

## **Master 1971**

### Chapter 1971 1971. Test the Out

To their surprise, the wandering blacksmith took the twin shield right from Su. They witnessed him begin to work. The actions he had taken to prepare the materials were seamless. It only took him two hours to reshape and attach the new materials and parts of the twin shields.

Now Su could tell that these twin shields would seamlessly adjoin with her armor. The gauntlets had been styled after claws. But those claws also had attaching rune formations on them. Therefore, that was how the manas flowed better throughout her armor and shields.

From there, Su was amazed. The scale pattern had been added to the existing twin shields with even more details. It also kept the weight and added more functions. Specifically, when she slammed them together, two outer sides would expand to make the shield even larger. This meant that she would be able to protect more.

There was also a retracting feature that could be activated with earth mana and Su's mana. This would allow them to more easily attach to the armor and be used as a weapon. Su needed such a thing for her style. She was immensely impressed when it came to the wandering blacksmith's foresight in this matter. Especially since she had barely mentioned details about her fighting style changing.

Neither Su nor the wandering blacksmith asked Walker for the all around appraisal. Alcie and Midnight just watched in interest while having a snack in the background. They were enjoying this experience as a way to see the amazing things that had been going on while their attention was elsewhere. Not to mention that it appeared Alice and Midnight had found themselves a new favorite snack.

When Walker had asked, he found that they had managed to find a new fruit from the elven forest, apparently they were called moon blessed grapes. It sounded like some al process, but apparently they were grapes that were covered and only allowed to get moonlight during the night.

This led to them having a very unique sweet taste that was very different from the deeper brighter flavor that they normally had. It became a very popular seasonal fruit for many people when the elves began to sell it in the market. So much so that some dwarves had reached out to begin making unique wines and alcohols with them. A very large event for some.

Regardless, when Su saw the twin shield next to the armor, she did not hesitate to put them all on and have the wandering blacksmith make small adjustments here and there. She was enjoying the lighter feeling and how the wandering blacksmith was able to make the adjustments for her slightly larger muscles and wings. Becoming a full fledged half dragon had changed some things.

"Need to see it in battle." without another word, everyone looked at Su then to Walker. They all wanted to see what new tricks that Su had and they knew very well that walker was the best opponent.

While Alcie and Midnight could fight Su, she could take Alice down faster than would be expected to truly test things. Midnight was also too vicious and might not control her strength causing too much damage to the new armor or shields. This wasn't because Midnight could not control her strength, but because she was trying to adapt to the dragonkin from battle styles still and it was a little risky to train all out as they needed.

Without even being able to say anything, Walker made a move. He glanced at the forge furnaces and wanted to meditate, however, when he reached out a hand, the eternal codex shifted.

Instead of the normal staff form, it altered itself and became a staff with a shield on it. A smaller shield that was made from the starving steel. A perfect way to block and take away mana from incoming attacks while dishing out al attacks. "This might be a mage weapon you should make for each elemental mana. Just saying."

"Don't need money. Blueprints though." the wandering blacksmith nodded a little realizing that it could be an interesting thing to do. The al staffs were something that he normally did not focus on. However, he might be able to learn some other technique to create them at a higher level. A potential way to learn about other manas rather than elemental. Especially when life mages came asking for healing gear.

This aside, Walker was surprised to find that he wasn't being led outside. When they had been away, the wandering blacksmith had a larger training and testing area built underground!

This idea was excellent. Anyone that had ordered something could test it all right there underneath the shop. The dwarves that had been hired even reinforced it with many layers of rune formation carved metals. Furthermore, some al skills had been used on it as well. So many layers that even Walker would struggle to easily cut through it all and cause a collapse. But they were still reminded to hold back in their fight. This was to force Su to understand her improved shield and new armor.

With their awe of a brand new testing area out of the way, Walker called the manas toward him. He felt that he was in touch with mana much more closely. The eternal codex was assisting him, but also still absorbing the additional mana that Walker could not control. He was not wasting any mana whatsoever any more in his mana manipulation. The eternal orb could use it!

Yet, when he noticed Su stretching a little, Walker realized she would be moving much more differently than what he remembered her battle style to be. Even though he had witnessed her being more aggressive and forward in battle before. This was because he noticed her flexibility had increased much more compared to her before she fully accepted the dragon blood that was part of her.

Before they faced off, Walker saw that Su was in a defensive stance. The first attack would allow him to see just what she had changed when it came to her strength. Therefore, he stopped preparing himself to fight as a mage. Instead, he focused on the eternal codex and chose to use a two handed ax. A heavier weapon that would test her defenses and strength.

Using wind mana, the ax spun upwards as Walker took preparation to swing it down. Earth mana gathered on the way down with walker's leap forward being enhanced by the wind as well. He felt that the mana was acting much faster to his mental manipulation than ever before. It didn't throw him off, but actually made him feel even more comfortable.

The weight of the eternal codex two handed ax form made the entire place ring with the sound of metal. The mana around Su was drawn in to it, but there was now reaction otherwise. Su's feet were pressed in to the stone floor slightly, but that was it. "Oh."

Walker felt himself slammed back to where he had started his attack. Su had only used one arm to both block and retaliate. She didn't even appear to feel the shock. "You will need more than that to affect me now." Walker grimaced as Su taunted him. He would not normally feel her taunts, but now, he could feel what their opponents always felt when facing her.

She stomped on the ground causing it to slightly shake. This would have made Walker lose his footing, but he stepped right in to the air. He did not let Su keep pushing forward. He had to keep her on her toes instead of setting up an attack on him.

However, Su jumped upwards and threw one of the twin shields at him. The result was Walker needing to use a lot of wind mana to force it to slow down while he dodged. This left him open to Su kicking

upwards. Walker had not realized that Su could use her newly grown wings already to push herself upwards faster than before. It was a surprise of many emotions.

