

## Master 1871

### Chapter 1871 1871. Jungle Serpents

The soft humming that Alice had begun to use to sing with brought a soft light filtering through the jungle leaves. It was not necessarily a song but a way to bring attention to the group. The party was completely illuminated within this light.

While some would see this as intimidating, the tune and the emotion behind the song that Alice hummed was peaceful. It was calm and soft. Enough to make anyone relax when they came in to earshot. But that wasn't all, the light was gradually purifying any rot or damages to the forest around.

This would have been something that many priests or nuns would need to use their skills on carefully. But for Alice, she was able to do so because of her unique systems and skills. The songs she sang came with many bandits that would buff, attack, and defend. Compared to many healers, she was the most advantageous.

For the record, she would choose peace over everything. She was raised properly within the cathedral and valued life. However, through her own eyes, she had seen some evil. She had learned many things from the party besides the fact that there is greater ways to become stronger.

The things she wanted to stand against along with the things she wanted to protect. Adding the bonds she had forged between the party and the new city of Genesis, she had changed who she was. Become more confident and become able to speak without watching her mana fade away. Alice found pride in this and always attributed it to the things she learned from her family beside her.

Watching her, Walker felt that he couldn't have met anyone better. Alice might lack a hero title, but she was a healer of light., she was a singstress that had shown everyone that she did not have a curse but a blessing. Her ability to make her songs and light in to one was amazing.

The small amount of angel bloodline within her had also been discovered. It had given some of the angels that heard this proof that their ancient ancestors had still remained upon another continent in some ways. That they had other connections. Even now, while the party was further away, this rumor had spread.

Stopping people from speaking about something new was impossible. Both the Fel and Rize empires were speaking about Genesis and the party that showed up at the embassy. They had their own ideas about Genesis and the higher ups were hard at work deciding what to do about them. However, the people had already begun to speak in their own ways.

The fact that someone with angel blood, the dragons thought to be extinct, and someone that used natural mana with hero titles was here put them all in their own mind sets. To the people forming villages and striving to become more than what they were, Genesis forces were spectacular.

The undermining of values had also begun to happen after seeing the way that Genesis brought together so much. All of this was going on without the party even realizing it. However, the only things that they focused on right now were the newly darting shadows around them. The ever increasing shadows that made them know that more echidna's were around.

These shapes were just watching and trying to remain hidden. A normal response for anything isolated that was curious but fearful. However, the fact that they had been witnessed going near a palace that nothing traveled was why the echidna did not approach. They did not understand how it was possible since they had been unable to go to such places.

"There's a larger one coming." Gil managed to spot more of the leaves moving. The speed was also slower, but this was to be expected. The smaller echidna were definitely not any types of fighters and definitely scouts watching the group's every move. That was what any race would do to remain safe.

"There are more than you see ahead, in the trees too." Mordant calmly spoke as he looked up and pointed to the shadowy branches. Right above them, where the light flowed through the trees due to Alice's song, there were many shadows. Shadows of serpent like tails and human like bodies.

"Well, they should just come to see us already. I think they would catch on by now that we aren't here to attack them." The annoyed comments from Remey were slightly loud but no one shook her head at them. She was casually explaining that they were not going to attack anyone. It was a sneaky way to say that they didn't want to fight but they wanted attention to speak.

The worry that Onyx would need to speak for the group proved to be nothing as the figure moved a little in reaction. The figure that was becoming more apparent ahead of them was what Walker's eyes had to focus on. Not to mention that the figure was holding a large wooden staff carved with unfamiliar runes.

The echidna that was there was somewhat unlike what Walker had imagined. The half serpent tail and lower half was longer and thicker than any snake that Walker had faced. While it seemed similar to Onyx in ways, the scales were smoother and the patterns were green and brown. The upper half was still scaly but had smoother portions that were reminiscent of a human in a way. I think you should take a look at

The sharp ears and features that matched more with elves or demons were surprising. But the slitted serpent like eyes were even more focused. Not to mention the sharper teeth that stood out as the snake like forked tongue moved in and out sensing the area for dangers.

As the echidna approached, it suddenly stopped while looking at the party. With a harsh drawn out voice it spoke to them. "This is not your home." The slightly slurred words made it appear that this was not a race that often spoke out loud. But if they lived in a jungle and remained close to nature, it made sense that they would communicate through actions more than anything.

"No, it is not our home, but we are here nonetheless. We came we looking for you and your race though. To see a race that survived the test of time and fate." Walker's words were calm and soft. Especially with the addition of Alice's song in the background.

However, the echidna did not flinch. It maintained its focus on the party while some of the other echidna in the trees moved from place to place. "I understand that your fellow echidna may not know of what is happening in the world. But I can promise that I will gladly share anything you wish to know. I also want to learn from you too. I know that you and your people are very close to nature and some can do this."

The sudden burst of natural mana around caused every single echidna present to shift and move around. The larger echidna facing them reacted a little and prepared the staff in front of it. The runes glowed with a variety of hues. Some fire elemental mana and some earth elemental manas before a blue water elemental mana hue appeared. It was a clear shift in the manas being sensed because of the natural mana usage.

"You are in tune with life." The single sentence proved that the echidna race truly believed in nature and how life grows. As if to prove this, the staff was touched to the ground and the jungle vines moved to form a better path through the jungle ahead.

"You may come with us. You will not harm the home we have raised." While some would see this as a threat from the echidna, the party knew it was a welcoming sign. They were not saying that they would

attack the group before them, but that they were giving them a chance. It was because of the goodwill shown and the fact that the party was not threatening anything at all.

As the party moved, more echidnas in multiple forms allowed themselves to be seen. Some with purple scales, others with unique mixed patterns. Some were in a serpent form moving through the trees while one or two were in the human like form seemingly prepared to attack if needed. Many more were in the mixed form that seemed to be the more comfortable form for all of them.

This looks like we are heading toward a village. I wasn't sure if they would have one to just live somewhere as part of the forest. But it makes sense that they have treetop pathways made." Walker appreciated the things he was seeing. He liked the way that they lived within the jungle. But that wasn't all he saw. There was a lot more.

#### Chapter 1872 1872. Elder Echidna

The more that they moved through the jungle, the more that the party was able to see what the echidnas did for homes. There were many wooden hits made with jungle vines. However, the vines grown had been guided to naturally grow in a way that helped the pieces of wood stay together. It was a unique mix of building and also natural growth.

Furthermore, there were echidnas that were using skills to create things from plants right before the party's eyes. Some were fashioning staffs and bows from vines and other jungle materials, some of which the party had never seen.

#### 'Water gourd

The water gourd is a unique plant that can only grow in the jungles. Just like any vine, it will grow up and around trees to get closer to sunlight. It will absorb water naturally until its flowers grow in to a large gourd. When it is close to the end of its lifespan, the gourd will fall and shatter releasing seeds and water for another vine to grow.

This water gourd is ideal for use in creating water elemental staffs for water mages. It will allow the staff to better channel water elemental mana. It also flows better with the natural water elemental mana around allowing for a slightly better understanding of any water elemental skills used.'

This was an amazing plants to say the least. Especially since the staffs being made were ideal for water . They could help use the skill overall, including gather the mana. But they also helped with the understanding of water elemental mana skills. This would be something that would greatly help anyone within any stage of learning for water .

The fact that it only grew in a jungle meant that it didn't have much of a chance to grow anywhere near Genesis. It might grow in the elven forests, but that wasn't the ideal place like this jungle island. If it were to be taken to another place, it would need more attention and care.

