heal themselves.

"I didn't want to lose two of you here, but the undead that might be hiding around the city..." Walker knew that there were surely more mummified worshippers and starving mummies around. The entire populace of this city had become undead. Therefore, it was easy to guess that many of the undead would fall in to these two common species. Two troublesome species.

"Then we will turn them all to ash. I can let loose a little." While Ignus took this in stride and relished the fact that he could stretch his wings in his full dragon form, Remey appeared a little saddened. She had been fighting with Ignus and enjoyed someone with a more brutal style that matched her head first battle style. She also had been taken to the sky to throw explosive potions and crush many undead while they descended to the ruined city. A perfect reason why undead had retreated earlier.

"Bring the flames of battle within and crush the undead there. I will not accept anything less." For Ignus, he saw promise in Remey. It was her attitude, but also her devotion. He had seen many dragonkin dedicate their lives and dragons dedicate their lives in return. But when he looked at other races, he was always disappointed. Yet, Remey was an outlier along with the rest of the party. Unshakable devotion to her interests.

The fact that Remey gladly threw aside her other wants to create affinity potions among other things was enough to change his mind and fill the gap he had when it came to humans in general. "Pfft, my fists will do all the work. Your flames will have to do work out here." Remey's stiff reply was enough to prompt a growl from Ignus. Yet, no one saw it as unfriendly.

Without any warning, Ignus jumped in to the air and left them all behind. The roar of his that echoed through the ruins next was enough to prove that he had taken his full dragon form. "Well, I didn't expect that he would actually like working with another person. A human at that." Ventus was less rough and even smiled kindly at Remey before taking flight herself. She would help Ignus after the poison powders were burned away. From there, she would fuel his flames and let them burn undead constantly. It would stop them from coming back for a long while.

The rest of the soldiers began taking their positions. Onyx's fellow scouts had already told them about the entrances and how they would be moving through each one to make the most of things. However, they also told them about the fact that they could not scale the surface due to powerful dark elemental skills stopping many from trying. Even Mordant had backed this up saying that he wouldn't be able to force his way through.

"Onyx, you did really well this time. I can't say I wasn't worried, but now we are going to do much better." Onyx didn't reply to Walker. He silently took his usual spot on Walker's shoulder and enjoyed the praise while he prepared himself to fight undead. They had a lot of work left to do.

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Chapter 1837 1837. Enter The Pyramid!

Heat. That was what everyone could feel. The somewhat cool interior of the massive interlocked stone dome had been blessed with heat that was unlike what they felt outside. This was for a simple reason, battle.

Ignus had left them with a roar and a feeling of security. Every single soldier knew that Ignus could easily handle an entire army of undead by himself. Therefore, when he left, they had expected that he would attack and defeat the undead in record time. What they didn't expect was that he would use flames that were much hotter than they realized he could create.

The fact that the royal dragons had been in their dragonkin form had limited what the angels and some soldiers realized was possible. Because they had a limited view of dragons battling, they had lost the fact that the dragons were always holding back to protect those around them.

It wasn't just the space that limited the dragons. They could easily use their full forms and barrel through the ruins. The spaces were large enough to some degree for them to fit. If it was too small, then they could just smash their way through without any issues. But where would that leave their dragonkin? Where would that leave their allies? Where would that leave their goal to properly end the undead that definitely had tricks up its sleeve?

Now the strength that Ignus kept in check was able to be put on full display again. The angels in particular were some that had never seen such a monster in terms of strength. The flames were as bright as the sun, but perfectly guided toward different stone buildings. Many undead even rushed out towards the large red scaled dragon landing here and there to open the roofs of the stone buildings and send flames within.

The follow up attacks after Ignus had blessed the entire former market area with flames was a single large gust of wind. This came from a large green scaled figure of Ventus flying higher in the dome. Her winds were controlled with the perfect balance that would increase the duration of flames. They kept burning to prevent the undead from reforming under any circumstances.