When her other twin shield hit him, Walker had used mana to boost his defenses. A small bubble of water had formed around him a second before she attacked and it froze solid. This bubble shattered and left Walker with ammunition to attack. The shards of ice attacked her causing Su to be buffeted but not damaged. Her armor vibrated with mana before some of the ice was shot back at her.

'Then speed.' Walker changed the eternal codex in to twin swords. But he attacked them with a chain of metal to one another. His mind was trying to think of ways to stress Su and her new battle styles. Any trick and unconventional means he could think of would be used.

#### Chapter 1972 1972. Paying More Attention

Using wind mana to push him faster while also using a little earth mana to make the ground start to change to sand, Walker pushed forward. He knew that he had much more speed than what Su could keep up with. His agility had almost always been faster.

Yet, he found that Su was now keeping up with him. She had lighter armor. She had better shields. She had more strength as a half dragon than before. Her entire journey had strengthened her and allowed for her to accept herself. To awaken what was held back.

She easily drew her shields up to deflect not one, but both of the blades coming from opposite sides. Walker had first started to make Su move and get her off set. He wanted to see her pushed to the point of her fastest speed before he let himself off the hook. That was why he held back his body and focused on using wind to push himself faster. He was clearly baiting her.

Unfortunately for him, Walker had still underestimated Su. She saw through this trick and managed to attack back. He used the end of one twin shield to slash at him while using the other as a brace to allow her to kick upwards with balance.

This ingenious addition to her fighting style was what would allow her to keep opponents questioning what she could do. She clearly surprised Walker with a solid kick to the chest. However, she had not realized that he was also playing his own tricks with ideas he had come up with while they fight.

Walker had willed the eternal codex to take the shape of twin swords, not because they matched what Su was using as twin shields, but because he knew that the eternal codex, just as it had before

modification, would keep the swords attached to one another in some form. It was just easier to transfer mana that way and helped him.

When he had done this, he had the idea that he might be able to use his agility and that fact to his advantage to trip Su up and catch her off guard. He was right.

Wahne Walker landed, he rolled on to his feet using his natural strength at full speed. He burst forward. He also had a gust of wind push against Su to make her think that he was using wind alone just like last time. But his change in speed shocked her slightly but did not stop her from reacting.

Yet, when she went to block the similar attack she expected, she found that a sword was spinning upwards at her attached to the chain of starving steel. This had been what attacked the two swords together and what Walker used to lengthen his attacking abilities.

Going with the flow, Walker spun the swords again with his arm between the two and putting force on the chain. He had witnessed someone use a weapon with a sickle at the end in a similar way. While risky to use it here, this was a sparring match and he wanted to diversify his abilities.

'The user has replicated a unique style of fighting used by a smaller margin of people than many other weapons. Due to the visualization and usage of such technique, the skill, beginner chain manipulation has been learned.

Beginner chain manipulation- passive and active. Mana depends on usage of the skill.

Using mana or using physical strength, the style of using chains attached to weapons or not is very rare. It could take many years to manipulate and use chains. Even as whips, chains are radically different.

By using this skill, the learning ability when fighting with chains will be faster. It will be smoother. And the strength of attacks will be better. Using mana may allow the user of this skill to manipulate chains using just their mana to awaken specific technique based skills or more...'

Walker noticed the system mentioning this. He had seen multiple skills like this as he shifted weapons but he mostly ignored them. He didn't even bother to mention them or read them sometimes. But right

this second, his brain was running in overdrive to face Su's newfound strength. He did not wish to just test her. He was testing himself and the eternal codex as well.

When the eternal codex changed again, Su took it as an opening. She charged forward slamming the twin shields together to cause a devastating attack. One that would not allow Walker any room to dodge or attack. It was just another unfortunate event that Walker had actually read one of the minor skill gains from his system for the first time in a while.

Walker saw the twin shields expand but didn't sweat it in the least. He just smirked through a serious expression as the eternal codex shifted and followed his mana. With his stronger control and better ability to draw manas to him, the chain room of the eternal codex was devastating.

The chain wrapped Su around her legs completely bypassing the twin shields as they burst aflame. This caused Su to react in an attempt to break them. She wanted to force her way out but found that her mana was being drawn away. He attempted to pull on the earth mana to boost her body more. She tried even more with light mana to heal her and create a better shield without needing to hold on to the twin shields that had slipped from her grasp. But Walker just tightened the chains before releasing them and offering a hand.

"You made change the way I was thinking before. Your entire being is better than before. Stronger, tougher, and definitely faster, I had to hold back so that it tricked you, but you didn't fall for it. That's why I had to use an unconventional weapon. The starving steel also steals away mana that you try to use. It's way better than I gave it credit for." Walker had been sure that this played a major role in the entire match.

"So that's why it was hard for me to use other skills. I managed to learn a few different elemental skills since I have the same affinities as Midnight due to our ritual. But I tried to use the light to blind you and make you lose concentration before I made a shield. It didn't work so I had to resort to a shield like before. But that failed too!"

There was a lot that Su was shocked by, but before the two could keep raving about their new items. The armor and the eternal codex, the wandering blacksmith moved and began adjusting the armor. He also looked at Walker and made him stand still since he would be crafting new armor for him too. Ti was clear that he could use the eternal codex more as a weapon than armor. Therefore, he would need improved armor more than anything in the future.

Alice and Midnight quietly enjoyed their own talks about the sparring match. Alice wished to train against both of them while Midnight was nearly shaking with excitement. She wanted to see how much stronger Su really was when she fought against her in her dragonkin form. But Alice also wanted to challenge Su since she had been her most recent training partner. The person that had allowed her to alter her own thinking when it came to how she shaped light in her songs.