This wasn't everything that Walker saw though. He could see many pathways cut in to the trees. Boards placed in positions that would be unnatural to anyone who did not understand how a jungle grew. The trees were pruned in ways that created ideal stairs to slither down along with perfect grabbing places to hold anyone up as they traveled. It took great understanding of both nature and carving to create such a thing.

"I can tell that your people are very close to the jungle and have many skills to create homes within it. I haven't seen many races as adept at wood carving as yours." Gil's sudden compliment was not reacted to. However, everyone could sense that it went over well.

To be appreciated for the closeness to nature had become something very dear to the echidna. Generation after generation they had learned that this island was their only safe home. The monsters on it were part of their survival. The plants were a part of their sustenance. It all came together with them to form life.

As a larger open area came to be seen, the party understood that this was a meeting place. Naturally, there was a larger hut that appeared to have been modified many times. Since this was clearly a place for many to meet, it would be understandable that it was rebuilt from time to time.

Yet, when they entered it, the hut shook and a single serpent began to slither from it. The size of this echidna easily dwarfed Onyx by many lengths. Its eyes were gray and seemed to see through the party to some degree. When its large forked tongue flicked out, the echidna appeared to have grasped the party and what they were.

"Ancient dragon in the flesh. I did not believe that the ancestors spoke the truth. There have not been any proof of your race, just the lingering essence within a monster. Thank you for your blessings to our ancestors."

The slow speech that came from the gray scaled serpent form echidna made everyone understand that it was more knowledgeable. However, there was a sense of dread that came from it. As if it could easily attack and destroy them all if they showed any will to attack.

"So you can smell me? I am just following these ones here. You do not need to worry about me. I trust that those with me will be able to properly gain your trust. I will explore your territory here. I have not seen many things and I wish to enjoy it." Mordant saw that the echidna elder was carefully watching him and would not be able to pay much attention to Walker if he was there.

"As you wish. Please enjoy the home we have built." respectful but not servile. That was how anyone could take the elder echidna's words. But it was still peaceful.

"Now you have come to our home. Why have you journeyed here from the lands of death and demise?" this told Walker all he needed to know. The entire Sigil continent was known as the land of death and demise to these echidnas as they had grown. I think you should take a look at

"We purified the mummified ancient city that your ancestors fled many generations ago. We followed an underground river bed to fund the marsh lands. Then we came here to see if that race survived. I am very surprised to see that you have found your ancient ties and bonded with nature to such an amazing degree." there was not a single lie in Walker's words. He truly felt amazed to see this.

The long and larger gray serpent body left the large hut and curled around itself while the echidna elder lifted its head. Its eyes searched for lies. "Your mana did not tremble. You are not telling falsehoods. You truly speak words that have never been expected in any generation since the great elders came here and left us tales of death and destruction."

It was very clear that the elder echidna had not thought that such a thing would be possible. Never had it expected that there would be a day that it would hear that the elders before it who always told them never to leave the island would now be wrong. That it would be possible for them to leave.

"The world you know and have heard about may have changed. Your ancestors were victims to an evil monster. A necromancer that created a famine and forced their beliefs that they would become a death god on others. They created many undead, false death runes, and caused a curse over the lands your ancestors lived in."

"After your ancestors fled here, the city ended up being damaged by the curse and the undead went dormant. Their slumber ended as enough mana was gathered and the angel race began fighting them. It was a stalemate before my gathered races came to explore the entire Sigil continent."

"Now that it is purified, there are other things to work on. The two empires of angels, relationships with my gathered races on another continent, the Genesis alliance, and I hope to welcome your race to join hands with us. Your knowledge about nature is clearly further along than many. Especially natural mana and the bonds you have with it."

All that Walker said was true. Although, the elder echidna did not appear to fully understand all of it. Too many things sounded foreign to it.. The fact that there were more continents. Empires. Even the fact that angels still roamed the lands.

While its people had heard of angels, they had barely existed in their distant stories. They had not been around enough for their ancestors to leave details in their stories for them. The stories that their ancestors gave them were of their beloved goddess of growth and nature. Otherwise, they were warnings of evil and death that took over the entire home they fled.

Furthermore, the fact that there were many other races was hard to grasp as well. The other races would be hard for anyone to understand though. Even looking at Walker and the others was troubling since so many scents were mixed together.

"Many tales from our ancestors are passed down the same with every single generation. You appear to have other tales to tell. I will welcome you here for the time being. If you dare harm the balance of our beloved home, there will not be any further chances."

"I would not dare to do so. If we could learn from your people, I would feel blessed." Walker showed a lot of respect. He knew that these echidna had clearly grown to be even more strict than the elves when it came to respecting their home and nature. If any race believed themselves to be the last living things, then they would surely feel and do the same.

## Chapter 1873 1873. Peaceful Nature

The slit gray pupils focused on Walker's every word. It was the elder echidna ensuring that he was speaking the truth. However, Walker also felt that there was more to it. As if the elder was looking through him and at his abilities further.

"You may share what you know of the world. I wish to hear how you understand the past. How you managed to see the remnants of evil that once threatened the entirety of nature." The elder appeared to want more knowledge under this.

"The story of that is shorter compared to the stories of how we got all the way here. But we can share anything you want to know. I didn't come here for anything other than to learn and offer a hand." Walker was still honest. The quest might still be there but that was secondary. There was also the fact that the quest was still not been completed. It meant that there was so much more to discovering the race than they thought.

"Then you may follow me to the altar and offer your greetings." the large gray serpent form started to shift and condense. By the time that the elder moved again, the party was looking at an older man in a more humanoid form.

The gray scales still covered his body and there were sharper features that matched the other echidna. Yet, the look of his body betrayed the strength that he actually had. Many would assume he was weak and frail, yet, the party had seen the larger serpent form that could dwarf Onyx and even risk a small challenge to a dragon if necessary. Strength was not something easily seen in the echidna species.

"While the ancestors feld the lands of death, they held our great goddess of life and growth in esteem. We did not allow that to leave us. Even though we may not see her, she is all around us." Something seemed to click in Walker's mind as he listened to the elder.

The introduction to their goddess was what the echidna had believed for many generations. But he was clearly telling them this as a counter to the stories that the party would share about the false death god. A show of goodwill.



However, this goodwill made Walker think about their goddess. The connections between nature and natural mana. "This goddess of harvest, nature, and life. Is it the same as the world? Is it an avatar of sorts?" Walker's sudden question made the elder echidna show the first expression they had seen yet. One that appeared to be slightly impressed.

"The goddess is many and one. Natural mana and the world are one. You wear the mark of the world and hold close one of its hands. Do you not?" Walker had not imagined that the elder echidna had seen right through him. That whose blind gray eyes had seen the spirit mark and Fleur residing within it.

"I do." Walker thought for a moment. "We have many titles between us but I am the only one with a sage title and the ability to use natural mana at will. Only one other of us can use natural mana and it is more of a skill effect." Walker didn't spill all of Gil's secrets. Neither did he mention that Midnight and the others would definitely gain some ability to use natural mana by being around him.

"A unique group of unique individuals. One that sings the soothing melody of life. One that mixes their blood and pledges to defend the very world. One that walks the line between brutality and healing. One that accepts a nature unlike their own. One that strives to balance two sides of a moon. And one that wishes to live beyond any of its kind."

Each phrase said clearly identified one of the party. Walker could guess who was who. "And you, the one that appears to lack an end goal. But is able to stretch beyond the ordinary. The goddess may speak about this. I did not know." This was wisdom from one that could see more than anything the party could imagine.

While the words were not hard to grasp, the abilities were. There seemed to be a gray mist that expanded around the elder echidna. The forest seemed much more peaceful. Even Alice ceased her singing as the light no longer penetrated the mist as it grew. This was a skill of sorts, one that was based on illusions and not necessarily based on anything else.