The metal spikes that had been attached to the mummified spiky lizards had not been able to resist even with the rune carvings on them. They had melted in to molten puddles that would be unable to reform. Even if the mummified spiky lizards had the chance to reform their bodies. They would be in a much easier to defeat form than before. They lacked the normal bone spikes since they had been replaced.

The starving mummies and mummified worshippers were different. They were trying to reform but had no way to resist. Even the additional speed of recovery that the starving mummies had was nothing compared to the flames that were blossoming all around them.

As the soldiers marched forward, they witnessed even more incredible flame control. Ignus wasn't just burning large areas. That had only been to remove the poisons that were around first. He was now focusing small dots of flames on every single pile of undead ash that he found. That way, they would not regenerate at all. It meant that in just the smaller space that the soldiers could see, Ignus had over fifty undead constantly burning.

The awestruck faces of the soldiers and angels only grew more amazed as they did the math. They could understand being so powerful and firm in control that fifty flames were able to be manipulated. But hundreds? That was a level that they never thought attainable. The only ones to act as if this was normal were the dragonkin that had full belief and devotion to their royal dragons. They knew exactly how powerful those they served were. Their loyalty wasn't something they gave just because of what they were as a race. It was rightfully earned by the dragons.

"The entrances are unguarded. We can not climb the pyramid but we will enter!" Walker gave the order as Mordant, Rise, and Current took the lead. The massive openings were very ornate. Compared to every single stone building, this was the only one that did not look rundown or even close to what a ruin should be.

The runes all over the pyramid were intricate and coursed with mana. They were in use and clearly being manipulated to allow for the defenses that kept the soldiers from climbing the pyramid. Such strong rune formations were ancient and closer to the origin runes that the group had seen before. Yet, they were also strong enough to stop a dragon from forcing its way through. An example of why these undead had to be stopped.

When Walker tried to use his all around appraisal on the entire pyramid, he only received information on the outer parts. Unfortunately, the pyramid was much like every other building here. It was made with interlocking stone pieces. A brilliant architectural technique that managed to keep things stable for

many years. But it also made his appraisal identify all of the pyramid as parts and not one whole. Therefore, he couldn't get information about what it was used for overall.

Upon entering the massive entrance, the heat seemed to die down instantly. The entire inner passageway of the pyramid was strangely quiet as runes pulled with mana. "I would say there are some sort of barrier runes here. The temperature isn't changing which means Ignus probably wouldn't be able to send flames in from the outside." Su had a feeling that this was the case with many elemental mana attacks from the outside.

"That means that even the light attacks from the outside would have done nothing. I dislike this place immensely." Rise was looking at the runes with disgust. She could feel some of the light mana being oppressed by darkness mana and the odd false death runes. The feeling was enough to make her want to attack the source of it all even more. She didn't just want to purify these undead, she wanted to thoroughly defeat them.

"I can't even get a proper all around appraisal. Everything is made with locked parts. The runes were carved before they were placed together. This race was very smart. But they fell to this state..." Walker was very impressed with what this race had done before they fell. He wished that they had not become undead. If they still existed, then the entire Sigil continent might be more united. Might be stronger.

"That doesn't matter right now. We have to understand what we are walking in to. More runes, more mana, and more danger." Walker saw that Current and Mordant had become fully focused on the fact that even the white sands were not here. Whatever had been done with runes and mana had stopped even the biggest curse sent by the world to handle this undead. That meant the undead was stronger than they had believed.

"Some runes are new." Alice stopped them to look at the runes near the floor. They were clearly carved from the older stone walls. New runes that were made to add to the strength of the existing formations.

"Good eye, I nearly missed those too. I bet we can cause some trouble by cutting it to...damn." Gil tried to cut the stone with his daggers and found that they didn't chip at all. The stone had mana over the top perfectly holding off damage. He would have to use much more force to break these runes.

"Another problem then." Current growled a little as he spoke. He already had to tolerate being in a palace with very little water elemental mana. He had barely been able to gather some from the water crystal pillars around the city. And now, they were unable to break away the runes around without destroying too much.