But none of them managed to do this any time soon. The wandering blacksmith clearly was going to keep them busy for some time. Alice had not realized it, but the wandering blacksmith had created armor for her again too. She had to be protected as one of the best large area healers. If she didn't have the best armor she could, then she might not be able to be safe enough to heal anyone.

Then it switched to Midnight who now needed two different armors. He was even theorizing that he could make armors that might shift with her to her two different forms. Such a thing might be possible using the rune formations and the space runes that had been discovered. But it would take a lot of time and effort. Not that this was new for him or anyone else around him.

Things only grew more in depth as they started to talk about new skills and how they could adjust themselves to use them in battle. It just added fuel to the wandering blacksmith's imaginative flames. He was constantly changing and editing the blueprints he had in his mind. On top of that, he was digging out new materials he had not had a chance to work with. It was like watching a wild experiment becoming a masterpiece. Well worth a sleepless night...or two.

#### Chapter 1973 1973. Unlikely Pair On a Mission

The dwarves had made many golems. They had also begun working with the angels. This had brought the idea to create these unique golems that mimicked the angel's thought process when it came to studying manas.

This was because the angels would normally have their own focuses on research. Those that focused on individual elemental manas while others looked outside. That piqued a lot of interest when it came to the dwarves who had been working on golems that the spirit race could control.

The simple idea that all three races working together could make unique golems was not new. Just as the wandering blacksmith had been involved in some, if not all, the theories associated with this while the party was focusing on themselves.

The wandering blacksmith had even been open to the dwarves coming to ask him for more help. This had happened while he studied his own interests and had not been actively forging. Things had even taken off more so when the elemental space rune formation was created.

That had driven many researchers to search for reason why space mana had not been properly studied. A lot of the races, besides the angels, had not been able to even think of studying such things.

The demi-humans and the merfolk had their own focuses. The merfolk being focused on their own people and surviving in their smaller city. The demi-humans mostly caring about physical strength and less about the elemental manas surrounding and making them up.

Therefore, the elves were some of the only ones that delved in to the manas of existence or the world. They focussed on elemental though because of their attunement to nature. Regardless, they were the first to begin their own process of stretching in to the other manas that no one else understood.

Specifically, the younger elven more recently born had awakened unique systems that focused them on researching such manas. When the wandering blacksmith casually mentioned this while he had been telling them his ideas for a changing armor, Walker was amazed.

He had thought that such things would happen after years, not right away. But it was so soon! This was a sign that the gathering within genesis was already greatly improving knowledge without anyone needing to do a single thing. It should be an event shared in the history books yet again.

But this alone was not enough, what the wandering blacksmith brought out to show Walker was the partial space runes he had been looking through when information had been brought to him. Partial runes were nothing special. Most of the time.

"you think that these runes are partial because they can be used like a spatial storage?" Walker thought for a moment and wondered just how they would complete such a thing. He was lucky that elemental manas could be used to recreate a teleportation formation. That was already something that everyone that could research it, was researching it to improve it. That was the best way to get to the Sigil continent right now.

"If we manage to do this though, Midnight will have armor in both forms. She has the skeletal armor in her dragon form, but if it can work together and change like your eternal or- eternal codex, then it would make her safer." Su played right to what Walker cared for most. The safety of his family. Not that she was trying to really make him help more here. She knew he would work on this since it was just his nature.



"I will see what we can make, but why are you guys hanging around? I thought this would be browning?" Su and Alcie both looked at Walker when he asked. The wandering blacksmith was also a little interested as he set down his drawing utensils.

"I want to see it work." Alice was honest and somewhat quiet. No one had the nerve to say a word.

"Well, I want to test it out and see Midnight shift forms in the middle of a battle. She might be stronger, but she has to start mixing both battle styles at some point, right?" Su was much more practical. Regardless of what their interest was, Midnight and the others had just heard Su volunteer as the sparring partner for midnight when she began testing such a thing.

"Then that means you two are sparring while we work on this. Alice is moral support and helping make sure we have mana." the wandering blacksmith looked at Walker with a smile. The two began to prepare materials while trying to find different connections for the runes. Walker was prepared to use everything he knew.

Meanwhile, Midnight felt that she had been thrown in to a trap. Now she had to train in the hardest way possible. She had struggled learning to speak like others when she took on her dragonkin form. Now Su and all of the royal dragons had improved themselves to look much more human than she could. She was jealous.

Even worse, Su and the others had just pushed her from the struggle to just adapt? to her dragonkin from better, and right in to switching between the two flawlessly. She had trouble doing so in general because she had to expend her mana to do so faster. She even used the darkness mana with her shadow to house herself to properly do so since it would be unbecoming to show off her body as she shifted like that.

Meanwhile, Gil found himself with Onyx. an unexpected event when Gil had come looking for the rest of the party. "I know that Remey is busy trying to make some grand potion but the others have really been locked away in the forge for four days now?" he had been astounded when Onyx had managed to bump in to him while heading back home for a chance to find the others.

Between the two of them, they had managed to discover what everyone had been working on. "Even sister Lisa has been working without much rest. She said that she is starting to make affinity robes to sell

to the mages that will fight in the next battle." Onyx was a little sad since he made time for everyone and they were all busy!

"I believed you would be busier than everyone since you made a large effort to create a larger bond with Alma." Onyx was curious about this to some degree. He wasn't fully understanding the idea of marriages yet since he was still young in life compared to the others. He just grew pretty fast.

"We should have been, but apparently she needs to do a lot of work if we want to even think about doing it before a war. Traditions and just general leadership." Gil sighed since he would have to do his own side of things out of respect for the elven people and also for his own family since his parents had dragged him right to their farm after hearing about this. But they were happy at the end of the day.