"This is a sacred place. One of the altars we have created to thank our goddess for bringing more life to us. For sparking the light of our souls. To repress the evil that could have followed us here."

"Generations of my people have been blessed. We lived and perished here in the nature we grow. You are outsiders. If there is a single sign that you are here to harm the life we grew here, I will act. For the moment, please greet the goddess."

A large stone altar appeared. However, this was vastly different from the layers of broken monster and body parts that the mummified pharaoh had created. There was not a single bit of gold or embellishments that would have made the altar seem larger or overly fancy.

The simple stone shape was one that represented elemental manas. The figure of a single hooded woman stood among them with open arms. Moss grew here and there while some small vines with yellow flowers bloomed around the base. I think you should take a look at

The altar was simple, yet everyone felt that there was more to it. "It feels like this is a better place than that entire city." Remey's bluntness came loud enough to make them all sense the manas around.

Calm mana that was nothing like the brutal and oppressive manas they had sensed as of late in their battles. This was a place kept safe and sound for everyone to come as long as they respected it. There weren't any outer forces, just calm here.

As the party stood and looked at the altar, multiple elemental spirits moved around. Those of certain elemental affinities moved around the party finding those that dwelled with their fellow grand elemental spirit. It was natural that the water and the darkness spirits didn't show themselves as much, but they were still there. They could sense the balance that came with Walker.

'The world smiles.'

A simple response that came was enough to make the entire party shiver. It was odd to get messages from the world, yet it apparently smiled. The very existence that created all the systems, created life for all they knew. It had reacted many times, creating quests and such for the party. However, it rarely made notifications like this.

Before anything else could happen, all the elemental spirits that had shown themselves darted away. A single pulse of natural mana left the altar before the mist strengthened and the party found itself back next to the elder echidna.

"Ah, how sweet the world is. I feel the love for all that flows in life, can you as well?" The elder looked at Walker who was in an understanding daze. "You might learn more here from us than you imagined. We trust the flow of nature and you are welcome here." It appeared that any district was washed away as

the altar had shown natural mana. But Walker believed that it was something more mysterious than that.

"Come this way and tell me your stories. I will bring the children to listen. They may act up at first, but I am sure they will listen carefully." hearing that they would be meeting children of this echidna village, Midnight and Onyx felt more comfortable. They had long helped the children around the cathedral. They saw themselves as experts in the matter now.

"Can I learn how you manipulate the plants to make those bows? I know an elf that can manipulate plants and I would like to bring some good things back for her to learn from." Gil's somewhat shy question made the elder echidna chuckle. It was a dry sort of hissing chuckle but was easily understandable.

"You may learn from them. I can tell you will respect the craft more than others would. And you, the one that walks a line. You may walk toward that hollow tree. I believe your medicines will be welcomed there as well." Remey's attention was instantly drawn.

"I feel like you know us better than most people do. You are very insightful." Su was very impressed but the elder just chuckled again. He did not reveal his entire hand. He kept some cards to himself. Not that any of the party felt uncomfortable. They realized that this was a race of beings that had greatly grown differently from what the party could ever understand. But they were not vicious nor evil.

## Chapter 1874 1874. Seen Right Through

Walker found that the group split up faster than he would have expected them to do. But this was the first time that someone had seen through all of them. Their goals seemed to be on perfect display. The fact that the party valued all life and just wanted to unite the echidnas with the other races was right there in the open.

"This is kind of different from how things have gone with other races." Walker found himself with the elder echidna. He was still unsure what the mans' name was and what he would do from here. But he wanted to learn.

"At my age, I have been able to see more than many could. Even though my eyes have become like this, I still see every single movement. Every desire. And even some other odd things now and then." Walker easily caught on that the elder was speaking about his ability to sense mana. That the elder used that in place of his eyes.

"I have been alive for the last ninety three years. When I was a child, the elders were a group of four. Now they have shed their last skin and returned to the natural flow. Their trees are growing tall and strong. Their vines reach up to the sunlight that we bathe in as children. It is a true flow that brings us great connections to the lands we walk. Their spirits may show us a true path to nature's secrets."

From this, Walker began to understand the lives that were lived by the echidna. The beliefs within their species and within nature took the lead. They had believed so much in their nature goddess that they had begun to find the best way to be closer to it. In death, they would be buried with a tree that would grow and represent their spirits. But because of this, there would be a memory of them for the youngest to remember.

The elders would pass down these important lessons and traditions bringing every generation closer and closer to what they would believe to be the center of all that was the world. That was the will of the world or nature itself. Just being able to gain this closeness brought them a sense of fulfillment.

"You are not the only sage. I can see that you are trying to wrap your mind around the way that mana does here. It is very abundant. Nature's mana that is." The elder seemed to chuckle in his raspy hissing voice again. His movements were slow in the more humanoid form, but they had purpose in every step.

"It is more than I am used to. I would say that it is because so many of your people seem to be able to use the natural mana around. But I think it is just because over so many generations, the jungle has become a perfect balance. Just setting foot on this land, I felt it."

"The call of nature. The whispers of how to grow. How to flourish. How to accept the manas that gather. I know that feeling. When I first felt it, I was six years old. From that moment, I began exploring and isolated myself deep within the caverns. I grasped how the water comes below. How the roots drive down in to the stone and absorb the water that is filtered in the earth. How it travels through the plants. Evaporates within the air and the sun."

"Later it rains down and the darkness allows the earth to take it back in. an interesting flow that allows the jungle to blossom over and over. But one of many flows that can cause one to grow closer to nature."

"One as young as you are well ahead of what others should be able to do. But you are in disarray." Walker hesitated. He was still trying to understand how the elder was able to see all of this without actually seeing.

"Do not worry. I am walking you through my home and my people so that you can learn as you wish to. But you need to stop trying to branch out so much. You should condense. Skills are amazing. They are. Many elemental manas are fused and come together. But you are keeping yourself separated."

Saying that the elder echidna saw more than what Walker had thought would be a massive understatement. It was easily just the surface that Walker had thought that the elder had grasped. Yet the elder saw the main problem plaguing what Walker was handling right now.

The fact that Walker was having trouble keeping all his skills in line. That Walker struggled with what movements, attacks, defensives, anything in general to learn and use were clear. It had made him nervous and much more stressed than before.

"I was thinking about that. But I lack the skill to condense my skills. I also need to learn about spatial mana more. Death mana, life mana, and even time mana which seems to be impossible. I need to learn it all so that I can figure out what I can and can not do." Walker's energy seemed to be drained just talking about it out loud for the first time.

"If I can't learn these things, then what will happen when I find the demons that aren't even demons. They are basically monsters trying to destroy and potentially kill everything and everyone around. If I can't get strong enough to counter their mastery skills, which I can't use, then how will I be a true hero?"

These doubts had plagued Walker lately. These thoughts of needing to grow even more but being incredibly limited by what he could and could not train at the time. "You are young and you have time. While the mana may shift towards good or evil, it is a natural flow. Just forget that you have reasons to spread out. There are paths you can take." I think you should take a look at

"You may speak to one of the young ones. She was born uniquely. Only one in every other generation may be born as she is. You may also find other paths. But you may never reach higher understandings of larger manas. Of larger laws of existence. You are too spread out and can not understand what natural mana really is. What nature really is."

What Walker felt like was happening was that he was being given both advice and reprimand. For trying to branch out and understand the most complicated manas that not many could grasp. Even the fact that he was able to use some of these manas right now was insane in a way.

The life mages were able to gain these systems that guided them. Walker lacked that. He was a jack of all trades. He couldn't just grow the same way as others. He had to grow in his own way. He had not done this lately. Instead, he had looked at others and learned something here and there. But even that had stopped since he had been fully focused on strengthening himself and the party.

