

## **Master 1841**

### Chapter 1841 1841. The Very Top

While the soldiers had all understood what they needed to do, that left the party and the royal dragons with a lot more to do. The angels had also found their places. Their strength and knowledge when it came to these kinds of battles had shown a lot more.

The Rise Empire angels were showcasing their light affinity swordsmanship right beside the light elemental dragonkin. It was odd to see them working so well. The angels in the air and the dragonkin on the ground.

However, this was also matched by the fact that the Fel empire angels were acting with incredible adaptation. The fights they were involved in appeared to become easier for them the more the undead regeneration. It was very clear that they were learning the weakness, speed, and dangers of every single undead enemy they faced. Some of the Fel angels were even calling out warnings or advice now.

This was enough to make Walker and the others very confident that they would not be needed. Even though more undead were showing themselves from other passageways, they were nothing that the army they had brought couldn't handle. Especially with the runes being destroyed more and more.

The understandings from the suet reward about runes was nothing major. Many had such a limited understanding over runes in general that this reward was small. The mages seemed to gain the most since they at least had some understandings when it came to the runes of their elemental affinities.

Where it really helped was that the soldiers were finding the important runes. Most had learned to discern the active, or the more powerful runes. From there it was a simple matter of being able to work in the destruction of the runes as they battled the undead that were regenerating.

Therefore, they were left with the new issue that everyone knew they would be facing at some point. Endless battle. The undead would keep returning no matter what. This put a pressure on their shoulders. A pressure that was telling them they would die eventually. That their mana and stamina could not keep up. That even if they survived, that the undead would not stop coming for them. That was what would haunt every single soldier until their powerful leaders handled the one behind it all.

The shattered altar was still in front of Rise as Current, Mordant, and the party came up to meet her. She was looking at the blood stained stones and monster parts with disgust. It was something she never wished to see. Sacrifices should not exist.

Once upon a time, dragons had been seen as a powerful being that could be swayed by such things. Riches or sacrifices, but that had only been foolish perception. Those dragons that created that perception in the minds of the weak had done so because they were weak and wanted power. Eventually, the royals dragons had stamped out such foolishness from the dragon race, but it had left some unfortunate misconceptions.

"We need to climb. I have a bad feeling that we will see much worse up there." Walker could sense that the mana was more erratic above them. As if it had been stirred up. As if someone had kicked a hornet's nest to make the stinging insects angry enough to chase anything that moved for days on end.

"I used a significant amount of mana to crush this and send light elemental mana through the rune formations. It was more than I believed I would need. That is why the grand elemental spirit helped me. It was a purity issue." Rise spoke calmly. Only those that knew her would understand that she was very unhappy to learn this.

"If purity was the issue, then that means the controller of these runes is on par with us." Mordant spoke out loud what they had all just realized. This ruler of undead or controller. The pharaoh mentioned in the last link of the chain quest was powerful. It could rival a dragon when it came to mana and the purity of said mana.

"Horizon needs to rest too." The grand elemental spirit had returned to Alice and she could feel that it had used a lot of its mana to boost Rise. That was the price to pay since they were in an area nearly devoid of light elemental mana already.

"But that did save my mana for the upcoming fight. I will work with the songstress to improve the chances of a victorious battle." Hearing that Rise was going to focus on buffing them caused a slight shock. She was acting out of character. Yet, this also made some sense. She had one goal and one goal only here. Rise wanted to purify the undead that were an affront to her light elemental existence and also that harmed a dragon many years ago. It was only right to sacrifice a little pride to do so. The pride returned with victory vastly outweighed the cost right now.

"Can everyone sense that though?" It was Su who spoke up. She felt that her blood was rushing through her body a little faster. That her heart beat slightly harder.

"Yes."

"It's an enemy." all the royal dragons replied but Midnight spoke the loudest. She growled out that it was an enemy. They all sensed it.

"I would say that it is whatever that thing did with dragon blood. We saw some of the pictures carved in stone of what happened to the flame dominator dragon. But what else happened to it? What else did the sick and twisted monster do with the body of the dragon when it was also experimenting on many more things?" Gil was calm as he spoke. He knew that the wrong word might bring the royal dragon to anger. However, he began to be the one that was angry. The more he thought about someone experimenting on so many beings...

Without even another word, the group began to move. The stairs that led upwards were made to be ceremonial. They could be seen from behind the altar and it was clearly showcasing the strength of those climbing it. Furthermore, it was showing off the appearance to all that would climb it to everyone that would be watching. Set up just to show off to those that worshiped the one at the top. It was arrogant.

Every step brought the feeling of danger closer. But for Mordant, it brought the feelings of uncontrolled darkness closer. He could sense that he could not tear away the darkness mana around him from whoever was controlling it. He also could sense the additional, more mysterious, manas within the darkness. It was a sickening mix that made him feel he might lose his lunch. That was hard to do to a dragon that was naturally resistant to many things.

"I am going to use a multi buff skill on everyone first. When we get to the top we will see..." Walker already noticed that the top of the stairs was close. He stopped speaking and began to use his buff skills on everyone. He also mentally called out to Fluer for assistance with natural mana. He would sue as much as he could to battle against this undead. Even if he had to use the eternal orb and lose it, he was fine with that. As long as they defeated the evil existing here.

As they emerged, Walker sensed the death mana around. It wasn't proper though. It felt like something broken. Like it was only trying to mimic death. But he could also sense hostility. The same feeling that anyone would sense when facing a wild monster trying to make them as prey.

'Mummified pharaoh

This being is what is left of the great plague that came upon all who lived in this land. The mummified pharaoh was one who desired control over all things. After finding broken runes, they began trying to claim the power of death for themselves through raising other undead and experimenting with living beings.

By committing many great acts of evil, it became evident that controlling death was harder than they knew. To grow their strength, this being caused a plague on the land while also manipulating the people of the land. After successfully convincing some and murdering others, this being was able to attract a great amount of death mana.

Unfortunately, the failure to grasp it caused them to lose their mind to a degree. Now they only care for reversing the failure and causing a greater cataclysm that would attract more power to them. This way, they believe they will rise above the others and become a true god of death.

The fact that they have failed left them to create false death runes, become what is considered a false death god, and also brought them to a cursed state of undeath. The more that...'

Walker could have read more in to it, but the being sitting on the top of the pyramid had started to shift in the large black gold throne in front of them.

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Chapter 1842 1842. Evil Undead

From what they could see, the throne on top of the pyramid was entirely made of black gold. It was carved with runes that were clearly not normal in any way. On top of that, there was an ominous darkness mana emanating from it.

The mummified pharaoh sitting on the throne had started to shift. Its body appeared the same as any of the other mummified worshippers, however, as it twitched, the mana seeped in to the pale white wrappings. This was nothing that made anyone comfortable. They could see the changes in the undead before their eyes. As if it was just waking up.

The wrappings began to turn in to a deep black color as the bones were reinforced with a golden color. The mana was protecting the bones while also showing off the changes that had been made. It was easily understandable that this undead had experimented directly on themselves.

Furthermore, Walker had already started to recount the all around appraisal while he prepared to buff everyone again. He knew that they should know that the false death god was none other than the undead before them. A mad mage that experimented with raising the dead. That had strived to become a wielder of death mana so much so that they had twisted their own existence.

"That, is the false death god? I expected more." Current looked at the undead with disdain. It was simple for them to all understand that this death god had been created out of nothing. Built for one mage to create a famine, then control the living, then cause so much twisted evil was stunning. Even more, that the same being had been able to attempt anything that would change them from what they were to a god? What did this thing think a god system user was?

The god systems were rare for a reason. They were birthed by the world to wield specific powers. They weren't something someone would just bump in to or could just take. That was why they were almost always just written in stories or passed around as rumors. They were often considered just to be false or fiction.