"Does that mean you will also need to prepare clothing and gifts?" Onyx was unsure if these were the right things to keep thinking about.

"Actually, I need to prepare a ring. The elves are known to make rings from very precious herbs and other things in nature. But I want to mix a little human in to it and add some form of gem. I was going to ask Walker for help making a natural mana gem or something." This perked Onyx up a lot. He was thinking of many things.

"I can help you with that. They might be busy and not able to help us, but I have brought some of the younger serpents to help in the forge. Those who learned in the cathedral were asked to heal the blacksmiths' apprentices. They have access to plenty of materials to make the proper mana gems. They even have multiple elemental techniques."

Gil stopped for a moment to consider this. The wandering blacksmith was the best blacksmith there was. No doubt about it. But, if he was busy, bringing multiple blacksmith's together meant more than anything. Especially if it was to help everyone learn more. He even recalled seeing a few young elves that had requested to learn from the dwarves in particular.

"That might be the best idea yet, there are some younger elves that went to help the dwarves so that they could learn too. Since the others are busy, show me to where the younger serpents are helping heal. I bet we will find the perfect people." Gil was much more energized. He shook away the thoughts about breaking in to the wandering blacksmith's forge and yelling at the others.

Chapter 1974 1974. The Right Forging Technique

"Who here has met one of the heroes that helped bring the races together to create all of what we live in now?" The older dwarf that was speaking was not just a dwarf. He was one of the higher ranking blacksmiths that had taken the chance to help establish the crafting guild.

Specifically, he had managed to both leave behind his older forge in the dwarven kingdom underground city and also walk by himself all the way to Genesis. He had done so because he believed what Walker and the others stood for the day that they had helped the entire dwarven population from being homeless.

The events that the slimes caused were well known. The dwarves had celebrated and begun to rebuild. But when this man had learned of the hero's goal to have a safe place for all races, he began his journey to the human kingdom city of Diamond.

The results were clear. He had managed to be one of the first dwarves here in Genesis. Naturally, he established a forge to help those working repair their tools. He became well known for teaching others to maintain their tools and also how to build them.

From that point on, he had a place helping those wanting to make a real crafting guild. Then it was an easy ask when an instructor position opened up. While he had proven himself as a very good blacksmith, he had gained a pretty damn appropriate title that went along with it.

"No? Then you will now. Using a little of my authority as guide of apprentice blacksmiths, I have given us the full day to learn and experiment in this outdoor forge with the hero Gil and the hero Onyx. what? Did you only think one of them would come to speak to me?" The instructor looked proud to show off his title.

He had become the guide of apprentice blacksmiths and the world had handed him this title. He was never expecting to be a master or some amazing blacksmith. But that was all because he had a system that pretty much said that.

However, his own efforts gave him the chance to teach others. Even when it cost him his hard earned gold and time, he had kept teaching. That was where the title had come from. Hard work and the will to help the young. It made a lot of sense to Gil and Onyx who had found him on their way to bother as many people in the crafting guild for help as possible.

"Today, these two will assist you in experimenting a little. I know that there are some of you attempting the forest forging techniques that have recently been improved. Others may be using the titans hammer techniques, and then even a few using the solid ice method. They are all welcome today as long as you to make the right precautions." The instructor had said this for the benefit of Gil and Onyx, but it was also to give the students a warning.

These were apprentices. The youngest members of the crafting guild wish to improve their skills. Since they were young, they had a natural disposition to get in trouble. How else would they just be kids after all? But Gil was here for another reason.

"I think we will find some interesting techniques here. I already want to meet the elves that are using the forest forging technique. I heard that it can make wood bend and mold just like metal."

"If you want to check that, then head to the back where the trees are, they were planted for that training." the instructor pointed it out and Gil moved along with onyx carefully glancing around.

The drama of having two of the most famous people in the city ended quickly. Having free reign to send the entire day forging without lessons or demonstrations was rare. The younger a blacksmith, the more they had to work to learn. But taking the time to experiment twas rare. Just because there was too much to learn about materials. Memorizing such things was of the utmost importance for a blacksmith!

The three elves wiring on their techniques were surprising not even touching a hammer. They instead, had stones with tree roots and vines wrapped around them. But runes covered them aligned with other manas which had come from the elves themselves.

Since they heard Gil was here, they wanted to show their best. This was the man that had constantly helped the elven race unite and even put himself forward as a pillar of them bringing back high elven techniques. Naturally they would want to impress him even more for that. Regardless of him engaging with their literal future elf queen!

"So the forest forging method is simply using mana and natural items to create tools needed to enhance and alter natural items. The hammer controls the flow of manas within the tree causing it to be shaped like a forge and blacksmith world metal." Onyx spoke out loud but also had an eye focused on his very clearly.

"It is perfect to make the ring shape, but it would just be a ring shape and nothing more. The technique is good, but it's not all I need. There should be a more human aspect in this." When Gil said this, he and Onyx watched a sudden whisper spread through all the nearby apprentice blacksmiths. They shared this little gossip quickly. They all now knew he was looking to forge a ring. It was easy to guess who for.

There was a moment where a few started to forge harder and caused some things to break. It was embarrassing, but losing focus would do that to them. They had to learn some how, better here where people were ready to help them or heal them when the worst happened.

"What about the demi-human there? Three of them look to have learned the wild forging technique. It takes four or five people, but it is very close to the bestial nature you might want to capture in a ring." Onyx noticed this unique forging method. The demi-humans had basic forging, but also their own unique methods as every race did.

The three demi-humans were wildly punting on a heated metal ingot at odd angles. Their methods balanced one another's strikes while the small blade took shape. However, the errors were evident. The three were unbalanced and the blade slowly curved and showed cracked while they worked. It only took another ten minutes to crack in half leaving a broken piece of metal only partially shaped.