"We can wait to destroy the runes after. If we do it now, the entire pyramid might collapse and hide the undead we have to stop." Onyx also seemed to want to begin using attacks to destroy the runes. He had hidden away and not attacked much at all. Now he was ready to use all the light elemental mana he had stored up. He would be able to properly fight and defeat undead to clear up this plague now.

"No. we can destroy the undead first." Alice spoke calmly before starting to sing. She and Gil had looked up from the runes and seen the approach of undead ahead from the leading group. The large passageway allowed for the undead to come in a group of ten across easily. But it wasn't that the undead came in a small group of ten. It was their appearance. The difference in their strength was evident.

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Chapter 1838 1838. Brutal Mummies

'Brutal mummy

The brutal mummy is a mummified soldier that was over saturated with darkness and death mana. The manas were forcefully added causing the mummy to become more violent and able to be controlled through mana with much more ease. Those that allowed this to happen were the most loyal corrupted soldiers.

This has caused them to maintain some of their muscles, especially since they were kept from the cursed white sands. They also have the ability to poison others with decaying aura when they strike with their bone claws and sharpened teeth. This causes a decaying effect on the body of the living that also causes the affected to weaken for some time with debuffs to their healing abilities.

These mummies are tougher and will recover at a faster rate the closer they are to the source of their control. The wrappings on their bodies are also made with small bits of bronze to help resist al attacks. Especially fire elemental attacks since they could be weaker to them.

The best way to defeat them is from a long range position. They are mainly close combat monsters because they desire to tear apart their enemies up close and personally...'

Many more things came with this all around appraisal. It seemed that this undead was a little special since it had been kept in a place where the white sands had not been able to penetrate. The looks of them were very different from the starving mummies or the mummified worshipers.

These brutal mummies were muscular to say the least. The musculature could be seen moving underneath the wrappings. The added decaying scent that came with them was enough to throw some of the more sensitive demi-human soldiers off. If anyone were to find these monsters in the wilderness, then they would smell them for a mile away at least.

"I will try to manipulate the natural mana to wrap some swords. If I can make a natural mana attack buff or something then-"

"Forget that, we need to beat them down and seal them. I hope you can manipulate the stones here." Remey took the lead with five dragonkin following her. She had equipped the light affinity knuckles which pulled in the light elemental mana from Alice's song.

Along with this, two swords of light appeared since Alice had started her song of blades. The song had been refined more and more as Alice had time to think about them. She had put different meanings between her song of swords and song of blades. Some were refined while others were rough. Both had the same purpose but at different qualities.

While Remey was still a few steps from punching the first brutal mummy, Alice had already stabbed in to one with a light sword. The result was not what anyone expected. The brutal mummy just ignored the blade of light elemental mana stabbed in to it and kept moving towards Remey who was unleashing a heavy defense breaking punch with light elemental mana on to the head of another brutal mummy.

The fact that even Remey's attack seemed to do only a little damage brought everyone to another level of focus. These brutal mummies were boosted by the closeness of whatever ruler was here. On top of that, there was the fact that they had some special wrappings to resist elemental mana attacks. It mixed with their tougher bodies to be able to survive these attacks constantly.

"Back off, let us get to them with swords!" Su took the lead while Remey fell back behind her. With Su came the Rize empire angels with their swords cloaked in light elemental mana. But it came with a bit of a boost.

Walker had pulled at the natural mana and was already supplying some of it to the angels. However, he was forcefully pushing it only at the light elemental blades that the angels held. While they felt that the light elemental mana around them grew, Walker did not feel that he was doing anything that could make the natural mana more offensive in nature. He was just using it as a booster for the light elemental mana already there.

While it was a frustrating failure to create an offensive buff for the angels using natural mana only, the light elemental mana that surged was more than enough to be able to penetrate the bolstered defenses of the charging brutal mummies.

The angels were very adept with their style of light swordsmanship. They could easily dodge the violent attacks of the brutal mummies. Especially since they were more rudimentary considering that they only used their bone claws and attempts to bite them. What stopped the angels from most of their progress was the simple fact that they actively saw the brutal mummies recovering from the attacks on their bodies. Even the wrappings seemed to repair as well.