"This thing is due for all the evil they caused. We will make it pay the price and purify it." Rise spoke first. She was already preparing to attack since she saw the solution to all of this before her. However, before she could take a step, darkness mana radiated from the throne.

Bones and wrappings seemed to materialize from the shadowy darkness all around becoming undead. This was the skill of the mummified pharaoh that allowed it to sit in such a palace without issues. It was what allowed the undead to sit and gather its power without worry.

'Mummified royal

Created from the most powerful of the living from this fallen society, the mummified royals are elite mummies that have been created by the mummified pharaoh. Because they are able to hide within the darkness mana that is controlled by the mummified pharaoh, their bodies are protected. They have not decayed, degraded, or even started to fall apart as a normal undead would.

Therefore, their bodies are still able to regenerate the muscles and the added experimental parts. They have an extremely high resistance to al and physical attacks. They wield heavy swords that are coated in darkness decaying mana. The slight death mana that attracts to them also makes the wounds they inflict deeper and harder to heal.

They are normally weak to fire as mummies, but that is held back by their unique nature as mummified royals that have not sat out in the desert heat. With the direct control from the mummified pharaoh, the mummified royals are able to move faster and with more force.'

Nothing that Walker had read was a good thing. He was sure that the mummies they faced right now were the roughest that he had seen. But worse off, they all saw other shapes emerging from the shadows. A larger shape.

"This undead piece of garbage!" The roar that escaped from Rise was enough to shake the entire pyramid. She had not been enraged like this yet. However, Current and Mordant had taken the same anger. The same rage filled roar.

'Partially mummified dragon

After dying and being used to help create many undead, the remaining dragon skill and claws were specially modified to be used to create an undead that was able to be controlled. Due to the massive resistance, the bones were only able to be used when combined with over five hundred bone pieces from innocent living beings.

The result was a partially mummified undead capable of attacking with darkness and death mana to a small degree. The physical strength that this undead possesses is much higher when using the dragon claws and head to bite and claw. However, the rest of its body is limited by the fact that they are not dragon bones.

It holds a high regeneration due to the closeness of the mummified pharaoh. It is able to move as long as it is attached by the hundred of false death runes carved in to every bone and stone around it. It cannot leave the area of the mummified pharaoh.

Due to the many years of abuse, the bones have degraded and the impervious fire resistance that it had in life has been lost. It is exceptionally weak to flames now since the pathways in the dragon bones for fire mana are still in existence...'

More and more of the things Walker read went in to details about the hundred of bones carved and forced to attach with the dragon bones. The many living beings that had created blood stained bones that now formed a false body of a dragon. That formed the skeletal and half wrapped body of a monster.

"Su, shield!" Walker called and Su took position in front of everyone. Just before the three royal dragons could follow their rage, Su had blocked them and shielded from the massive breath of darkness mana attacking them.

The mummified royals were unaffected by all of it while Su saw that the mana leftover from the breath attack she had just black had seeped back in to the runes. It would be used again without any loss. A deadly field to fight against this undead on. "Walker, the runes are gathering the used mana again. We need a plan."

Seeing this, Walker already knew the best way to work this. "Mordant, ignore your anger and start stopping the runes from soaking up our and your mana. That partially mummified dragon is going to get all its mana back when it attacks if you don't. Current, those royal mummies have liquid in them still. That means you can use your control over that water to crush them. Rise, I need you to target that throne. That's what allows the mummified pharaoh to keep controlling undead. That's the key to it all."

Some of the things Walker understood were plain gross. The royal mummies still had moisture in them. That made them the perfect target for a dehydrated Current. Especially since he had gathered a decent amount of water mana from the pillars left behind. It had double helped them since Current had also stopped the white sand from piling there.

"My arrows don't even pierce those black wrappings. Walker, I need a boost." Gil knew that he had to get some better attacks in. The arrows he fired were light elemental arrows, but the thick darkness mana on the mummified pharaohs' wrapping stopped him.

"Weak little things. Join my empire. Join the creation of a new god to rule all that is and all that will be." it felt as if the voice speaking was coming from all around them. The mummified pharaoh was repeating words from its past life. The maddened goals that had kept it moving toward a darker and darker evil.

Without any warning, the mummified pharaoh raised its hand holding a large staff. The staff was covered in false death runes and gathered both darkness and a small amount of death mana from the throne. With a single slam of the staff, the runes lit up and the area became trapped in a massive dark barrier. The stairs that had been open to the group from retreat was entirely blocked off. The only thing that they heard was a muffled and gruesome laughter from every single mummified royal.

"Remey, think you could break that thing? I need someone to get some hard hits in. There are bones under those wrappings." Walker knew that Remey was a good bet here. She could attack past the dark wrappings and deal damage internally to the mummified pharaoh.

"You never needed to ask. Just make a pathway while you get ready to attack too." Remey had the light elemental knuckles on already. She was looking at the enemy before them with a frenzied grin. She didn't need a reason to hold anything back here. It was fight or die.

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Chapter 1843 1843. In To Battle

Calm was the last thing that could be used to describe the changes around everyone as they went to battle. The royal dragons immediately began their movements toward their enemies. Current was the most prominent since he was able to find the water elemental mana in the royal mummies. They were like beacons for him in this dry environment.

The massive changes that everyone saw instantly when Current acted proved why a water elemental dragon or anyone with higher control of water elemental mana was incredibly dangerous.

While most people would never use their skills to harm the cores of someone's being, Current could care less about the undead. With a single burst of water elemental mana controlling a small stream of water, he pierced every single royal mummy.

The results were enough to stun everyone. The moisture that had long been in these undead royal mummies' bodies was instantly stolen away. However, the results were still not enough to make them fall. It just caused them to reduce in size slightly. A debuff that stopped them from being as strong as they should be.



Furthermore, there was a clear stoppage when it came to Current's strength. He felt that the remaining water mana had instantly become covered in darkness mana that prevented him from taking full control and robbing all the water from the royal mummies' bodies. It had been an instantaneous reaction from the mummified pharaoh. Proof that it was able to match his strength in many ways.

With the decrease in strength evident, Alice and Su were able to make their moves with Rise backing them. The light elemental mana from Rise further pushed the song of swords to attack the royal mummies. Every time that the royal mummies even attempted to dodge or step forward, Su would be there.

The twin shields were like a rotating barrier against the royal mummies. Her movements were adept and able to constantly leave small shield bashes that pushed them back. Even with their larger size than Su, it was Su's strength and ability that gave her the edge. She had spent a lot of time learning to use her shields in a defensive manner, but even more time beginning to learn how to make them an offensive skill above others.

The further addition of light elemental mana within Su's shield skills was proof that she had grown more than met the eye. Normally, Su's light shield skill would be used when she slammed her shields together to block a larger attack. Yet, when Walker glanced over to Su, he saw that a smaller light shield had covered both of the twin shields. Every attack was doing more than just pushing the royal mummies away from Alice and Rise. It was helping Su remain strong without any damage.

But furthermore, Walker saw that the light was being to become manipulated. This wasn't Su's, but it was Alice! She was somehow managing to sing two songs at once. The two light elemental swords floating in the air and slashing at the royal mummies was expected with her song of swords. What was unexpected was the unknown song that seemed to overlap with the song of swords.

It took Walker a few thoughts to figure out where he had heard of this before. But from what he understood, this was a skill called rounds. A musical skill that many who sang, played instruments, or wrote songs knew. It would let a secondary or more musical piece begin slightly after the first. It could build up an entire set of powerful effects. This skill was used by the older musicians to play healing songs in the cathedral.

While taxing, Alice was using it by herself without another person with her. That meant that she was holding double the burden when it came to mental strength and mana usage. A terrible pressure that would make it hard on anyone if they attempted it casually let alone in battle.

The results of the second skill were clear though. Small spikes of light had appeared on Su's light shield skill causing those royal mummies that were attacked to gain holes made by light elemental mana on their bodies. It was an effective attack boost that pushed the undead away and kept them in line. It also made the three of them more dangerous, therefore, it took more focus from the mummified pharaoh.