"So I should step back and-" The elder was nowhere to be seen. Instead, Walker found himself in front of a somewhat larger hut. One that was made with a larger opening covered by a vine door.

The other nearby huts were smaller but they were busy enough for Walker to understand that it was a very popular place in the village. A place where many would come to sit and speak or to trade what they worked on. Some were braiding ropes or created baskets from the vines that grew around.

Others clearly prepared fruits and other game that they had hunted. All of this was normal, it made Walker relate the echidnas to the rabbit demi-human caravans that would only make a village in the winter months. However, this had an entirely more mysterious feeling around it.

"Please come in. We can speak with you as much as needed. The elder warned me that we would have visitors. I didn't think he meant that one would be coming to speak with me though."

"Or me, we both thought that you would not come to us. Well me. Well us?"

Both voices were nearly identical. But for some reason, they seemed to be confused and also united. It put Walker in an odd spot where he felt that he was intruding. However, when he took a deep breath and walked inside the dimly lit hut, he was met with another echidna in a serpent form.

This one was pale pink in hue. A set of scales that would not be able to handle harsh sunlight. This was to the thing that Walker focused on though. He focused on the fact that the echidna he was looking at had two heads. A dual headed echidna.

## Chapter 1875 1875. Misty Jungles

"I understand that it may be odd. That you may never have seen someone like me." The pleasant voice seems to be somewhat laughing at Walker's surprised expression. "We are one but two. The same but thinking separately. But we are of one mind. Just two thoughts."

"I just didn't expect to meet someone so unique. I normally do the surprising..." Walker had a lot of things he could ask but for the moment, he realized that he had been thrown in to the position of the surprised. How he made the party feel often.

"The elder may be a sightless sage, but I am a dual seer. I can see both the flow of mana and see the depths of mana. That is why you are here. To learn to think twice yet of the same mind." now this was what tripped Walker up. He had an idea of what was being said but he was trapped in the odd way it was spoken.

"A sightless sage and a dual seer? Those are your systems?" this seemed like the logical conclusion.

However, Walker looked at the serpent and saw that there was not a reaction of approval that he was correct. "A system for all, that was the world's promise."

"A path to follow for all. That was the world's goal."

"An unfinished masterpiece, that was the result."

"A tainted path was created as a result. A dramatic tale put on pause by the will of the world."

"A solution born from those that live. those that desire truth and justice."

"And now, a mending. A true brightness as the world completes its work. The last step is all that remains. The final key."

A slight wave of mana drifted over Walker as he felt that the manas around were trying to do something. But it was as if they had been held back at the last moment.

"I apologize, sometimes I tend to do that. Two sides of one vision. I am a seer. I see and know. But I will not explain. That is the nature of nature. You must discover it yourself. Why I might not answer your questions."

As much as Walker wanted to dig deeper, he felt that he was about to pry in to something he wasn't ready for. Count it as an instinct or something else, the feeling that Walker had when he was about to ask for more information was enough to stop him. But part of him resounded with this small prophecy of sorts. Something about it just seemed to feel like it was right. Like it was the world still adjusting.

"Maybe fixing the mana in the world was just a small part of things..."

"You seem to grasp what is needed. We should start looking in to things then." the dual seer started to shift slightly. Before Walker could refocus his eyes, a half serpent half humanoid woman with two heads looked at him.

"You wish to learn even though you are stretching yourself out even now. I see you have something in common with me."

"A split mind skill that allows you to focus on multiple tasks. Multitasking. Very useful, but it is just a stepping stone." The seer handed Walker a wooden cup of water. She seemed to be welcoming him but from the scent in the hut, he knew that things were off.

"You came to learn and so you shall. The herbs here cause hallucinations. They are based on every form of mana that we find in the natural flow. You may rest well here. Allow your body to heal from the inner damages you may not see. Rest well here while you find your path within your own mind."

The two heads speaking in unison drifted off as Walker realized what the seer might be saying. If he was anywhere else, he might have felt panicked or relieved himself to be in danger. Yet, he trusted things here. It was as if he was closer to the world than anything he had felt before. He believed that this was something he had needed to do for a long time but missed the chances. But had ignored the potentials.



"Two heads are better than one you know. You can think of two things at once. See two views. Find two sides to every story. But that's all good and well until you split up. What if you merged the thinking? Draw new conclusions?" The drifting voice sounded like it was muffled by cotton.

Walker heard all of this and snapped his eyes open to find himself within a jungle. Alone and full of an odd mist. But the words still rang in his head. He understood what was meant to be understood. The voice had bluntly told him that he was looking through a tunnel. Only focusing on the direct path ahead." I think you should take a look at

This had been the way that Walker had been thinking. Focusing on one skill he needed, learning it, then letting it get lost in the skills of everything else. He had tried to learn more about natural mana and the fusion of elemental skills. All of this had been one focus and not split.

Even with his multitasking skill, Walker had been spread too thin to properly advance. It was the same result as if someone tried to cook too many pots on the same stove. Eventually, everything would not get cooked evenly leaving some spots raw and others burnt.

Right now, Walker had to learn to equally split and push back together his viewpoints and focuses. Let himself learn from more than one perspective while gathering things together before acting on one small whim.

The ideas that came to him immediately as he stood isolated within nature were elemental manas. The manas he sensed and tried to balance together constantly to make natural mana. These focuses had always been on one elemental mana at a time. When he fused them he gave them all a small piece of his attention. It was splitting his mind but not bringing the overall thought process together until he already had natural mana.

Therefore, Walker would never put his thoughts to fruition. He just took what he thought to be the finished product. " journey through the jungle and return to me. See the pathways and understand the destination."

While Walker felt this was surely a dream, he also believed that this was his own lost focus. His mind was lost in the jungle where he had been unable to condense it on a single goal. With these things hitting him, Walker believed he was starting to understand what he was doing here. What he was meant to understand about this mental space he had forsaken.

His thoughts came to the mental archive skill. The skill that allowed him to remember his skills and the things he read like he had done it yesterday. This mental space was filled with all the solutions he came up with. Especially with the all around appraisals he saw. But he never accessed it as a whole. Just a small space of it.

This place was a literal mental library full of everything he needed. But he only ever took knowledge from one book. When he used fire he looked at one book. Instead, what if he slammed two books together and worked on both as a whole?

This potential caused the mist to shift and a slightly worn path to appear within the jungle before him. An invitation to keep walking. Yet, he sensed something behind him. Another path shifting open. Two paths but one thought. Two potentials but one way to go.

This mental struggle caused Walker to freeze in place. He had no idea what to do now. He wasn't able to split himself. He couldn't devote enough to go both directions and decide which was better...

"So you are a seer. I have only ever met a small handful of seers in life. I have lived for a long time." Mordant had drifted out of the shadows and looked down at the sleeping figure of Walker. The dual seer stood by emanating a slight mist from her body as Walker drifted in and out of his dream.

"Honorable dragon. I am not going to harm this young one."

"We are sharing the paths they may take. Showing a potential they forsake."

Mordant calmly looked at the dual seer. He did not appear angry. Just frustrated. "I am a dragon, yet I can not grasp what has become of your people and race. You are ahead of all of us. Potentially the same as some angels from long ago that left their people on this continent and the other. I hope that we will understand you soon." Mordant sat down to witness what might happen here. He understood that he was unready to grasp what was before him. The dual seer just smiled softly. She truly respected those willing to learn and grow with the world.

"Agora root. Able to remedy the many sap based poisons within our homes. Especially the sickening vines that grow in rotting still water." The green scaled echidna in half serpent half humanoid form was sure that Remey was the most energetic child she had ever seen.