"This might be harder than I thought. We need to find people to bring their techniques together and create the most unique ring with the nature of elven tradition and human influence. That's the only way-" Gil felt something bump in to his leg. He was surprised to be suddenly interrupted by a small demon girl'

"And who are you little one? Are you also a blacksmith in training here?" Onyx spoke before Gil and the little girl nodded. What the two did not realize until they looked closer, was that this was not just a demon girl. A half demon half dwarf girl.

They recalled some of the demons managing to flee to outer villages but having trouble finding homes. This was before everything had happened with the heroes rising. These people had found homes far from the demon lands. Their homes had been mostly in small villages that rarely had company due to their locations. This was clearly a dwarven village member who had been born just a few years ago in the grand scheme of things.

Before Gil could say something, the girl pulled him. He was shocked to find she was stronger than what he expected. Also that she had one small horn growing from her head that proved without a doubt that

she had demon blood in her. The muscles of a dwarf and the mana of a demon. Muscle and ? Gil's interest was piqued.

"Put up your shields. She's going to blow up the heroes." one boy spoke up before someone slapped the back of his head for being rude.

However, just from that, Gil and Onyx somewhat understood. Strength but lack of mana control came from dwarves. Control of mana and lack of great strength came from demons. Therefore, if they were mixed, it would be very hard to control everything. In turn, it meant that many materials would be destroyed because controlling both strengths might not work for this little apprentice.

"Materials." the little girl opened a hand and Gil was unsure if he should offer anything he had brought. He had only brought things he had managed to collect and gather by himself or along with Alma. pieces of unique trees from the elven forest, mana crystals from their adventures, and even a few things they had gathered while on the ships in the ocean filled with dangers.

"Gil, I think this is a good idea." Onyx stopped Gil's thoughts of fear and worry. Instead, Gil caught on that Onyx was gesturing with his tail. Each spot that onyx pointed was clearly broken because of failed forging. Yet, they also showed a greater array of manas. Of multiple techniques being tested. As if this apprentice was looking for one that truly fit her.

Chapter 1975 1975. Layering Rings

"Stop that already." The half demon and half dwarf girl froze. She looked at Gil with a fearful expression. She believed that he was about to tell her off.

It made sense. She had walked right over to him to show off skill when she could not even forge one thing. She had heard the others tease her and wonder what was even happening. Not to mention the fact that this was a literal hero! He had many better things than whatever she could forge.

"Are you seriously just standing there looking at me now? Come here and watch this." Gil shook his head. He wasn't being rude for fun. Eh was mimicking some of the ways he had seen the dwarves act. It was blunt and straight forward. But it also let her use the mentality of a demon. Watch and learn. Figure out the trick. Then take it for herself.

"Gil, if you show her that she might not get it right away." Onyx added to this. It was clear to the instructor that the two were stealing small pieces of how they had seen some demons and dwarves act. It was even more comical that the little girl before them was a bit shocked and also unsure how to act.

When she saw Gil taking out the bow he always used and grabbing at an arrow, she feared him even more. But she also knew that if he was that angry, she could do nothing. She was pretty weak after all.

"This is my bow. Look At how the mana flows through it. My entire bow is full of mana. So why doesn't this fire arrow explore? There's mana crystal and the mana of my bow touched the arrow?" Gil asked while slowly drawing the arrow back.

"And why is my mana being concentrated at my hand after going in to the bow?"

"Now why is it that when i think about doing this..."

Gil released the arrow. Those who watched witnessed it fly upwards before exploding in a fire ball. A smaller one since this was an older arrow, but a fire ball nonetheless. One that could easily have burned most of the apprentices here. One that even drew the attention of a few patrolling guards before they relaxed it was just Gil showing off.

"My mana suddenly pulses in to the arrow through me and the bow at the same time it is released, then the arrow reacts when it's away from me?" Gil had an expectant look before moving backwards and just standing there watching.

"Are you going to try it now? If you don't, we might get angry." Onyx used a little intimidation. He felt bad, but knew that he had to strike while the iron was hot. Not metaphorically, but he literally was watching some pieces of metal cooling nearby the furnace. It was not good if it cooled too much.

This didn't seem to phase anyone. Even with Onyx slightly enhancing his size. He remained smaller because it was easier, but he knew the true size of his body and how it could scare just about everyone within Genesis. However, the reason no one was afraid was because his eyes were on the forge and not any one of them.

A slight glint came over the girl's eyes as she went to work again. However, she had seen the point of what Onyx and Gil were getting at with the demonstration. Specifically, she had understood this better than the way she was taught and lectured to. What Gil and Onyx saw was not a bad student or bad instructor. Just a poorly matched student and instructor.

"The physical force met with my mana makes my arrow fly. I could shoot an arrow without mana. But I can only activate the arrow with mana but not shoot it properly. So, if I want to cooperate, I need to hold myself back in the booth physically and with my mana until the last second." Gil said this for those that were watching, the girl did not seem to notice him speaking.

She had tried to just push the mana and physical force at the same time. Even when she drew it back, she did not do so with both. She would just try and send her hammer down or the mana at different times. She always thought of them as two different forces. However, for her, she had to think of them as the same exact force.

With the demonstration, she had seen physical force and mana working in perfect harmony for one second, not for extended times as other blacksmiths did with their forging techniques. Therefore, she realized that she had broken so many pieces of metal because she was trying to copy people that did not have the same control of physique and mana as she did. They were more to one side or the other.