Looking even deeper in to this, Walker could have learned a little more about how to use light elemental mana. Rise was boosting all of this and providing potent light elemental mana while also adding small concentrated light elemental breath attacks. But the issue with focusing on this battle was distraction. If Walker did not maintain his focus he would be lost to the battle around him and in front of him.

the partially mummified dragon was approaching them. The put together half of its body made of bone pieces, made it clear to everyone that it was not strong at all. The only strength that seemed to hold it together were the dragon bones and the fact that the wrappings on its body were toughened by some unknown process.

The darkness mana that it absorbed also seemed to be more condensed. That was the issue with the runes. Yet, when it came to runes, Walker and Mordant had already noticed a slight change. Even if it was the smallest of changes, it was a change. The runes were pulsing a tiny bit slower than they were before.

This had to be the work of the soldiers below. They were able to grasp some knowledge from the system's reward earlier. Furthermore, they were able to destroy more important false death runes here and there. It naturally would have an effect on the runes here. The mana that flowed at the very top of the massive pyramid. All the mana in the city was being drawn to it, therefore, damaging the runes was important.

Ventus and Ignus were also to thank for this. They were destroying the undead and the runes all over the city. Their strength was enough to make a major difference in the flow of mana. The longer that all of them worked like this, the faster that the runes would show weaker pulses and mana would flow slower.

Because of this, Walker could feel he had been able to grasp a little more control over all the manas around him. Especially the natural mana that he was using to begin attacking. He had to boost his movements and prepare for Remey to get close for a defense breaking punch attack. Therefore, Walker looked at the skill he had just gained after the last part of the chain quest.

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 natural mana that Walker felt around and within him was easily pulled from the air to be used. Walker changed the elemental mana in to a staff form knowing that he will be better off playing a mage role in this battle. He had to make sure he held more and more of the attention when it came to fighting the mummified pharaoh. That was what he could do with his control of the natural mana which was clearly deadly to the undead here.

Gil was similar though. While he fired arrows trying to cause damage to the partially mummified dragon, he also mentally prepared himself to use more mana than he should with the high elven dagger technique. He understood that it could damage the royal mummies, partially mummified dragon, and the mummified pharaoh more deeply than his other attacks.

This also brought to mind the fact that ending this battle would greatly rely on natural mana. That was why midnight was moving right alongside Remey to keep the pressure on as attacking the mummified pharaoh would be more important than other things.

This was not missed by Mordant, he could feel that the air changed around them too. His eyes were still focused on the dragon, but he also let himself feel the movements around him. The fact that Walker was starting to run ahead with Midnight and Remey ahead of him meant that they were going to attack. Since Gil was the only one with him battling the full force of the partially mummified dragon, then it meant he had to use a lot more strength. He had to call on his own partner.

When the burst of powerful darkness mana came out, everyone knew it to be Mordant and the grand darkness elemental spirit making a move too. Powerful control of multiple elemental manas all at once would definitely cause more chaos to the mummified pharaoh's attempts to defend itself.

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Chapter 1844 1844. Not A Scratch

Strands of shadows spread from around Mordant. This terrifying show of force from the royal darkness elemental dragon was something that not many would see in their lifetime. Just like when Walker was brought through the shadows by Morant, he was equally in awe for a moment when Mordant had acted just now.

It was just a moment, but the massive tendrils of shadow that arced out trapped the partially mummified dragon. It was nothing that could hold the powerful undead for long since it was also using darkness mana, but it was enough for the attacks of others to get through and for Walker to begin assisting Midnight and Remy to move forward.

With the dragon halted, Gil had taken the chance to fire multiple light affinity arrows towards it. The partial mummification of the dragon was surprisingly a good thing. From what Gil could see with his sharp eyes, there were plenty of openings. Openings that the wrappings and bones didn't cover.

These openings were easy targets, therefore, when Gil fired the next light elemental arrow, they hit that target. "I just weakened it, keep moving!" Gil had drawn another arrow and seen the instant results.

The light arrow had fit in where the dragon bones met the wrappings and smaller bone pieces that made up the partially mummified dragon. These spots only existed because the experimental nature of this undead. The opening showed with a slight glint of light in the darkness that was the insides of the dragon. The results of it were a very clear weakening of the bones around that area.

This attack proved that the light elemental mana from the inside was forcefully weakening the connections between the bones. The key weakness behind this dragon undead was what anyone would discover with a little searching. The connections to the different bones were precarious at best. With the power that came from the dragon bones came a massive drawback in connectivity. Dragons were resistant uncontrollable beings. Especially the bones of a flame dominator dragon.

Mordant saw the arrows that Gil fired and the shout to Walker. Without any hesitation, Mordant took it as a signal to tear away one of the smaller exposed bones from the partially mummified dragon. This act brought about a silent roar from the dragon and the next attack of darkness mana on them.

Without any bit of flinching, Mordant stood and resisted the attack on him while shielding Gil with his wingspan. This attack of darkness elemental breath was too weak to do any real damage. But where the damage appeared from was the slightly graying color on his scales. The small amounts of death mana forced in to the undead dragon were enough to affect him. Mordant was not happy at all with this.

"Remey, push to the left, midnight, take to the air and breath down a cover of fire for Remey." Walker called out his plan to the two. He knew that if Midnight distracted and blinded the mummified pharaoh, then that would be the ideal time for Remey to strike with the light affinity knuckles and defense breaking fist attack.

But while this happened, Walker was pulling the natural mana that Fleur immediately released for him toward the eternal orb staff form. The large crystal that had formed when the staff form solidified was enough to show the mix of elemental manas fusing in to one another and taking on a unique array of elemental colors.

Trying to understand the natural mana with the natural aura passive skill was already seeming easier. It wasn't just that though. The title that Walker had related to being a young sage also meant that he was closer to natural mana. It was a unique combination that had brought this moment to a deeper level than many would have understood just by watching.

There had been many opportunities for Walker to see different ways that mana was used since he had appeared on the Sigil continent. The very fact that he had met angels was one that greatly influenced his thoughts. They relied on mana around them to cast their skills. They needed their wings to gather that mana. Even if an angel did not fly, they used their wings to get the mana they needed relating to their affinity. It was a key part of their existence.

This left proof that gathering mana and bringing it within oneself to use was entirely plausible to do in the what of battle. To reuse and gather all manas around under one's natural flow. The natural mana was the same. Therefore, Walker should be able to condense all the natural mana around him in to the eternal orb. Mimic the angels and jeep bringing the mana together so that it was his to use.

It wasn't that Walker couldn't already do this, but thinking of the intricate ability that the angels had to only rely on this method proved that Walker could utilize it much more than he already did. Adding the insights of a new skill to the mix, and Walker was already taking a leap in understanding.

The flash of mana that came around Walker's body was evidence of this. He had pulled a great deal of ownerless mana from everyone else's attacks. Even the cold feeling of death mana seemed to react

slightly. But the silent playfulness of life mana reacted as well. Much more than Walker expected since he had barely grasped either of them at the moment.

But where things seemed to be pushing him was the gathered mana within the eternal orb. The mana that Walker felt was more than just part of him as the spirit marks on his body showed themselves. It was the bond between him and Fleur that was becoming more defined by the fact that Walker could become closer to natural mana. The melding of affinities that Walker already had and that he had used many times over.

"Let's go!" Walker saw Midnight leap in to the air and breath out a large burst of flames at the mummified pharaoh. The attack was weak in comparison to the pharaohs resistances. But that was not the reason for the attack. The red flames had covered the pharaoh. It had completely stopped any sightline that the enemy had.

But the flames weren't stopping, Walker had reached out to control them as well. The dragon flames that Midnight controlled were easily able to be caught by him and fueled by his own mana. Adding the bonus of natural mana made them rage even more intensely before Walker immediately shifted his focus to boosting the light elemental mana around Remey further. He knew that the more she had the better.