For Remey to be seen as a child would not be an understatement. The woman echidna was certainly older by at least fifty years. Yet, she saw that Remey had not begun to grasp the flow of nature and how the herbs reacted to that flow. Instead, she identified Remey as a child for missing that.

For the echidna, grasping nature was a step towards becoming a true adult. Therefore, since Remey did not follow this, along with most of the party, she and they were children in the eyes of the older echidna.

"You say it's best for sap based poisons, is that because it is an oil based sap or because it is a water based sap? What are the other benefits and downsides? Is this a potion for the skin or outside of the body? Or does it need to be swallowed and take longer to be effective? I know some potions need to be put on open wounds or right in to the blood but those are rare and harder to use. Not that I want to avoid them. I need to learn every potion."

The flurry of questions was more than the echidna needed to hear. She had seen right in to the fact that Remey was planning to fully delve in to the herbs and potions of their tribe. Of their home jungle. "You are unlike the warriors we send to hunt. Why is that?"

It wasn't what Remey expected to be asked in return. She had hoped that the echidna she spoke to would just be as alchemy focused as she was. Unfortunately, she was wrong. "I have a unique system, I am an alchemical brawler. So I can get stronger fighting and making potions. But I have always wanted to be an alchemist. It's pretty useful to help a few people out."

It wasn't a lie at all to say that Remey would have gladly been just an alchemist if she had chosen her path. But the brawler system had taken root first. That Was what the world had seen for her and where Remey had gone. The only reason she had deviated was her pursuit of more heroic endeavors. Because she had become part of the party that literally founded a brand new alliance.

"You have not... I see. You can learn from me for the time being. I will show you the path of one who wishes to become nature's alchemist. Just as all in our family have become." The odd way that the echidna hesitated to speak on her first thought made Remey confused. But when she heard that she would learn about alchemy that was all she needed.

"Nature's alchemists are a, it is a way of life, you will venture in to nature and find what it gifts you. What those responsible for caring for the life out there nurture. You will take only what you need and nothing more. Using the manas around you, using nature, you will create a potion. A salve. A cure. A poison. Whatever it is that nature guides you to create."

While the odd interruptions as the echidna changes how she would say things put Remey off, she was very interested to know the difference between a regular alchemist and a nature's alchemist. "So you focus more on how the herbs grow and need to be harvested to create your potions than just having them brought and following a formula?"

This seemed to be the difference that Remey grasped. A nature's alchemist appeared to focus on the fact that the herbs were there waiting for them instead of purchasing or sending those to find them. It was a more renewable way to alchemy. One that puts nature first.

"You may not use flames to create our brews. You must trust the flow of mana to naturally create them. To welcome the herbs to meld. You will learn."

As Remey watched in awe, the natural alchemist picked up herbs from around her. Slowly but surely, they floated from her hands. A slight film of water elemental mana carried them toward each other.

Some started to tear themselves up and bleed their sap in to the water while others were crushed. Some of the herbs were then coated by these oils or crushed herbs slowly making a dense ball. It didn't require a cauldron or anything to heat and mix them.

Yet as Remey watched, heat grew as fire elemental mana was added. Small gusts of wind went through the hit as well bringing a cooling effect over the heated water ball of herbs. It was off yet it felt better than what Remey had imagined.

She would never have considered trying alchemy without a cauldron and her fire. The flames she had purified herbs and left only what was needed. But as the water separated and the remnant herbs fell to the ground, the earth pulled them in to become fertilizer.

Normally Remey would have remnants left over from alchemy. They could be used elsewhere but needed to be purified or submitted so that they were not toxic. Hence why some aliens were kept to dispose of them. But natural alchemy didn't need that. It was like watching a world wonder happen before her eyes. I think you should take a look at

" a small pill made of dense herbs on the shell and a liquid potion within. It is basic and simple but is exactly what is needed while returning waste to nature. It does not harm anything and will allow the herb to return to the flow. Even seeds can be exempt from This process to allow their future growth."

The natural alchemist handed the whaling potion pill to her. Remey had seen different healing potions. Many using different herbs or techniques. Yet she had never imagined this sort of process.

"I have to learn this. I can use fire to purify the herbs because of my partner and the alchemy flames I learned to use. But that's too little..." from what Remey said, she noticed that the natural alchemist didn't react. It was clear that Remey's method was already clear to such a master at natural alchemy.

"I helped create an alchemy guild. Master alchemists that use different forms to make potions are joining along with herbalists to grow herbs. We could use a master natural alchemist to show us things we have never learned or considered. You could help change the history of alchemy. Join us and you can have whatever benefits you might want."

The sudden change had been something. Remey had started to think the moment she had realized just how different alchemy was for each race. Especially the echidna race.

The natural alchemist remained silent while looking at Remey. She appeared to be searching for greed or any negative reason that Remey would offer such a thing. It was the elders that taught the children how dangerous the world was. What evils their ancestors had fled.

"I will take a journey and see nature. That journey will I close your home. The mana will guide us there as the world returns to a state that it should have been in many years ago before it was halted by fate."

As Remey smiled she realized that this wasn't a direct yes. However, it was enough to not be shot down. "Can I show you some of the potions I have made? They are called affinity potions and I promised Walker I would try to make a nature affinity potion and even other affinities. I lack everything to do it though."

The natural alchemist was clearly holding unknown knowledge back. But from what she saw Remey pulling out from her satchel, she knew that Remey was willingly trusting her. That the hero titles the elder had told her about was not a false hero. A kind heart was right before her just as some of the children she had taught before.

"I will see how you have failed and guide you to learn. Fire may not be wrong. You just need to grasp the real flow of flames and you will not need to create things that are only half of what they can be."

Simply hearing that the high affinity potions Remey had made were only half of what they could be was hard but what the echidna said next really stuck her. "The ancient flame knowledge you have started to learn is a good start. Remain close to it and you could discover the origins of fire."

Chapter 1877 1877. Locked Potential

"Why do you rest alone? You arrived with others." The single voice came from the larger echidna that the party had run in to first. Su looked at him wondering what he would approach her.

pandasnovel.com "I just wanted time to myself. I need to think about what I will do while the others meet with your people. I have not decided yet." Su gave a somewhat vague answer but it was still true in many ways.

She had seen Onyx show off his growth and she was incredibly proud of him. Just as he was Walker and Midnight's younger brother, he was her family too. Her younger brother too. But in a way, she was jealous.

All of her goals to protect people and those she cared for had seemed to be foolish in the sense of real danger. The thoughts of Walker being held in stalemate against a powerful undead had rocked her mental stability. But when she saw Onyx struck down and on his death bed, it had shaken her heart.

"You are a warrior, a guardian, are you not?" The echidna warrior clearly saw that Su was not the same as the others. She did not carry a bow or perform . She carried shields and moved around the others as they had walked. Something only those with protective instincts would do.

"I am a draconic guardian. That's the system the world gave me after we completed our quests. It changed everything." Su did go in to much detail. She felt that it would be odd to recite the entire life story of starting off as a guardian then turning in to something that literally altered her body and race and affinities. It would be too much to handle.

"You are similar to what our ancestors were. Part dragon. Influenced by another race until they discovered the path of nature and reunited with our ancient blood. But you are not embracing your nature. You are fighting your instincts. Relying only on your past values."

The calm statement made Syuu immediately feel angry. She turned with a glare toward the echidna warrior. She was sure that this was some kind of mocking, some form of taunting that would be enough to solicit a battle of some kind.

Yet, when Su looked at the echidna warrior, she saw nothing. No hatred or jealousy. Not a single bit of malice at all. He had stated it calmly and without trying to look in to any other form of battle because of it. It was genuinely an honest response.