When the hammer came down, she did exactly as Gil had. She pushed all the mana out and hoped for the best. Her mind and body was ready for a break or a crack or anything bad. But reality showed her metal that glowed. Metal that absorbed the mana from the hammer and even heated the metal more. I think you should take a look at

"So you have an affinity with fire. I bet that you can do more with it than you think. Like maybe forging something out of this? You have a bit more mana than most people. If you manage to make a ring like this," Gil drew some figures in the dirt, "then I will introduce you to a blacksmith friend of mine." Gil smiled and the girl opened her mouth in shock.

Before she could even take a breath, she had the metal ore in her hands. Meanwhile, Onyx had already picked of five other students to forge other parts of what he had in mind.

The symphony of hammering and flows of manas around them were all because of the materials he brought. Unique pieces of wood from the forest of the elves. Pieces of metal from the Sigil continent. Mana crystals he happened to have for making arrows. And even a few remaining slivers of shed scales that Midnight had let him keep.



As time went by, Gil found that many of the apprentices were learning more. They were also amazed by the quick drawing that they were all beginning to learn and blueprint. The instructor was also teaching them different ways to create a blueprint from a customer's ideas. That was why Gil felt that this was an even better place to be since they were all learning.

"One ring made from the spiritual wood of the elven forest. A central ring that will stand for the origin and home that Alma grew up in. then a steel band that will wrap the sides. That will stand for the metal ingot I brought from my home city, a human city. Next the green wind crystal shaped by the spirit forger over there and their spirit friends," Gil glanced at another blacksmith apprentice, "it stands for my affinity for wind, I will use it to send my arrows to whatever threats roam near those I love."

Gil stopped for a moment before grabbing one of the last two pisces, " and last of all, the two outer layers. Made of pressed sap and seeds from multiple wildflowers and trees. They will be the offer of a last protection for the great elf queen that can grow plants in seconds to be her guardians. Her fighters. Her salvation in the dark." Gil smiles while pushing every piece together.

When he had shown all the apprentices what parts they needed to make, they had not understood. But now, they fully grasped that each piece had been made so that they came together to one ring full of multiple layers. Each standing for something that meant more to each of them. Not just a ring to show their union. But something that showed their journeys as well as their origins.

"I think that Alma will be proud to wear it. I'll keep it a secret though for now. Only because you're my brother." Onyx sounded like he might be on the verge of tears. But Gil just sat smiling in his own world. His mind captivated by the ring he had asked to be made by people who may never have had the chance to forge like this. To grow like this without the challenges and adventures he had already been on.

"Now, all of you should have a good day forging. I will be stealing away your classmate to meet a friend. When you see her again, you should catch her up on your lectures." Gil smirked. He wanted to have some runes carved on this and knew the people that could manage that safely.

Chapter 1976 1976. Shocked Forging

"So, while we walk, why don't you tell me your name?" Gil was careful to walk slower while Onyx slithered by their side. He figured since they had found someone to help them and that had a very interesting usage for their mana and body when forging, that he should make sure he knew them well before they ended up famous.

"Allison!" She had a bright and cheery attitude now that she could somewhat forge. It was only somewhat because she was still understanding the feeling she had when she had successfully forged.

"Well, Allison, I am taking you to where my family is. They had to forge some things with another friend of ours. Well, he is basically family now since he has also lived in our mansion. That is if he ever left his forge." Gil laughed a bit which made Allison very confused. But she was more than glad to have the attention of two heroes who had already helped her before.

"Allison, is walking too slow? Won't you be tired by the time we get there? That would not be nearly as exciting." Onyx's interruption made Allison nod a little. Gil smiled before anything happened. He could tell what Onyx was doing.

All the time in the cathedral with Midnight as his partner in babysitting had made Onyx very good with children. It had also been why many people were willing to open their hearts and minds to monsters.

An abyssal serpent who was considered nothing in the grand scheme of things had somehow managed so much. Protected and fought for them. Why would they allow themselves to believe this to be a monster rather than a race equal to them? Now Onyx was a bonafide hero too. It just made a ton of sense that he would be trusted with all his past actions. Let alone when he had first been trusted by those they knew him and Midnight as part of the heroic party.

"Watch me carefully. I am not really this small." Onyx started to show off as he grew larger to the point of being able to rival a carriage on the road. Even he had not realized the depth of his growth since he kept his body hidden in shadows at all times that he would not scare anyone nor would he cause issues.

But since he was able to, he could take up the roadway a little more than others. This being one instance where he wanted to show off a little and stretch. "And here we go." Gil wrapped an arm around Allison and hopped in to the air. A soft breeze let them down carefully on Onyx's back. "Special transportation on the literal back of a hero. How about that?"

Gil and Onyx reveled in the giggles of Allison while they raced through the streets and stopped right in front of the wandering blacksmith's forge. While the trip had been less scary than what Allison had imagined when she saw the shadows stretching and Onyx's real size, she was very happy to have traveled the way they did. She never would have imagined that to be possible. Yet, she was in Genesis, a place she realized was full of the impossible.

"And the door is even cracked open." Gil sighed as he pushed it open. It was clear that whoever had walked outside for air last had left it open. He was ready to yell at someone about their lack of security but that wasn't the main reason for being here.

However, when they saw that the wandering blacksmith was polishing a mana gem that had just been pressed, they were a little surprised. The mana gem was significantly larger than most. It was also being fed mana by Walker who was attempting to draw spatial mana using the eternal codex.

"Oh, we missed a lot." Gil saw that Alice and Su were clearly absorbed in polishing some parts of armor that they had been handed. They were so focused that they only gave a smile to Gil and Omnyx when they arrived.

Walker, on the other hand, had noticed the odd trio. Odd because Gil had been very busy lately to meet up with him. Onyx had been caught up with the young serpents. So much so that Walker was sure that any free time Onyx used would be to rest for some time.