Due to the boost from Walker, Remey became even more focused. Her fists with the light affinity knuckles attached to her gloves began to shine brilliantly. They had attracted the light mana just as they should by design. The best possible weapon to diversify her punches. But even more, to boost her effectiveness against a brutal enemy like an undead.

The sudden stoppage of flames cleared the way for Remey to punch out. The mummified pharaoh had no reacting but to stand there. When the punch landed, a large cracking sound echoed. The black wrappings were not damaged at all, but the light elemental mana pierced through since Remey was using the defense breaking fist she had created by fusing her defense breaking palm and punching skills together.

When the punch had been delivered, Remey immediately retreated with Midnight landing next to her as a guard. Walker saw a skeletal hand wave through the flames causing darkness mana to force the fire back. From what they could see, the mummified pharaoh was standing there without a single scratch. The cracking sound of breaking bones appeared to have already been healed by the connections it had to the throne.

The mana it had control of could heal it too, but that wasn't just the one problem they had. The single wave of darkness mana that the mummified pharaoh had used to push away the flames hadn't stopped. It was heading right for Midnight and Remey.

With the force of a powerful attack moving toward the two was enough to make Remey fall in to a defensive stance. She was sure she would be able to resist it but when Midnight let out another breath attack, Remey saw the full strength of the attack. The wave of flames from Midnight were snuffed out and the wave of darkness kept coming.

The two were in the worst possible position to defend themselves from the attack now that they understood the true strength of what was coming at them. The true force of an undead being that had control over massive amounts of darkness mana and even some death mana.

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Chapter 1845 1845. Stalemate Battle

When the dark wave of mana hit Midnight and Remey, the two had taken their best defensive positions, but the force had still landed cleanly. The force had been enough to send the two tumbling and leave clear bruises all over Remey's arms. If Midnight had not deflected some of the attack, then Remey would easily have a broken arm.

Midnight wasn't looking well either. The attacks had cracked the skeletal armor skill and some of her scales. Her higher resistance and tough scales had taken the attack and lowered the damage. However, she felt every bit of what had affected her. The slight decaying aura that had come with the attack was more potent.

This affects was because of the death mana mixed in to the attack. It was what left damage that was not being healed as Walker reached out with the heal skill. Therefore, Walker realized that the only way he could erase it was with direct healing using life mana or by using more natural mana to boost his healing.

Not that this was what Walker was allowed to focus on now. He saw Remey standing up to prepare for another round of attack. Walker himself though, had pushed forward and sent multiple light spikes toward the mummified pharaoh. He had used the light mana that had been relieved by Rise and Alice as

fuel since the area was slowly becoming more abundant with such mana as they fought the royal mummies.

The pharaoh didn't wait for them though. It was already taking a step forward in clear annoyance. The attack from Remey had sent light elemental mana right inside it. This might not have actually affected it, but it had irritated it. The gold bones shined as runes were made clear on them. This was how it had managed to remain full of mana. The throne it had sat on and the bones in its body were carved with the very same runes allowing for the pharaoh to more easily heal itself when attack.

Without saying a word, Midnight and Remey grasped what Walker's glance told them. He was going to take a direct battle with the mummified pharaoh while they attempted to get to the throne. The issue was, that the partially mummified dragon was fighting Gil and Mordant right around the throne. It was the guard that the mummified pharaoh had created to guard the throne that held all connection to mana in the entire city.

"Alice, use your swords to pierce the ground around those mummies." Su's shout to Alice drew a little attention from Walker. He had not realized that they had been fighting so closely next to him. But when he saw Su take a stance and Alice send two light swords in to the ground, he was impressed. The runes that Alice had slashed by doing so had completely severed the connection that the royal mummy had with the pharaoh.

The runes along the floor had been the flow of mana allowing for the royal mummies to be able to regenerate. Rise had been making small spikes of light mana while pushing the light mana toward Alice and Su to boost them. When she had managed to sever a lot of them, the strength of the royal mummies had begun to fade. However, now that the fading strength of the runes was evident, Su had told Alice to directly attack the runes.

This had worked perfectly. It created small spaces where the royal mummies were lured to that didn't allow them to regenerate. Therefore, when Su slammed down with the pointed ends of the shields, they shattered the royal mummy. It fell and began breaking in to smaller and smaller pieces with each strike. It was unable to regenerate right away without the linked mana that it had the entire battle so far.

The change in how fast the royal mummies were regenerating was noticed by the pharaoh in an instant. It turned toward the three fighting them with darkness mana fluctuating around its hands. Unfortunately, Walker had already stepped in to the air with his staff raised. The eternal orb staff had a heavy amount of natural mana wrapped around it. This might not be an attacking skill, but Walker knew that some of the natural mana would certainly make contact.



As if to mock him, the mummified pharaoh opened its skeletal wrapped mouth and tried to catch the eternal orb staff form with its teeth. Vicious gold teeth wrapped with liquid like darkness mana seemed to have been created so that the teeth could bite through the hardest of defenses. A way of the mummified pharaoh to attack even stranger opponents. Even more alterations to its own body before it had become what it was today.

It did not realize that the natural mana would hold its darkness mana off though. The teeth stopped the attack but it also put the mummified pharaoh in a terrible position where it could not stop the royal mummies from being stopped one after the other. It did leave Walker right in the line of attack though. A close range that could not be stopped.

When the pharaoh realized it had a chance to attack, it raised the odd staff of its own and channeled darkness mana around it. The wrappings on its body also moved to form a sharp black point of mana that could stab in to Walker's body. Something that seemed like it could pierce through dragon's scales as well.

Feeling the threat, Walker called on the light mana to also attack, but he was also focused on the natural mana he was pushing in to the eternal orb staff form. The natural mana was causing the pharaohs sharpened gold teeth to degrade. As if it was trying to force the entire existence of the mummified pharaoh to return to the natural flow with force now.

That was important though, Walker could sense the fact that all the manas that made up natural mana were acting to return to the flow. It felt the blockage that was there. In that respect, he knew that natural mana was doing its job. He just had to get the mana in to the pharaoh better than he was now. But that would come at a cost.

Mordant and Gil couldn't do anything with their position to help Walker. They both saw that he was in a stalemate for the moment against it. The battle between the two was enough to make them want to abandon the dragon and fight more. However, they saw Midnight and Remey joining them. If the throne was destroyed, then the pharaoh would be weakened greatly as well. They just had to handle the dragon.

With their trust in Walker taking the lead, Gil and Mordant began adding even more mana to their attacks. However, the results of Gil's constant light elemental arrows entering in to the partially mummified dragon had already shown some results.

Due to the fact that the wrappings held the smaller bones in place, the partially mummified dragon had relied on them a lot. It needed those bones to move around and also to channel mana. The light elemental arrows had put enough mana inside it that the flow was being interrupted. Small bones were falling off its body because there was not a perfect link between them. They weren't dragon bones so why would dragon bones adhere to them?

That left one thing for them to do, to attack now or else the light mana would be filtered outside the partially mummified dragon's body and it would regenerate properly.

Mordant made his move to push close. His claws growing with darkness mana much more condensed than before. Every tendril of shadow or darkness that mordant had used to halt the dragon a moment ago absorbed back to him.

Gil also dashed forward. His bow exchanged for his daggers as he decided to use as much mana in the high elven dagger technique as possible. They had to halt this dragon permanently so that Remey and Midnight could make their move.

Both Remey and Midnight had noticed this move too. They ignored the dragon that had turned to look at them and was about to release a darkness breath attack. They trusted that Mordant and Gil had the strength to keep that from happening. Even with their bodies injured, Remey was certain that she and Midnight would crush some black gold throne covered in runes. It would just take the right punch.