"It is right to be confused. As a child, I wanted to follow the instincts of my ancient blood. I thought that they were what makes me closer to nature. But as I learned from those instincts, I learned that I was not trying them at all." a somber mood seemed to grow around the two as the echidna warrior spoke.

"I was following my views. They were of one eye, not of two. I followed the one path that I had imagined made my blood and path clear. When I failed over and over to become a warrior worthy of nature's blessing, I realized that I had failed myself by keeping one eyes open and one eye closed."

" Venturing in to nature without any weapon or armor, I learned of what my true instincts were. The silent flow of nature all around me. The fact that I could take in some of that and carve my own warrior

path. I can sense things better with my ancient blood. Smell, see, and feel things. I have not accepted those properly because I focused on the achievement, not the path."

"We may be of two races, yet we both exist within the world and the flow. You just need to take to them to reflect on what you are now and where you must go. Find the path between them. Use the things you already have and let them act openly instead of controlling them. Then you will find your true potential."

Su's eyes gleamed with understanding. She knew there was more. The exact reasons she would need to find would be more than what she imagined. However, she was sure that just these words would be enough to make a dent in what she needed to do. As she stood up, the echidna guardian seemed to relax more. It was clear that Suyu had accepted his short story and was willing to take a gamble of allowing herself more freedom from her own control. From the rigidity of the earth affinity, she had begun with.

It wasn't normal at all for Su to feel so accepting of some strangers words. But she did. Especially as she noted that the flow of mana around the warrior was more than it had been just a moment.

"Can you sense the mamas around you? I'm out home nature provides us a way to find the paths we must travel. You are very much like the respected young dragon. The bond you share is clear to us. You both can feel every part of nature. Yet you have limited yourself."

The echidna warrior struck a stance. The large staff he held gathered mana and showed the spear like form of earth that gathered on one end and water blade form on the other. "Both mamas are equal yet flow around me still. Your shields could be the same if you opened your eyes."

While it appeared that this was more than just a show of strength, Su felt that there was something else deeper. A bit of proof that this warrior could sense her mana as well as his own. He clearly showed he could move both earth and water which Su could not. She was closer to earth and had focused on it. I think you should take a look at [pandasnovel.com](http://pandasnovel.com)

"I would be-"



"Your partner would not disapprove of this. The elemental spirits are the embodiment of nature's aspects. Deeply connected to the world. You are one of the chosen by earth. But you are more than that. It does not limit you. It gives you a rock to stand on. The same as how we build our huts."

Su opened her mouth to respond after being cut off but she couldn't respond at all. She felt her spirit mark thrum with a little extra earth mana. As if the slumbering grand earth spirit she trusted so much had still heard the echidna speak.

"Fine, I will copy you and see what I can find in your jungle." Su set the twin shields aside with great worry. She always had a shield. It was part of who she was. An extension of herself.

"May the world bless you, hero." The echidna warrior smiled. His thoughts a total mystery to Su. Yet, she felt that it was more than what he said and did. That he was somehow completing his own quest and looking at someone who was about to grow. The very same way that Su liked at the children in the cathedral.

As Su felt a slight pain from leaving her shields next to the trees, she also felt light. As if she had been carrying an added weight. She had put an insane amount of pressure on herself when it came to carrying the shields. Weapons that protected those around her.

This weight had been holding her back from experiencing what had truly been going on with her body. She had been limited to defending and attacking with shields only. Other aspects of her training falling being held back, limited by her ability to understand clearly.

As a mist rose from the jungle, the hot air proved to be easily ignored. Even the sweat that gathered on Su's skin was something she barely noticed. Her resistance to the environment well above anyone else's.

Her mind resting on the simple fact that she had not flinched at journeying in to a wilderness with no knowledge. But she could sense it all. Different mamas around her just out of grasp.

Su felt the differences between the city, villages, and even the broken flow of mana in the undead ruins. This place allowed everything to exist as it should be. Even the system she had felt less attached. She felt more free than she ever had.

A slight tingle around her body began to become clear to her. It was mana she had never let come so close to her. Naturally flowing toward her. All manas, the manas she had affinities for because of her system and bonds that she had not pursued as of yet.

A clear picture of who she was started to form in her mind. Not just a draconic guardian, but of someone meant to protect more than just a dragon. The truth of a true draconic guardian and a nature dragon that had appeared for the first time in a great many years. What she needed to learn to stand beside them and fight for their values.

## Chapter 1878 1878. Crafting Nature

"Well, that was odd but I guess Su went off to train alone." Gil had kept a sharp eye around as everyone had split up.

He had already grasped that this palace was by no means dangerous. The feeling of mana around was already calm and clear. He could feel the slightest of breezes through the jungle that brought an even more peaceful calm to his mind. Just that alone reminded him of the way the elven forest was to a small degree.

Yet, there was more to this. The entire island appeared to be different. The children were not running around trying new things to get their systems. He had noticed that the children that Midnight and Onyx had naturally started playing with were already using some skills.

Furthermore, some children were directly learning from some of the adult echidna. Therefore, they either already had a system or they were trying to get one. But that was enough to make him confused.

"What's going on with everyone here? What are the systems you have? I can't really catch on too much." Gil wasn't trying to be rude and saw that the echidna he had begun speaking with earlier just smiled a little.

pandasnovel.com "It's nothing odd. Just the way it should be. You'll catch on later I am sure. The world is almost as it should be. Nature flows properly. Just like the vines we grow arrive at their maturity just as

they need to be." The echidna had a brown and green patterned set of scales along their body as he made small movements to guide a very quickly growing vine.

Gil had originally approached the echidna growing the vines because he saw the same vines being made in to bow strings. That was something that clearly made any archer wonder. How could a vine grow and naturally be perfect for a bowstring? The strings needed to be braided or made to be more reactive. Made to be used as a bow to propel many arrows further or with more power.

The fact that the vine didn't need any braiding or al additions was odd. "Everyone here is mysterious...aren't they?" Naturally, Gil was left wondering what the deal with the echidna village was.

They all seemed to use many elemental manas. Seemed to praise nature constantly. Seemed to be perfectly in harmony with everything around them. It was all very perfect. Yet it was also just unsettling. Not in a bad way though. As if the party was still doing something wrong by comparison.

"We might seem that way. It has been many years since my father's fathers father learned to grow these vines and accept the natural role he discovered. You could call him and I a nature craftsman. Very odd term. Craftsman and nature don't seem to go hand and hand with what the stories passed down to us were like. I assume that's the same for your people?" the nature craftsman looked at Gil to see that Gil was nodding in agreement.

"A craftsman usually deals with things after they are taken from nature, monsters, or the like. None that I have ever met have been able to just grow something in to the right form. It's beyond what the elves do too."

While Alma had the ability to grow plants faster, she had never just grown them in an instant to create a weapon or anything else like that. It took many years for the elves to guide trees to become huts or become treehouses. They spent the time and mana to grow them slowly and with strength.

"The seeds we mix have been changing with each growth cycle. They grow as we will it to by activating the natural mana and life within them. They will provide fertilizer to the jungle with their death, but their parts create the bow strings, ropes, and even weaving materials we need for baskets. It is a give and take."

"My mana helps these seeds grow and takes a toll on the home we live. Therefore, I return to the land the remainder and guide my mana to replenish what I have taken. All must return to the natural flow without destruction. To grow bigger I have to take more, but when I do not return to the place we live, then others suffer."

"It's similar to the way the desert grew with the curse. The undead took and took trying to become some twisted god. But now that the undead are gone, the desert will reclaim the ruins and the undead to create a balance. The dry river will return and that marsh land might return to the way it should be." Gil's perspective was on the recent events they had just faced. Naturally so, since that was the freshest thing that gave a perfect example.