"Midnight, think you can add in some... And there she goes." Walker gave Midnight the multi buff boost and watched as she was already in motion. She easily took in a breath of light elemental mana before she released the white flame breath. She didn't care for a second that the brutal mummies were resistant to fire. This was a dual elemental attack that used light and fire. It would be able to weaken them enough for the angels to take the lead again.

While it was only a quick attack, the blinding white flames were enough to shock the brutal mummies. This was something that they were weak against normally. When the wrappings on their bodies were somewhat burned away and forcefully cut by the blades, the bodies underneath were exposed.

The soldiers at the front managed to see the skinless and dried bodies of the brutal mummies. A horrible appearance would haunt their nightmares for some time. Yet, this did not stop the angels from attacking. They burst forward with their swords and an added boost from their wings.

The slicing of light infused swords caused the mummies to lose their hefty limbs in just a few minutes. Even the dragonkin with light elemental sword styles were impressed by the decisiveness since that was also something they prided themselves on.

"This will not be enough. The earth mages can not break the stones here. They are protected. That means we will have to keep fighting these undead." Rise saw the issue immediately. The earth mages had become very limited. Walker had also sensed the massive resistant force when he tried to reach out and manipulate the stones that made up the pyramid.

"Then that means we will be leaving soldiers behind to keep them down." Walker didn't hesitate. He knew splitting up was on the list of this battle already. They had many steps to take to get to where they needed to be. The massive platform on top of the pyramid was where they needed to be. The amount of mana gathered there was all too telling about where the ruler of these undead was.

"One group break off and keep cutting the undead apart while we move forward. Prepare to march in to a larger chamber." Current gave the order while a few dragonkin began to push forward and away from the current undead. However, no one was prepared for what was in the central chamber.

In front of everyone, a massive space was opened up. Ornate carvings that related to crops dying and the dead rising again were everywhere. It was a twisted show of what had happened to start all of this. Yet, what Walker noticed was one thing that connected all of it.

"There is one thing in every single stone wall here. An undead with dark stone wrapped around it. It's hiding there while the crops die. It's raising undead there, then it's leading a group of others right there. I think we might be seeing how this all happened." The rest of the party were also looking around. But they also focused on the undead before them. The undead that had been waiting for them.

"So, I know you want to understand everything and all that. But we already figured that this undead ruler caused all of it to happen somehow. Evil is evil, they don't just happen to show up at the right time to be evil. They have plans and grow when they accomplish it." Gil shrugged before he prepared an arrow. The large open space would help him fight.

"Gil's correct. It's time to focus on fighting instead. Try to use natural mana more. We will need to fight a lot here before we can start climbing one of the staircases behind that massive shrine." Su looked ahead at the shrine that the undead were guarding. This was where they offered sacrifices. Where their high mummified priests were. Where some of the angel's bodies had been brought.

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Chapter 1839 1839. All Out Undead Battle

'Sacrificial rune shrine

Using the false death runes that the worshippers were gifted with by the false death god, this shrine is made to absorb the life, soul, and mana of any being sacrificed or offered to it. It is strengthened when blood from dead beings are added to it.

The runes will channel this mana and energy of multiple forms to the one bound to it. This is how the being is able to control many undead, contain their life, and further raise more undead. Many other functions are able to be used due to this shrine made for sacrifice. However, it is an affront to the world since it relies on forcefully resisting the natural flow of the world and most of existence.

The being that this is used to worship is known as...'

Walker wanted to keep looking at the all around appraisal, however, battles had broken out all around him. Multipole undead had been waiting for them here. Not just more brutal mummies, there were other undead that Walker had yet to check out.

Some were smaller, the size of children. When Walker realized they were starving mummies, his heart nearly shattered right there. This meant that even the children of these people had been changed in to horrendous undead. Had been tormented for many years without rest.