"Attack it now!" Rise growled out as she sent a large amount of light elemental mana to cover Remey's fists. The light affinity knuckles even started to crack under the large force of light mana that it could not handle. The royal mummies were more or less handled, the partially mummified dragon was about to be slashed by Gil and Mordant's powerful moves, and the mummified pharaoh was stuck with Walker who was trying to figure out how to inject natural mana in to its body. Nothing was looking to be perfect, but it was moving.

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Chapter 1846 1846. Use It All!

Remey's fist struck down toward the golden throne with its blackened runes covering it. This was the item that had to be destroyed so that the group could weaken and put away the undead forever. Midnight knew this too and was ready to give Remey another boost.

With a hard push from Midnight, Remey jolted forward with even more force than before. This wasn't anything that threw her off. She had instinctively felt that Midnight moved behind her to help her. Call it a sixth sense for battle or just her trust for her family, but this was the best improvement for Remey's attack at the moment.

Walker had also seen this and was letting himself smile even as he battled the force of the mummified pharaoh holding him in place. But when he noticed that the mummified pharaoh had stopped moving and that it even seemed to be allowing things to happen around it, Walker knew something was wrong.

The moment that Remey's fist landed on the golden throne and the light elemental mana radiated out of her fist, everything seemed to go silent. Darkness mana and an odd aura of death radiated away as well. "Pathetic fools who can not see the path." The mummified pharaoh spoke again but this time the voice seemed to be all around them.

The darkness mana rushed to the mummified pharaoh and Walker saw that the golden bones slowly turned black as well. The black wraps that had been on the mummified pharaoh's body seemed to expand and became a cloak of sorts. The wraps seemed to have a mind of their own and formed in to sharpened shadows. "Now you will all join my rise to become a true god."

The throne had been destroyed, but it seemed to have just been a holding spot. A thing to hold on to mana just like the spirit marks or the eternal form. That was why the stalemate had been broken. So what if more mana couldn't be easily gathered? The mummified pharaoh now had all the mana it had stored up to use and it could do so now without issues. It could store more later. This wasn't anything that would stop its plans.

When Remey saw that her attack had somehow made the mummified pharaoh stronger, she tried to raise their fist. Unfortunately, the shattering light affinity knuckles had left her hand bruised and even a few fingers broken. She couldn't punch again with her full force unless she wanted to completely cripple her hand. She needed healing but she realized that the light elemental mana all around them had been repressed.

No one had noticed it until this moment, but even Alice's song appeared to have been hindered. The light swords that she had been using had faded and were barely able to condense. Even Rise was

appearing to be weaker than she had ever been before. The slight mist of darkness was coming from the mummified pharaoh.

The only one that appeared to be without struggle was Mordant, but he had already made a move to forcefully stop the partially mummified dragon from moving. If he moved now to do anything else, then Gil would be the one to die. The partially mummified dragon was losing multiple bone pieces from its body due to Gil's flurry of dagger strikes.

Each attack was weakening the dragon bone connections with the wrappings and the smaller bones. If Gil stopped, then the partially mummified dragon might be able to recover. Even with the fact that some of the bones that fell off started to crumble, the mummified parts of the dragon were still incredibly powerful. It could easily stand against the entire party as long as it could still regenerate. Gil could not change his attacking style or try to help Walker or else they would all lose. He was trapped in essence.

Su tried to make a move as she saw the wrappings of pure darkness mana true to pierce Walker. They had formed in to one large tendril of sharp darkness mana. The lingering death mana around it spelled death for anyone and anything. Su had vowed to defend everyone precious to her. She would be losing one of the people that meant the most if she did nothing here.

As if moving in slow motion, everyone saw the spike heading for Walker. Even he was unable to make another move since the stalemate had been broken and the mummified pharaoh had the upper hand now. Everything he had tried to do to hold the mummy off was useless now. It looked like he had signed his own death warrant.

"Fine, if you are going to hurt me then I will use all the damn mana I have!" Walker felt it was futile, but he figured he should use all the natural mana he had to use at once. It might do nothing without actually getting inside the mummified pharaoh. But it might help his family end the mummified pharaoh after he was gone.

"Did you really expect me to remain behind, brother?"

The single voice reached out to Walker as Onyx shattered through the barrier on the stairs. He had been behind to fight the many indeed below them in the pyramid. But no one had expected that Onyx would be able to break through. The force needed would be extraordinary.

Right before the spike of darkness could pierce Walker, Onyx had taken his full sized form and become the shield Walker needed. It was clear in the slow motion view of everything that Onyx was already losing scales after forcefully breaking through a powerful barrier. But the attack that broke through him even more caused scales and blood to take to the air.

Walker felt his heart crack when Onyx was harmed. The unimaginable feeling of trauma that shot through their bind was more than Walker could even fathom. However, seeing his family hurt had flipped a switch. The threat that had reached out to him before made Walker feel he had to use all of this mana no matter what. But he had no guide in form of how he would use it.

Now there was a chance.

Now there was a clear opening to use all his mana.

Fluer seemed to feel this as well. Her reaction to let Walker have full control of the natural mana she stored up was what he ended to push him forward. He released the eternal orb staff and fell down right in front of the mummified pharaoh that was in disarray because of Onyx's sudden block.

The opening that Walker saw was the space where the wrappings had left exposed. The blackened bones with hints of gold were right there in the open. Walker reached out with full force and pushed his hands in to the core of the mummified pharaoh.

With all his intention and belief, Walker pushed natural mana in to the core of the mummified pharaoh. For an instant, the world seemed to have stopped turning. No one could tell what this feeling was, but for anyone that had ever experienced it in their life, it was victory.

A single pulse of natural mana seemed to reverse flow through every single rune in the entire city from the pyramid. The mummified pharaoh began disintegrating along with every single undead that it had controlled. Small amounts of mana appeared to be bleeding out of every rune as well. They had effectively been destroyed when the natural mana flowed backwards through them. All the false death runes had not been made to allow natural mana throughout their form.

The only bones left behind from the partially mummified dragon were the claws and the skull used to create the partially mummified undead monster that had fought them. But more importantly, the

natural mana seemed to have purified them. The same could be said for the mummies around the ruins that did not choose their fate as undead.

But none of this seemed to matter. The runes falling apart, the changes happening all around them. The fact that there was chaos happening around as some of the mummified undead began losing their forms and in turn, the city was becoming truly lifeless. The only thing that mattered was that Onyx was still hurt and Walker was barely able to remain awake to get by his side.

"Alice! Come heal him with me!" Walker barely yelled out this distraught sentence as he tried to call any mana to him. Any mana that could possibly be used to heal Onyx. he even threw out tons of potions from his storage all to be poured on the bleeding wound and the empty spaces where Onyx's scales had been. He would do anything to prevent Onyx from dying here.

"Brother, we won..."

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Chapter 1847 1847. Earned

'Chain quest: mummified curse- final link- completed

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.'

'The cursed sands are reverting to their natural form. The desert sands will recede over time and return the natural flow of time.

The will of the world is expressing its gratitude.'

"Who cares, stupid system. Alice!" Walker shouted again and saw that Alice was already right by his side. She was singing very quickly trying to heal the massive hole that was left where Onyx had been attacked. The small spots where scales had been torn off by the barrier also leaked blood. The more that Walker looked, the more that he felt he was breaking too.

"You need a potion too." Su forced Walker to open his mouth and drink a potion. The mana potion helped restore some mana to him but it was still too little compared to the state he was in from releasing a massive amount of natural mana in to another being as he had just done. It was not something that his body could handle without some massive side effect.

The health potion that followed made Walker realize that he had also been injured. The fact that Onyx had been hurt was what Walker had focused on most of all. But the cuts from the mummified pharaohs' attacks were clear. It had used the wrappings on its body to attack in the end and had grazed Walker's arm. If Onyx had not taken the attack, it was clear that Walker would lose an arm and his life.

As the gash healed, Walker also noticed the bruises from the stalemate with the mummified pharaoh on his arms and legs. All the places the pharaoh had grabbed him to keep from stepping it with the eternal orb. "That's it!"