"Hmm, I would like to hear more of what was left of those that forced my ancestors to flee. The lands of death and evil seem not too great as we believed. I might look to venture there, to the lands of my ancestors." a simple peace seemed to grow around the nature craftsman. As if it was a child asking about their grandfather and hoping to see the source of the stories they were told.

"I doubt I could learn much about crafting nature. I'm an arcane archer. That's the system I have. I learned it from the elves to a degree but the world allowed us a quest to do that. So, I just want to learn a few things to help someone I know that can grow plants and influences seeds like you do."

With his kind snapping back to the core of why he had been drawn to their nature craftsman in the first place. Gil proceeded to ask his question and state his reason. I think you should take a look at [pandasnovel.com](http://pandasnovel.com)

"You can share what you see, but maybe one day you can do this too. It just takes the effort to learn. You rely on the wind already to be able to sense things around you. I feel you now, you are learning the actions one vine takes as it grows in to the shape I guide it."

The nature craftsman didn't even need to look at Gil to know that Gil was carefully feeling the motions in the wind mana around. "But you lack everything you need to understand things like this."

A small sigh escaped the nature craftsman as he finished pulling the vine in to the shape of a short bow.

"You are arcane as you say. But you fire arrows of more than wind. Why do you not learn to sense all of those manas? Why not learn more than what you have a close relationship to? Is it your affinity? Do you

believe yourself limited? Would the world and nature truly force you to remain one thing for all of time?"

"Wait, what?" Gil felt that he had just been asked a question that made no sense. Of course he was limited by his affinities.

But, his mind focused on Walker and Midnight who had changed. Even Su had as well due to her binds with others. But Gil couldn't just do that.

"Now you are starting to think. You should reach out and see what you really are. Try to learn more and help the world to get to the form it intended to be. Release the chains that sat for too long. You claimed the title of hero as well. I can feel it."

A small laugh was all that the nature craftsman left Gil with as he walked away with the short bow to hand it to another echidna nearby.

Of course Gil was confused but he was also enlightened. Because of Zephyr and his relationship with wind, he had never focused on learning about elemental manas otherwise. He focused on making arrows with them, yea, but nothing other.

However, he could pull the manas from elemental mana crystals already. Why not focus there? That could be his start. Even if he failed everywhere in that respect, he could reach others that knowledge. All he needed was an understanding.

As if to praise this change in mindset, Gil felt the manas around him grow. To be clearer than before. Almost like they were excited that someone was coming home or at least closer to where they were meant to be.

"Alma better be excited to learn about this stuff. I'm either crazy for trying all this or I'm going to be some sort of genius." Gil laughed to himself while he started to look around for a good place to train his high elf dagger technique while relying on the manas around him being drawn in. He might just get to master natural mana without the technique one day. A comical thought at the moment.

"Sister, these children can already use all of the mana around them. It is amazingly hard to catch them in this game." Onyx struggled to catch even the youngest of the echidna children. They had not all perfected their abilities to change forms and some ran around in their mixed forms while others in serpent or humanoid.

Midnight was huffing here and there. She had long switched to her dragon form to boost her speed. That was her natural form and it was what she would use to be serious. Not that she was able to even touch one of the kids. She felt that she was at a massive disadvantage.

"They can't even sense us!" The laughter came from behind a tree as two children tried to taunt Midnight and Onyx and little. They were having the time of their life with two new people to play with.

Not to mention that there had been a few adults that told them that the dragons were too proud of a species to attack them or doing anything unbecoming. Therefore, the children fully accepted that Midnight would play with them when Onyx and Midnight had come over to them.

"Sister, I think they are saying that we can not sense them with mana. They may be correct." Onyx coiled around himself. He was a little frustrated. He could sense the light mana and the darkness mana around him. But he couldn't keep hold on their shadows. It was very annoying to find that the children he was playing a game with had outdone him when he had just showed off his strength so recently.

"Nature mana." Midnight returned with just that. She could feel it being used. Natural mana that Walker used was being used by children. They didn't even appear to have systems yet while others did. Yet, right now they were using mana like it was nothing.

This confused both Midnight and Onyx a lot. They had no idea how this all worked. Especially since they couldn't understand the fact that everything in this little village seemed to radiate natural mana. Their bonds with Walker had ensured that they were more sensitive to it.

The two of them saw that the rest of the party had drifted off here and there. The only one left without going anywhere was Alice who was softly humming nearby as she enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere.

"Alice, can you help us win this game?" Onyx thought that this was the best method. Getting a third member of their team to capture the children and tag them was the best way to get ahead.

Being snapped out of her own thoughts about light elemental mana and the calming feeling of this jungle, Alice looked around and smiled. She normally was busy with those that were injured in the cathedral or the adults. When she had been a bit younger, she had been allowed to spend time with the other children since she lacked healing ability. Once she gained her system, she had been unable to relax and play a game like this.

"Of course!" Her cheerful voice made the light in the forest vibrate slightly. She didn't hold back when she wanted to relax. She could control the ability to manipulate light with her voice. What was the point of doing it all the time though?

"Let's round them up," Alice spoke and the light started to form in to a fence. The same kind that she had seen on farms before. She found herself very invigorated after realizing that the echidna children were having the time of their life just playing some games with Midnight and Onyx.

But the addition of a new player made them all shout and yell in joy again. They started taunting and laughing here and there as Alice started to sing about the senses built around farms. Her songs made the light take on shapes that many had not seen.

This drew the gaze of a few echidna parents who had been working nearby. They were amazed to see such things since Alice was not of their race nor was she able to use natural mana. Yet the light mana she used was spectacular.

The sheer control was more than most echidna in the village had over any elemental mana. It set aside Alice as someone that would be outstanding if she was born an echidna. Little did they know that this ability was something she was born with and she had thought of as a curse at own point.

With Alice's addition, onyx started to copper her and made the shadows of jungle trees arc upwards. He created his own walls by manipulating the shadows against the light fences that Alice made.

This left Midnight with a clear sight. She could spot the children being blocked and darted through the shadows that Onyx made. She couldn't use natural mana the same way that Walker could. She couldn't even understand how the kids of the echidna could use it without seemingly having systems yet.

She played in to her strengths and ambushed one deep red scales echidna child. Her sudden pounce brought about a shrill giggling before the echidna turned and joined her team.

The more this game progressed, the more that Midnight found herself sensing the uses of natural mana. As she pounced and found other children hiding, they started using mana right around her, Onyx, and Alice.

"You won't catch me. I'm going to be the next jungle dancer when I learn enough to get my-"

A still feeling came through the air that put pressure on the child taunting them. A single echidna slithered I've run serpent form. Clearly the mother of the echidna child. I think you should take a look at [pandasnovel.com](http://pandasnovel.com)

"You know the rules the elder gave us. They are not as knowledgeable as we are and are still learning. Do not tell them anything that will trouble them." The stern warning was barely audible as the mother dragged away the child for some punishment.

The oppressive stillness was gone instantly leaving everyone with no target. The game had come to an odd end. Yet, it felt like the three had nearly heard something both amazing and confusing.

Besides that, Alice found herself without any loss of mana at all. She had felt the light elemental mana around and it was oddly stronger than usual. The same strength that came when Walker shared natural mana to help everyone.

"Comfortable mana..." Alice mumbled this while she realized that Onyx and Midnight had just noticed this too.

"This is a good place to train our senses...we were just now without realizing it." Onyx spoke clearly making Alice and Midnight snap out of their own thoughts.