This was enough to show all of the soldiers more of the truth they were fighting against. The evil that made up the army of undead that had been here waiting for the chance to grow and cause more harm. "Move forward, protect the main force!" The orders were simple. Many of the soldiers moved in to formation.

While the party and the royal dragon had been prepared to become the forward force of battle, the soldiers moved ahead of them. The formation was very simple. They took the lead to become a fighting shield around the royal dragons. The dragonkin took the outer edges while the ranged attackers took the inner. Those with shields were the best defense from the rushing mummified undead that tried to force their way though. But that was not all.

The angels had enough space to use their natural born advantages here. The large room within this pyramid showed the angels that they could take flight and dive down attacking the undead that manage not latch on to shields or weapons. Not every single soldier was able to make a one hit kill with their weapons or al attacks. This wasn't their weakness, but proof these undead were more powerful here.

Some of the mummified undead struck down were even still fighting with their limbs removed. This was because the high concentration of mana and pulsing runes along the floor were able to help the undead regenerate even faster. Walker was able to witness this happen right before his eyes as an undead managed to reattach its own arm and heal within a few seconds. This was where the true dangers of fighting these undead existed.

Remey's tactics had grown a little more reserved seeing that the undead were able to resist many of the attacks from the soldiers. She was willing to step back for the moment as Su was also with her to ensure that the undead were not able to reach them. Meanwhile, Gil was able to fire arrows at the larger undead that had begun to make their moves. These undead were the ones that the party and dragon might need to focus on.

'Mummified monstrosity

While most of the mummified undead were experimented on unwillingly or just out of their own loyalty, these undead were created out of experiments done by the high mummified priests. These undead desired the strongest bodies to bring their own accomplishments before the god they worshiped.

Between the two willing and insane high priests and extremely loyal worshippers, multiple bodies were brought together along with some monster parts. This created the mummified monstrosities that have increased bones to support massive bodies. They have much tougher wrapping made of flexible metals. They also have metal reinforcing their bones.

Furthermore, the long tails were taken from spiky lizards and their claws are made from the stingers of multiple scorpion monsters. This causes them to be extremely dangerous but also very hard to control. It takes multiple high mummified priests to channel mana to these mummified monstrosities so that they can battle.

The high mana cost that these monstrosities have is normal due to the nature of their bodies. They are very strong against al and physical attacks but they are slightly slower than most other undead. This can be changed if enough mana is channeled in to them but they are also limited to the mana they can contain. If they take in too much mana then their bodies will degrade and revert back to their normal undead forms. This is extremely hard to do because...'

Walker saw the all around appraisal of these undead but was also looking at the chain quest from the system.

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.

Chain quest: mummified curse- fourth link

Requirement: destroy the worship of the undead by eliminating the rune formation covering the sacrificial shrine of the false death god.

Reward: fifth link, 15000 experience, 15 heroic points, unique skill.'

The rewards were amazing as always, but it showed that the attacks from Igus outside had done more than just their job. They had managed to destroy even more runes that the soldiers had been unable to find an attack. It even proved that there was more to what had been going on outside. The flow of mana had been disrupted!

"We need to push and destroy the shine. The outside mana will already weaken it. But we have to hold off those larger undead. They are controlled through the mummified high priests near the altar!" Walker shared the information. With Onyx on his shoulder, they were able to pass along the message to everyone within just a few seconds. This was the advantage to having POnyx back with them. He was amazing in communication with his skills.

But what Walker had yet to take in to thought was that Onyx and Midnight had been preparing for their own plans. They had a direction to attack that the soldiers could not get to immediately. Therefore, they had to make a move.

The moment that walker had shared all the information about the mummified monstrosities with them, Onmyc had slithered off Walker's shoulders and on to the ground. The path that the army was making for the party and royal dragons was already enough to help them immensely. But with the additional space, Onyc was able to make himself larger. To take his real size.

The fact that it had been some time since Onyc had entered the desert and shown his real size outside of his shadow was enough to shock many of the soldiers. Onyx had been constantly growing while absorbing light elemental mana. But other than that, he had been storing it to use his skills to wrap himself in it as a battle shield.