Walker realized that in not using the eternal orb stuff form to attack in the end had left natural mana still in it. A residual amount compared to what walker had forced himself and what Fluer had used before, but still enough to help. The natural mana could boost the mana in Onyx's body and hopefully help Alice heal him.

The eternal orb reacted to Walker's desire and floated up from the group taking the orb form again. It had landed there when Walker thrust his hands inside the mummified pharaoh to send all the natural mana possible inside it and force its body to crumble. The result had been great since it had ended this matter and sent natural mana throughout the entire mummified city. But that was just part of it. Walker hadn't even seen the other undead falling apart or the runes beginning to fall apart. He didn't care.

The eternal orb was pressed against Onyx's head. Walker could tell that Onyx was in a very bad situation. He was still bleeding too much while the healing seemed too slow. Then there was the fact that onyx had burned through a very high amount of mana to break the barrier that the mummified pharaoh had placed on the stairs to trap them when they came to fight.

Without Onyx, they would not have won. But with Onyx slowly dying, it was too much to handle. "Use the rest of my mana as well. I can hold on until I reach the sun again." Rise spoke calmly. She looked at Onyx carefully, the abyssal serpent had made a very clear impression on Rise. able to use light and darkness manas together without any issues. Proof that there is a balance between them that was not only in the nature dragon that united the dragon royalty.

Rise placed a hand on Alice's shoulder and the reaction was immediate. Light gathered more easily as Alice sang. The healing process also improved. When Walker began adding in natural mana at the expense of his own stress, the healing increased even more. What walker didn't notice though, was that as his mentality faded from the pressure he put on himself in the moment, was that the life mages and other healers had been sprinting up the stairs to them.

Just as Walker finally lost his consciousness, he managed to spot the life mages using multiple skills on everyone. Including Onyx...

'The title, hero, has been earned. The alteration of levels and growth will be applied. An additional title has been earned. The dual hero of light and darkness has been earned. The hero title has been removed in change of this additional higher ranked title. The world smiles upon you.'

Onyx sensed these words. These feelings within him. In this darkness, he felt that he was warm. But he also felt the brightness of light all around him. A strange way to be blind. Both in light and darkness. However, he didn't frown at it. Instead, Onyx felt this was all the right way. The best way. How things should be.

As he recalled what had happened, Onyx could only feel better about himself and the world. He had finally become a hero, even in death, that was fine to him. He saved many people who would have suffered if their efforts to defeat an evil undead failed. But he had also stood beside his family. Protected them. Showed everyone, even the world, who he was.

The feelings didn't fade though. Whenever Onyx had heard soldiers speaking about death, there were many theories. Many places beings went. Some even believed that they would just restart in the world as other beings. A fresh slate. But Onyx felt that he was just sitting in a strange mix of light and darkness. Just stuck.

"Wake up already."



"Sister?"

"Get Up!"

The shout and hard headbutt from Midnight brought the world of color back to Onyx. His eyes shot open as he looked around finding every royal dragon present and his party members with him. Walker was laying on Alice's lap unconscious while the others all sat watching carefully. Even the angels were around waiting.

"But I-"

"You are bad." Midnight's growl of unhappiness was masked by the fact that she hadn't moved her head from in front of Onyx.

"Don't worry, I will give you a good hit once my hands are healed." Remey looked at onyx with a solid smirk.

"Woah, I have to give him a talk about dodging hits first. He just went right in front. He thought he was Su or something!"

"Gil, he is not a tough shield user like me. Don't give him ideas that he can go and take attacks like that again. There were many healers around to ensure he did not have lasting side effects other than a scar." Su was a little more emotional than usual as well. But from what onyx could see, everyone still had some kind of happy face.

"When Walker awakens, you might have some trouble. But when it comes to Rise and I, you did well." Mordant spoke softly. Just enough for Onyx to hear without interrupting too much. With The way he and Rise were looking at him, it was as if there had been a new and unspoken understanding about Onyx and what he represented.

"I didn't want anyone to get hurt... I saved mana for this battle and I was left behind. I could see it though... Brother was going-"

"Yeah yeah yeah mr. hero. Or should I say dual hero of light and darkness? That's right, the world shared your new title with everyone. We all know that you finally caught up to us." Remey gave a toothy grin to Onyx who was about to apologize and ramble on. But seeing that everyone was looking at him without a single bit of unease or happiness made him lose the ability to speak.

"Oh, it looks like we finally managed to make him speechless. I would expect that to be the case. Especially when Walker wakes up. I am sure there will be even more issues with anyone speaking again." Ventus looked at Onyx then the others. As a mother, she saw this as a very adorable situation. A Very emotional family event.

"Now that we know they are all fine, let's go find the ruins. I need to make sure nothing was damaged." Ignus was pushy, but he glanced around with pride. They had won and left nothing to be questioned. The soldiers that fought had battled with everything. Even the seemingly weakest of the group had shown up to be the key in ending this battle. Now there was just what came afterwards. It was a mystery what that would be though.

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Chapter 1848 1848. More Things To Do

"Brother, you are awake."

Silence was the only response Walker had as he slowly woke up and rubbed the dust from his eyes. He knew it hadn't been too long since he had passed out since he was still missing a lot of mana. He could also feel that Fleur had just gone back to resting to regain natural mana.

However, Walker also could see that Onyx was somehow fine. He could also see that there were many system notifications that he had not read. That the others were also nearby speaking with each other about the next moves. This was still a dangerous ruin afterall.

"Brother?..." Onyx sounded more worried this time. His eyes did not lose focus on Walker's blank expression.

After a few moments, Walker finally took a deep breath before he placed a strong hand on top of Onyx's head. "You're gonna make me lose my mind if you ever do something like that again." Onyx finally relaxed a little. It was as if he had been worried there would be a much worse reaction. Not that Walker had ever screamed or yelled in any way due to worry or anger.

"You did pretty good though. Actually, very good. You gained a pretty decent title. Better than a general hero title." Walker could see the title and its details because of his ties with Onyx and the all around appraisal skill. It was surprising, but what Walker expected Onyx to be capable of.

"I didn't do it for a title. I would never let my family get hurt like that." Onyx was steadfast in his reasoning. But that just made Walker smile more.

'Dual hero of darkness and light

This title is given because of the use of light elemental mana and darkness elemental mana in unison to protect many. To uphold the values of the user. This title also represents the duality that is light and darkness mana. How they can unite to grow or separate to protect. Only those that truly bring the two elemental manas together in their entire being will have a chance to gain this title along with a path to unique skills.

The holder of this title will have an altered leveling system in place. There is also a chance that unique related quests will appear. The holder of this title also gains a better ability to understand, manipulate, and absorb light and darkness elemental manas. There are other factors added as well.'

This alone was too much for many people to grasp. The title was different from the heroic title that the rest of the party had or even the true hero title that Walker had. But it was impressive nonetheless. This was all proof that Onyx had worked with his ideals upheld. That he had been striving to unite the two halves of his species constantly.

The fact that Onyx had done so much that he had achieved this title was amazing. He was a young abyssal serpent by the standard of their species along with many. But he had grown significantly to stand above that standard. He had pushed himself to become a force that could be seen as the leader of the abyssal and heavenly serpents.

Furthermore, Onyx had stepped ahead of the others and found the core of their species. Not two different, but one species that used both light and darkness elemental mana. One that stood out when in ancient times or nowadays. It was already an astounding achievement, but would not help the abyssal serpents and heavenly serpents become known as a new recognized intelligent race. It was just a matter of time before the world gave the announcement.

"So, what do you think Genesis is saying right about now?" Walker looked at Onyx and laughed a little. Onyx slowly slithered over and took his smaller form right on Walker's shoulder where he felt the most at home.

"They might be wondering what we got ourselves mixed up in right about now." Onyx felt that it would be more apparent when they went home. But also that Genesis would welcome them all regardless of Onyx's new title.