It appeared that the interruption had scared the children back to their own parents and huts. They didn't want to be caught up and in trouble. Especially since they could meet the others that had come to visit their village. New things were always very tempting to a curious child.

Midnight shifted back to her dragonkin form. She wanted to train like that. She wanted to see how much stronger she could get while here. With the fact that she could already grasp more mana around her, she was sure she could catch up a little more to the others.

She couldn't let Onyx surpass him and she had to get closer to the level that Walker was. He was already making advances. She could sense it. A feeling between them. Their bond sending some signs that Walker was starting to learn something more. Something that she hadn't grasped yet.

"Sister, you won't be getting ahead so easily." Onyx knew exactly what Midnight was thinking about. He was sure that he could keep up his rapid growth. He had prepared himself and pushed himself farther than normal. The reward was a clear path that he could take to strength and all he needed for it was determination.

"You won't beat me." Alice knew there was a major gap in understanding. Both Midnight and Onyx could sense more than here. Could learn through their bonds with Walker.

She knew she could still grow though. The mana around here was practically screaming at her that she was nowhere near the end of her potential. That she hadn't even started scratching the surface yet.

Back in his hut, the echidna elder sat calmly while most drifted in odd shapes around him. "Oh great goddess of life. Please guide these heroes as needed toward the true path of existence. Please allow my people to act as your hands. May we bring your will."

The solemn prayer was met with a soft pulse of nurturing natural mana. Just enough to acknowledge the prayer but also the promise. The silent sound of a quest appearing to the elder yet again made him smile slightly before he focused himself on the tasks at hand.

Chapter 1880 1880. Boxed Up

While all these things happened at what could be seen as the same time, the mists around the jungle village and all the jungle grew. A slight rumbling could be felt from deep under the water. It was the first thing that had made Mordant start to move since he began watching Walker and the nature seer start their process.

"It seems I must go and meet my fellow royal dragon." Mordant disappeared within the darkness and the natural seer showed a small frown. One that clearly said there was already an understanding of what would be found.

Appearing under the water was not something that Mordant would normally do. He did not have skills to breath under the water and it was uncomfortable to hold his breath for a long time. However, he was an older dragon and he had the strength to be able to hold his breath for a very long time when need be.

using the ability to hold himself and his body accountable for a long time without breathing had allowed a degree of higher focus. This was normal for someone in deeper meditation while trying to understand themselves and their skills. Mages in particular had these events. Therefore, mordant holding his breath was nothing unusual.

When Current noticed the familiar form appearing from the shadows of the watery caves he was in, he didn't say anything for a new moments. The two just stood near one another as the cold waters drew away at their energy. Current was used to this and the cold of the darkness was normal for Mordant. But the cold here was something else.

This cold was the kind of cold that only a few people ever encountered. The depths of this cold came from the fact that this island was crumbling. "In just a few more years, this island will return to the ocean. It will sink." There was a very sad tone as Current spoke through the water. Mordant could understand every word of it.

"The water currents have changed over time without the river flowing. They are eating away at the structures nature made beneath. The earth has become sands that flow with the tide and current. That sandbar nearby is not the growth of the island but the degradation of it." This meant that the entire jungle that the echidna lived in would sink along with them.

Mordant nodded as he saw and accepted what Current had found, the rumbling had been Current stopping the current underneath the island temporarily so that he could see the true depths of what was happening below. So that he could begin to form some sort of plan to potentially save it if needed.

Both dragons looked beneath them. They saw the fact that saving this place was beyond them. There was so much space between the deep ocean and the slim pillars of stone that held the island up. It had been too long. Even with Terron here it would be too little too late to recreate the base of the island.

While the two stayed under the island for hours trying to convince themselves otherwise, they had to accept that this island was doomed. That they had discovered the end of what would be the home of the echidna. While they had come here searching for a race lost to the world, they had also discovered the possible end of the echidna.

As Mordant left the underwater caves, Current followed him. The two made their way back through the jungle collecting the important materials they deemed valuable. They wanted Walker to save what he could of this place.

Their minds had changed from the desire to just save the island to their desire to bring everything possible from here to a place safer. That included the echidna and every plant, ore, and even some monsters if possible.

"You came back." Walker spoke calmly without looking at Mordant. Walker had woken up just a short while ago. He looked calm but it was clear that a massive amount of thoughts were running through his mind.

"You may have just woken, but meditate there. You should have seen the path." The natural seer was still creating mists around her hut. She was also clearly weakened by a significant degree. Her heart beat fast enough for Mordant and Current to take note of.

While Mordant and Current had been caught up in their search of the island's underneath, Walker had been fighting in his own mental world. The mental jungle of paths and mysterious mists. But he had discovered something.

The manas he had followed had taken him many different ways. He had been frustrated to follow one or the other while trying to find the sources of natural mana. But he had just moved in circles over and

over while trying to use his skills. Being lost without any direction had made him lose his calm multiple times.

pandasnovel.com But he had been learning. The manas split up caused him to move in complicated paths. His attempts to sense each path and follow it with his mana had failed. But in doing so, he had noticed a pattern.

The pattern was not physical or in a flow, but in the fact that with each individual mana, Walker would find that he was right back where he started. He wasn't better or worse off, just there. This felt exactly the same when he tried to keep focusing on one skill here and there as he grew. He would still be weaker by comparison to certain beings. Like kings, dragons, or even the wyverns.

Yes, Walker was strong because he was adaptable. He could fight monsters or people stronger than him because of his adaptability. This allowed him to use better attacks and skills against them. But he had recently faced his potential death because he was not stronger overall. I think you should take a look at pandasnovel.com

That issue proved that he had not been able to unite things properly. He just squished manas together without actually controlling them when he did. Especially the natural mana which he pulled and used constantly without being able to truly grasp the core of how to use it in everything.

It made him wonder why he had the high fire mana manipulation. The separate high water mana manipulation. The separate skills of all of this. Wouldn't it be better just to have a general mana manipulation?

This thought had shattered everything he was thinking about. That was the second that he had woken up. His mind had forced him to push himself awake from the visions he was given by the natural seer.

Upon opening his eyes, he immediately took a sitting position for meditation. The manas all around him were drawn in as he realized he had been dividing everything up. He didn't split his mind like the seer could or other beings could to use natural mana. He was putting everything in their own little box that isolated them.

Even when Walker pushed manas together, a fine line remained that they were all individuals that made a whole. But that just made elemental natural mana. Not the manas that he could feel around him.

'Through enlightenment, the skills related to elemental, natural, and other mana manipulation have been properly condensed. The user has gained the skill, high mana manipulation.

High mana manipulation- passive

Through the study of all mana, the user is able to manipulate all mana understood by them. The more that elemental mana is understood, the better the manipulation of it and how it works with other manas. This allows the user to better manipulate manas within and outside themselves.

Being able to learn more about unique manas will also increase the ability to manipulate seemingly unrelated manas. This skill is proof that mana is mana regardless of the type. When this skill reached a higher level, there is a chance to change mana at a miraculous level.

Due to this skill, the high mana sense is also earned which allows the user to sense all manas regardless of their unique type. This skill will also grow more as the understanding of manas is risen...'

There was more as Walker sensed his skills condensing and the small boxes he had placed everything in breaking down. It was a very heavy weight leaving his mind as the skills melded together. He had been forcefully keeping the true flow of these skills apart. The manas he had been seeing were forcefully held back. That was why he felt so powerless or was unable to keep growing as he had seen fit. He had been using all of his skills in the wrong way.

"I might have been a bit foolish.' Walker mumbled to himself as he felt things coming together. He felt that it was more than just mana sense and manipulation. There were plenty of skills that could come together now.

'The skill, skill compression has been learned...'