Then there was a girl that he had never seen. One that had an odd arrangement of features that Walker realized were more than just one race which brought surprise to him.

"Well, seeing as all of you are busy, I guess I shouldn't bring the layered ring that some of the young apprentices from the crafting guild helped me make. Actually, multiple made each layer and piece of it. I wanted it engraved with runes that helped gather mana for Alma by our friendly wandering blacksmith. But I guess I will have to wait another time." Gil shook his head sadly.

"It's a shame brother Gil. Now Allison can't meet the best blacksmith there is and show off her unique forging method. I thought he might want an apprentice." Onyx seemed to throw out the last important detail that made the wandering blacksmith nearly drop the mana gem he was working with.

The wandering blacksmith had many people that wanted to be taught by him. But he refused every apprentice. Yet, the party had never brought someone to him. Let alone someone so young. Even Rodney, who had been right there to copy and learn from him, was a few years older than the young girl here.

"Wait, you actually brought someone to be an apprentice? Shouldn't you be asking him first?" Walker was surprised that both Onyx and Gil were in on this, but he was more surprised to see that the wandering blacksmith was equally surprised as the girl was when he looked at her and she him.

Naturally, Allison knew who the wandering blacksmith was. Yet, she had never met or seen him. Now, she was in the same forge as him. HIS forge! A place that could be called holy and filled with power and amazing everything to any blacksmith. She couldn't even comprehend that there were multiple forge furnaces with different colored flames.

"She has a lot of mana and some control over it. She has a lot of strength too. We helped her figure out the trick to holding them both back and use them in unison. I would call her forging style-"

"It's called soul forging. It uses my mana and my body together. With me whole soul." Allison spoke up with a nervous tone. Her head lowered since she was worried that she was saying something wrong.

"Very good. The essence of forging should be with the soul. Watch me and tell me what you see." the wandering blacksmith spoke softly. Like he was afraid to scare the child in front of him off. It was a very different change from his normally quiet and composed actions. This even made Su and Alice stop in their actions.

The wandering blacksmith grabbed his hammer and used some tongs to pull out a small sliver of iron. He had it to use as embellishments just in case he wanted. But when he slammed his hammer down, his mana burst out with more flourish than usual. As a result, the sliver of metal was flattened, but it also curled even though he had not done so with any tool. His mana had caused it.

"And?" the wandering blacksmith waited a moment.

"Your mana moved differently at the same time as your hammer did!" Allison had seen it clearly. She looked like she was shaking from literal excitement.

"Then you can stay and watch for today. If you can forge a spring using your forging technique within the next three days, you can be my apprentice." The wandering blacksmith didn't hesitate to return to work while the rest of them were shocked.

Making springs was delicate work. A very hard challenge for a child let alone a newer blacksmith. But even more so, he had the added challenge of just using mana to make it happen while the hammer flattened it. That would mean that Allison would grow at a very fast pace.

"Can I practice here?"

"You can only do it here. Three days. Sleep here or leave here. It's your choice." the wandering blacksmith did not speak or look after this. He just returned to his experiments while the rest of the party looked stunned.

"So I guess he likes her enough to give her a chance." Gil just stood stunned as Allison moved toward the smallest hammer and felt it balanced in her hand. No one else had words for the odd situation they were in right this moment.

Chapter 1977 1977. A Simple Love

"Are you sure you want us to just go and eat without you?" Walker felt bad that the wandering blacksmith and the new apprentice, or at least who he believed would be the apprentice, were being left behind. But with a wave of his hand, the wandering blacksmith left them all with their answer.

Regardless, after working on small pieces here and there, along with polishing them, the wandering blacksmith had stopped everyone from working. It wasn't because they were doing anything wrong. It was simply because they did not have the skills nor the mind to be able to keep working on everything.

Creating a changing armor that would be able to transform just the way that Midnight did was a challenge. Luckily, this was not something new in the thoughts of the wandering blacksmith. For Midnight, yes it was new, but overall, it was not.

The other dragons had asked for armor. But they only wanted armor for their dragon forms. Therefore, the wandering blacksmith had not focused on creating armor that would change with them. But he had the idea.

Now that he was able to put it in to practical building theory, he was very focused. But he too needed to eat, not to mention Allison, who was only a child still. It was also a good chance to let her parents know, even though they would trust the heroes regardless. The party had managed to get hungry enough while they had been doing their own thing before even getting to the wandering blacksmith. Instead of just using whatever Walker had in his high spatial storage, he had to get something fresh.

This led Gil, Alice, Su, Midnight, and Onyx to leave in search of food to bring back. Meanwhile, the wandering blacksmith had discreetly taken the layered ring to begin his ideas for carving runes.

This had been an interesting challenge. Many blacksmiths worked together around the world. The dwarves as a perfect example.

They would work together making multiple parts for each of their golems. These dwarven golems had gears, steam aspects, and sometimes completely rune carved all parts. They made parts individually and would bring them together under a master blacksmith or whoever was the lead of this project. It was why they were able to do so much as a race when it came to innovation.

The challenge was because this was the case for the layered ring. Multiple very young and inexperienced blacksmiths had worked using various materials. This was due to the meanings behind the materials but regardless, it made things much harder.

The wandering blacksmith would be matching the mediums used with the runes so that there would not be any clashing. It made him think of what Walker asked him when it came to the eternal orb. Bringing multiple manas together.

But that was where the spark had come from. While everyone had left to get food, the wandering blacksmith was working. So was the newly found apprentice, Allison.

When the wandering blacksmith began to dig through tools, Allison had stopped. She was watching her idol look around almost. But before she could get the courage to speak up again, she saw him pull a very small bag. More specifically, a roll of leather that held tools.