When The others noticed that Walker was awake, they managed to make their way over. Alice also helped Walker stand all the way up since she could see that he was still a little off. Not that she minded, she cared about his safety and was too short on mana to manage any more healing at the moment. She had also taken a hefty toll when it came to healing Onyx and the others. She trusted the work of the other healers.

"So, think you set a good example for Onyx?" Su was clearly proud of how Onyx had acted. But that didn't stop her from giving Walker a small talk about how he had managed to get himself trapped in a position where he could be easily killed.

"I really wasn't thinking when it all happened. I at least thought I had things held in place before the throne was broken. I didn't think-"

"That's the issue. You have all these skills and your head doesn't seem clear. Take some time and figure it out. Maybe get a way to think faster or decrease the skills you have." While Walker had at one point thought this too, it was more important now than ever.

This true statement about Walker's skills being so varied and higher in number caused trouble. He could have broken that stalemate with the mummified pharaoh. All of the group thought this. But the fact that he hadn't just proved that he was truly stuck.

Yet, there was also the fact that Walker was able to use mana and his physical strength now to resist the mummified pharaoh. A clear example of his growth due to his relationship with Onyx and Midnight along with natural mana. Su was also an example of changes because of ties with Midnight. Her body was much stronger now.

"Instead of lecturing Walker any more than we need, can we try and focus on this palace? This ruin that is still buried under the sand and the fact that we now need to hunt for some dragon ruins in the ruins? Ruins in ruins... weird." Gil mumbled a little at the end but had a very good point.

"That should be easy. Between Ignus and Myself we should sense it. They were trying to break through to it somewhere. So it has to be under this pyramid somehow. And then we let Ignus take it and do what he needs." Remey also had a point. She and Ignus should be able to sense the fire elemental mana. Remey because of her partner, and Ignus because of his high fire affinity.

"It is the best move for the moment. Once we understand what was left behind we can search for the wind, darkness, light, and water dominator dragon ruins. There should be ruins for all of us.' Ventus calmly added her own input while looking a lot more distracted now. But that was to be expected. They had accomplished a major event here. From this point, there is a lot to wonder about.

"I will rest above ground first. I have more to do than just search for ruins over an entire continent." Rise was back to the usual uppity self. However, her eyes did linger on Onyx and Mordant more than they had before.

"I am more concerned about the large amount of darkness mana dissipating from here, the ruins are still breaking down here and there. Some places only seemed to be held together by the runes that flowed with mana." Mordant had eyes around him that were focused on the runes that had broken. They were not looking the same as before. But the runes that were standing out were elemental runs of the formations breaking down, not the false death runes that had already evaporated.

"I will examine runes in the area while I gather those water crystal pillars. They may be useful for me in the future." Current had been somewhat quiet while he thought of what he planned. He had disliked the desert. The heat and the cursed sand had been hard on him. But now he saw the high potential that the

water crystal pillars had. The fact that they held water elemental mana for many years at once could be very useful.

"I think everyone already has a goal for the short term. We can figure more things out soon. But for now, the army should rest. We need to figure out the further future after that. Not that I am too worried. We still have three demons to hunt down." Walker looked around almost expecting someone to jump out from nowhere. He worried that they had missed the demons here.

## Chapter 1849 1849. Finding The Flames

"I know that you are thinking. But we need to begin looking. We can not rest." Mordant calmly spoke with Walker. He could tell that Walker was in depth thinking about why they might not have seen the demons here. It was written all over his face. A very easy thing to guess since they were all thinking about it.

Yet, when it came to their current task, they had to focus on the draconic ruins somewhere under this pyramid. The palace that the undead had been trying to break in to as well so that they could utilize more of the strength of dragons to take over more space. So that the mummified pharaoh could live out the desire to become some all powerful god of twisted death.

"I know, I just feel like something is off. How could we have missed the demons? They mocked us at the wyvern territories. They knew we were there and watched us before attacking. Then they stole the wyvern body from a passed away powerful wyvern. There has to be more. They wouldn't pass up power here."

This drew a few worried looks from Su. She was certain that Walker was right and she too had been trying to figure out what would stop the demons they knew to be roaming somewhere from entering here. "First we handle the ruins. Then we will handle the demons. It is unavoidable."

After a thought or two, Su decided to remain focused on what they could do in the moment. Anything else would slow them down. Especially since they had to make sure that they made time to properly rest once they had handled the issues revolving around the false death runes and undead.

With the rest of the party ready to move, regardless of their tiredness, they started to head down the stairs. What they found were many soldiers setting up places to rest within the large pyramid. It had been checked out and the remains from anything they had fought had either crumbled to dust or had been piled up. Especially the metal parts here and there.

It had been one thing that really stuck with them when they had fought. The remaining metal parts forced on to the bones and even as parts of the bodies of undead. Many soldiers worried that they would be faced with crumbling rune covered metal parts that could no longer contain their mana. However, they were very relaxed to see that this was not the case. With the runes breaking down along with the undead, the metal parts had become useless.

lot did bring the issue of using them later. There would be many pieces that could be reforged and made use of. But the history from them would make many of the angels feel bad for doing so. Yet, some had already started to state that using the metals for important things that could bring life to the area around the desert might be better. To make farming tools and reclaim the cursed nature of the desert.

"What's wrong? Your hand still hurting?" Gil noticed that Remey was flashing her fingers and looking at her knuckles.

"Of course it is. I literally shattered metal forged knuckles over my gloves. The mana was way too much and I never thought I would break them. Now my hand is healed but Alice and the other healers said I should hold off for a while since there would still be damage. It wasn't like they could just ally fix it all perfectly. It was light mana that helped damage my hands. Light elemental healing mana wouldn't perfectly fix it right away."

The annoyance in Remey's voice made it clear that she didn't like the fact that she would have to hold back at all. She needed to repair her own body and get new light affinity knuckles. "What the heck will happen when I fight another tough monster? More broken hands and broken knuckles? I need new one. Tougher ones." Her thoughts seemed to drift elsewhere.

"It's not just our equipment that we will want to improve. Our bodies too. Su and Walker are already tougher. But you me and Alice are all pretty weak by comparison. Onyx is at least a serpent. Tougher scales. Midnight is a dragon. And they all have some dragon things working out. We have ourselves."

With Gil bringing Alice in to it too, the three of them were able to look at the rest of their group with clear eyes. They had a disadvantage by comparison.

"You are acting like we have more over you. But you have an entire fighting style that I could not rival. If I was not familiar with you and your battle, I would lose in a fight." Su made it clear to Gil that he had lost some toughness by following the elven ways and adding points to a certain balanced ally and physical attacking style. But that wasn't a downside.

"Alice trained in healing and as a songstress. She has not been physically battling as long as us or anyone else. She can remain focused on her task and gradually improve physical resistances." This was also a fairly well analyzed position for Su to see.

"And Remey...well, I think she can gain a lot of affinity resistances. She already has the basics started, just needs to work on a few more things instead of being in the alchemy lab." Su finally broke her seriousness and smirked a little at Remey. She knew that Remey was already planning to do just that and begin a hardcore focus on physical training again.

"Listen up, I will be tougher than you and run around like a nonstop berserker. Barry will have nothing on me too when I get stronger than him." Remey compared herself to the vice adventurer's guild master. They all knew that this was a very lofty goal, but with how much they gained from this trio, it might be a very good start. Not that Barry or anyone that seemed to be on his level were simple. Even if they matched his level they might be considered behind him in toughness.

"This place seemed different without the runes. The altar was broken a bit because of our attacks, but it looks like it was pulling mana from below too." Walker had stopped paying attention to the conversation around him. He was more fixated on the fact that Ignus appeared ready to start tearing up the floor to find the ruins he wanted.