This sudden growth of light around only and the size he showed off was enough to force some of the weaker mummified undead back. But it also made a bridge for Midnight to run along. A bridge that brought her up in to the air without having to spread and flap her wings.

This space gave her the angles she needed to leap over the undead and directly release a full force light elemental breath attack in the faces of the mummified high priests. This attack caused the mummified monstrosities to hesitate. Their mana had been halted for a single breath, but that breath was enough for the angels to swoop down with swords of light. It was also enough for Onyx to whip his tail around and trap three of them.

Walker had greatly underestimated the battle prowess that Onyx had been growing. So much so that Walker could only force himself to look away and push forward. He didn't want to sit there and do nothing while Onyx worked so hard. It was an insult if he were to ignore the chances being given to them.

"Push through now! The enemies are weaker!" a shout from one dragonkin came out which spurred the entire army to fight harder. Their battles here would stop the undead from even getting near their leaders. Those that would be pushing for the end of this war against the undead. Those that would face the leader of the mummified undead that had been attacking, killing their people, and trying to raise the evil of their past back to the present.

"Purify the vile undead from this place!" The light elemental mana that onyx had bathed himself in was further enhanced when Rise saw his actions and added her own manipulation. She was impressed by the efforts of Onyx and showed her true support. He used light in a way that she would as well and could not look down on that. A pure and valiant light elemental man that deserved some of her praise.

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Chapter 1840 1840. The Final Undead

The sudden advantage that had been gained caused many of the soldiers to push themselves in the fights. The change was also where the mages who had been trying their best to attack were able to shine. Specifically the earth mages.

Many elemental mages carried around some of their elemental items with them. Water mages carried more water in drinking containings. Fire mages carried charcoal. Earth mages would often carry stones or earth that they kept close to their body to use as a weapon later. The other mages often had something that allowed them to use the mana around them faster.

Due to this, the earth mages finally were able to pull the stones and earth from nearby their bodies and begin to use it. They knew that once they used the earth to trap undead, that they were at a loss. They would not have it to fight any longer.

With Onyx's attack and Midnight's breath attack, the two had weakened and even broken off parts of the bodies of the mummified monstrosities. There were also multiple mummified high priests that were hit by the light elemental breath attack. But where things shined was how Onyx attacked with his tail.

The light elemental mana that had shown on Onyx's body was perfect for containing the dangerous undead in front of them. But it was an inspiration. The tail that wrapped and trapped four of the mummified monstrosities made them one target and not three. This allowed the earth mages to group up and begin encasing them in the earth and stones that were always on their person.

Walker did not hesitate to join them. He used earth manipulation to assist the mages and push on the earth around the mummified monstrosities more. This additional force compressed them and broke their bodies. The process was damaging them but also trapping them. They would struggle to reform

while compressed with the earth mana. Not to mention that they would be unable to receive more mana from the high mummified priests.

"Sister, slash apart those high priests!" Onyx yelled out as he retracted his tail from the earth around the monstrosities. He could not attack fast enough but Midnight was still close. She easily darted toward the high mummified priests. Her claws slashing out in her full dragon form to cut through their weak bones. Light elemental mana radiating in to them and causing their attempts to reform to fail.

While the high mummified priests found themselves broken and unable to attack, Onyx acted again. His tail was still violent and unrelenting. Without hesitation, he changed positions and scooped up the broken bodies of the high mummified priests. His strength and size were enough to force them in to a crushed ball of undead. The very same that he had done with the mummified monstrosities.

While this was only a few of the undead, this was enough to shift this battle even more. It was also enough to open a direct line to the altar that everyone had fixed in their gaze as their target. The runes that pulsed and flashed were showing that the undead around were still drawing power from it. But the altar would be gone soon.

"I will purify this place." Rise took a heavy step forward. Everyone felt the shift in the room. The light elemental mana that was controlled by others appeared to be lost to them. What no one had realized was that Alice had ceased singing and her partner had revealed himself.

"I agree, I hate this thing. It is not at all what should be here." Horizon, the grand light elemental spirit, had shown himself. But instead of helping Alice, he moved to float around Rise. This didn't make Alice unhappy at all. She had stopped syncing so that she was no longer pushing at the light elemental mana that Horizon was going to push toward Rise.

As the light elemental mana shifted, a large claw of light formed behind Rise. her hand raised mimicking the appearance of the large claw made entirely of light. "I detest these undead and their plague. This altar is the cause so I will leave my mark." Her words were enough to make the undead shiver. If it was because they understood her or not, it didn't matter. It might have just been the feeling of impending doom that radiated from Rise and her power over light that was their opposite.

With one swift slash, Rise struck down. Her claw directed the massive light elemental mana claw to crash on to the altar. It was a moment of silence as everyone halted to see the attack. Even the undead appeared to have felt a change. A change that stopped them from moving. Whether it was them or the

one controlling them, no one would know. But with these results, the ruler of these undead surely felt something.

The crash and blinding light that followed their moment of silence was enough to shatter the stone altar. Light elemental mana pierced through the stone causing the false death runes, the darkness runes, and any other unknown runes to crack in to pieces. Nothing could resist this powerful purifying attack from a royal dragon. Something that could resist it would have to be equally or more powerful.

With the pieces of the altar crumbling around the ground, the undead lost some of their strength. Especially the mummified high priests still remaining. Now the soldiers were able to hold them back. Able to keep breaking them away from the stairs behind the altar.

Chain quest: mummified curse- fourth link- completed

Requirement: destroy the worship of the undead by eliminating the rune formation covering the sacrificial shrine of the false death god.

Reward: fifth link, 15000 experience, 15 heroic points, unique skill. Final link'

'The unique skill; purification aura, has been temporarily learned by all following this quest.

Purification aura- passive

The light purifying elemental mana will naturally form a slight aura around the user as they battle against beings that the world deems as dangerous and evil. Due to this, the attacks of the user will better harm those evil beings and take on a slightly light elemental purifying ability. This is able to cause longer term damage to undead in every way.'

The unique skill may have been temporary, but every single soldier gained it. The sudden addition of this passive skill was enough to change any battles that were still too hard. With a single reward from this chain quest, everyone had gained strength and power that helped them fight the regenerating undead.

Without any worries, Walker started to feel the changes in the skill and easily connected it to the natural mana he was already trying to use to boost others. It was as if a switch had been flipped within him. His mind instantly linked the two feelings.

'Nature's aura has been learned due to the unique natural mana affinity and the temporary skill gained. The permanent skill, nature's aura has been gained.'

Nature's aura- passive

The flow of natural mana and nature is a very strong thing in the world. It is guided by the world in mysterious ways while in other ways, it follows its own flow. The natural mana around the user will become more easily manipulated as it is attracted at a faster rate toward the user. It is also able to better return other elemental manas to the flow of mana that should be in the world when natural mana is used to attack or purify broken flows..'

The skill was perfect for Walker. It also didn't say it was temporary. This would always be actively helping him with natural mana. It also helped him right this second since he could feel the ease of natural mana around him and wrapping around his sword. The eternal orb also channeled this mana in to the sword he held with ease.

'Chain quest: mummified curse- final link

Requirement: the undead pharaoh is the ruler of the mummified city. Defeat them and return the flow of nature to the cursed desert.

Reward: 20000 experience, 20 heroic points, return of the desert, removal of the cursed sands, purification of the cursed desert by the will of the world.'

Walker saw the new quest immediately pop up. He also saw that the undead above them was special. He would need to appraise it and gain more knowledge the moment his eyes caught it. But at this moment, he noticed that everyone had begun attacking the runes around that they could.

The system had rewarded them with understandings of runes with the last link. That understanding might not be clear to many, but the feelings revolving it had been. They could feel the evil in the runes.

They could also pick out the key runes to destroy that would break away the control over the undead still reforming near them. This started a whole new round of rune slashing.

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