"Here we are. There are multiple places that someone might insert poles to move the entire altar." Walker pointed out space. It would have taken at least twenty of the undead to move it. Specifically, the stronger undead such as the mummified amalgamations or heavy guardians. But when Ignus heard Walker, he casually slammed a single hand on the altar and flipped it over.

The loud sound of stone being slammed over itself was enough to draw attention and even make some of the soldiers jolt from their resting places for battle. With a small wave, Walker made sure that they knew it was safe. However, the hole revealed underneath the altar proved to be more than he had imagined.



What he would have assumed to be a small set of steps to a ruin were actually just open space. A massive space left to allow anything that tried to enter to fall. The runes that had been carved connected only to the mana that was hitting the bottom of the altar. It would then pull mana upwards to it.

"I thought that they were trying to break in to this. Why would they have a massive hole here and locked it away just to siphon mana away? Ignus looked at Walker for answers. He knew that the all around appraisal should have some sort of answers for him and everyone else. But instead, Walker shrugged too.

"I will look..." Mordant trailed off while placing a hand in to the empty hole and sensing through the darkness mana there. He slowly looked as if he was learning more and more before he refocused on Ignus.

"They appear to have given up. The stone is too tough and a small flame remains around the ruins. It was a defensive mechanism that burned undead that touched it. Instead, they seem to have tried to drain the mana over years and years until they could enter it. They could not beat the power of a truly powerful dragon." Pride came with these words. It was proof that the flame dominator dragon may have died but the strength it had was still there. Waiting for the right descendant.

"Then I will go down." Ignus didn't hesitate to fall in to the pitch darkness.

Chapter 1850 1850. Two In Flames

Fire. That was what Ignus was. What he studies. Who he thought he would always be. With fire, came brutal strength. The ability to turn every enemy to ash. It did not matter how often he was challenged or what he was challenged with, fire made Ignus a force of nature. Unstoppable.

The more that Ignus had seen, the more he had begun to change. He had recently found something that stood out from his many years of life as a royal fire dragon. He had found some humans that changed their ideas and pushed themselves in to every single race. Every single kingdom. Every single facet of the world.

These humans had broken traditions. This had originally stirred Ignus's anger. Breathed more life in to the flames of hatred for any weaker bearings. Yet, he had been proven wrong. His flames had done nothing to such humans. No matter how he threatened, he was met with compromises, promises that seemed impossible, and accomplishments that did not match the perceptions he had.

These events had opened up his stagnant path to a brand new possibilities. The fire elemental mana that he had spent years studying had begun to advance. His understanding that he had gripped through emerging himself in lava filled volcanoes had been pushed forward just by humans taking their own efforts to join hands with even the dragonkin below him.

From that point, Ignus had seen how even a few weeks with this new place called Genesis had brought the useless dragon hatchlings that he tossed out to have a future. A useful future as alchemists which was the first for a dragon. Something that no dragon had wasted time on before.

However, that was also an age where affinity potions had not existed. Potions that had a direct impact of speeding up elemental understanding. That every single dragon had immediately wanted more than territory, strength, or even pride. Not that pride lost out for long. Dragon's were a proud race, it would be impossible for them to completely ignore that.

Yet, Ignus found himself following what the humans had said and even sitting next to a human to assist in creating such potions. Things that had never been recorded in history happened right as he had thought that he would remain at the same position for the rest of his life. Leaving only the same legacy as he had been given by his predecessor.

"For a fire dragon as myself to have friends... what a complicated world." Ignus mumbled as he thought of the hours in the alchemy lab and the massive changes he had witnessed. The impossible things. He hated that he had changed somehow, but he also felt the fires burn stronger for a future that no dragon had seen. He would grab on to that flame and make it his no matter what.

Around the darkness, flames sparked up from the walls. Large stone carved pillars were made to hold embers. The proof of attempts that had been made to break them and use them were everywhere. Runes forcefully carved seemed to have been left to defend the ruins here. The legacy of the flame dominator dragon.

But more evidence that someone had attempted to enter the ruins was clear. In the center of this massive cavern were many large pillars covered in draconic fire runes. Small flames burning around it that seemed to burn anything that would get near. Ignus even felt the flames directed at himself. But he was a fire dragon. They could not harm him.

As if to prove this, Ignus walked toward the large pillars. He became engulfed in flames hotter than most. Everyone from the top of the ruins could see this. The darkness had been driven away. The fire elemental mana densely erupted through the opening. This was why the altar had been sapping away mana. This intense fire elemental mana had been left condensed by the flame dominator dragon to protect his knowledge. His legacy.

While the earth dominator dragon had left a legacy only an earth dragon could access, the flame dominator dragon had done the same in a different way. With Ignus here, he was able to touch the pillar and instantly shift the flames to expose the true form of these pillars.

The large slabs of volcanic stone had been carved with unique draconic flame runes. They all spoke of strengths that Ignus had never imagined. Things that he still could not touch upon without learning more about fire elemental mana. "I will expect even more high fire affinity potions in the future!"

"Ha! You have to pay for those!" Remey roared back in her own way earning her a slight growl from Ignus. But this was something only the two could share. Remey had been able to somehow match Ignus. She wasn't just a human to her anymore.

"Get down here and learn something then. You have that grand fire spirit with you. Or do you want to be some weak human that relies on someone else's power?" Mordant, Ventus, Current, and Rise all took a sharp breath in. None of them could comprehend what they had just heard.

"I'll help you down. You might be stuck studying for a while, but I don't think-"

"You better not hog all the good fire knowledge for yourself. I can't do much with whatever is left over!" Remey jumped right down through the hole. Walker just felt that his words were nothing as Ignus casually caught Remey and went back to looking at the runes. However, he also began to show her things he found interesting.

"Who is that?" Current was still stunned. He had never imagined that this would happen. Ignus never shared. He never called anyone, even his dragonkin, to share something with.

"A fake dragon. We have failed to see the imposter that has stolen the strength of our lost royal dragon Ignus." Ventus was also fairly convinced they were looking at someone completely false.

"He may have lowered himself in to a hole, but he isn't who I imagined him to be anymore." Rise just accepted it before walking away. She had every intention of reaching the sunlight and regaining the large amounts of light elemental mana she had already lost.

"It seems that he isn't the only one of us that has gotten closer to all of you." Mordant had thought he was the one that took the lead in gaining relationships with humans or any other race in general. But here he was, outdone by Ignus of all people. It was both a little depressing but also very impressive.

"We might have left them alone too much in the alchemy lab. Now he might be closer than we are with Remey." Su was just as shocked that Ignus and Remey had bunched up to learn about fire elemental mana and dragon skills like this. She hadn't seen this coming in the least.

"I think it makes sense. They are both hard headed and ready to blow up like volcanoes. A perfect pair to bond over more destructive flames." Gil laughed a little while he looked down one more time. He knew he could finally take a nap now that this was sorted out.

This left Walker just standing there wondering what he could do. He was very impressed with this change, but also wondered what it meant for the future. Remey had such an odd meld of skills now. She was learning the flames of alchemy and dragons. Something crazy by anyone's standards. But adding on a unique system and battle style made things all the more mysterious.

"I guess we might see something a little more out of the ordinary in the future." Walker felt that he couldn't do much about this situation. Instead, he watched as Ignus and Remey began collecting all the volcanic stone slabs. It was clear that Ignus did not intend to keep himself here as Terron had when they were in the wyvern territory.

It was true that remaining here would not be beneficial. There was very little fire elemental mana to keep him training his understanding. Along with that, there was also a complete lack of materials to make affinity potions for him to learn. Then on top of this was the fact that he did not want to miss the

other ruins being discovered. He did not wish to see the other ruins from the dragons forgotten. He had to join his fellow dragons to discover all of their past. Not just one or two parts.

"I guess we can rest here..." Walker looked over top Midnight and found that she had curled up and fallen asleep right next to Walker while watching things. But Alice was there too, using Midnight as a pillow. It was exactly as it needed to be.

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