Inside were a set of incredibly small engraving tools. He was clearly going to be using these on the ring. But when it came to what he was carving, he surprisingly began taking out swatches of fabric. These were from Lisa's shop.

The reason these had been the focus of his thoughts were the simple fact of how they came to be. Originating ideas from the forest elves and their sewn fabric runes was the main case. The ring would follow the traditions of the elves already while adding the bolstered effects of Genesis innovations.

From there, they would be carved differently for each layer in the ring before it was coated in a unique sealant.

The small mana gems that the wandering blacksmith had shaved from other mana gems could also be used. They would fill gaps so that the runes would hold mana themselves. An ideal way to make use of the space made for the runes and also extra products.

Seeing these things gathered was confusing but mystical to Allison. She could not comprehend because she lacked the knowledge. However, she could see that they were all important. It was why she began to learn. She saw the preparations to do something. The right tools. The right materials. The right control as the wandering blacksmith took one very small and delicate tool to do the job.

"Hello?" Walker was the one to speak. While they had left the forge, they had made their way toward the home of Allison. They had easily found it after stopping back with the instructor.

"Yes, what can we do for you?" The dwarven man that greeted them was adorned with a small shield and an ax. His armor was a matching version of the guards. Therefore, he was a guard himself.

"You must be Allison's father. We came to let you know that we took her from class to meet the wandering blacksmith. She had an interesting forging style and Gil wanted to introduce her to him. She is working for the next three days at a chance to be his first ever apprentice." Walker didn't cut corners or add formalities. He was right out in the open with what would happen.

"What! Honey! Get out of the garden and come over here!" the small family homes built along the residential areas had a small gardens. Many families had planted basic herbs and a few of their favorite things. It was nothing like a farmer could grow, but it was something everyone naturally took pride in.

When the woman rushed to them with a worried expression, Walker took note that she had scars on her face from what could have only been a dangerous escape from the demon lands years ago. Her horns were both cracked and showed the same history of dangers. However, the small mage staff that she had on her back proved she was somewhat of a user.

"Our daughter is testing to be THE wandering blacksmith's apprentice!" The worry melted away and an expression of true pride bloomed on her face.

"We were helping there and went to get food for them. If you would like to come along and drop it off with us, you are more than welcome. I am Gil, I had the apprentices at the crafting guild help me with a task. But I found she had a unique forging method that needed her to control mana and her body in perfect unison to create an ideal effect. A little more challenging than other techniques, but it could do more in the long run ." Gil seemed to ramble on before the two hugged him.

"We thought that our daughter would take years to figure it all out. She was always so sad after she couldn't use the system skills she had because everything broke. We even tried building a small home forge for her but she refused to use it since she thought that she would break it." The mother was the happiest. Naturally she had seen the sadness in her daughter's eyes upon so many failures at first.

"Well, Onyx and I were more surprised to meet a half dwarf and half demon child. Because of you two she is strong and she is able to use mana better than others. She is the perfect example of both of your bonds. A true example of Genesis too." Gil felt awkward after being hugged suddenly.

"Well why would we not come here? Huh? The first place where my wife can be seen as another person without being bothered? I hated that whenever we went to the city to see my family they were judgy. But now with all those heroes... Oh holy dragon flames in the forge, you're the heroes!"

What proceeded was a clear example of comical overreacting. The husband and wife pair had not realized immediately that their lovely daughter had managed to befriend the heroes that helped found Genesis!

By the time they calmed down, the party present heard the story of the wife escaping the demon lands and running for months. Afraid she had not left it at all. Sneaking through streams to hide and running in the dark to avoid certain monsters. When she found her husband, she tried to run, but he had stopped her in her tracks and forced her to treat the wounds on her body from her last daring escape.

Before long, he had found an accepting smaller village and settled down. As time had gone on, things were rough with judgmental stares about demons being evil or turning in to full fledged monsters. But then the heroes arrived and flipped everyone's perceptions on their heads. They created Genesis and offered a place for these two to bring their young daughter to life happy and free.

Besides making everyone listening feel as if they were hearing the greatest love story of all time, it also showed that these were the people that they fought for. That they wished to protect. Byt the time they made it to the forge, no one had it in their heart to interrupt the little blacksmith Allison watching the wandering blacksmith carve runes with the utmost care a master of their craft could use.



## Chapter 1978 1978. Next Day's Plans

1978 1978. Next Day's Plans While the family of three ate, the party did so as well. However, the wandering blacksmith had pulled Gil aside to show off the layered ring once it had been finished. As Gil looked at the enhanced polishing and artistic rune formations, he could only be amazed by it more. It was something that he had not even been able to imagine the real look of what he wanted to give to Alma on the fateful day of their union.

While some would say they were too young, the accomplishments, levels, and general fact that marriage was already acceptable at the age of sixteen. The entire party had been together for a decent length of time now. They had birthdays pass and go during their adventures. The seasons had changed around them, but they had moved to different continents, naturally, they had missed some things in that time.

Regardless, the runes that Gil saw were perfectly carved and even had small mana gem shards added to fill the space. Each had been polished and set ideally. He was more amazed to see that the manas being drawn in were different.

When Walker used the all around appraisal to check it, he easily grasped what was shocking Gil so much.

'Grand layered ring

This ring has multiple layers of unique materials that are incredibly important to the bond of two people. Only those two hold the emotional value in the materials this ring is made out of. However, the high class embellishments added improved the message along with the lower skilled forging of young blacksmiths.

The rune carvings on each material and layer were different due to the high class skills of the wandering blacksmith.

There as a small light mana gathering formation to draw in light that would be used in plant growth.

There is a small wind rune formation to allow air for plant growth.

There is a small water rune formation so that there can be water mana drawn in to assist plant growth.

There is a small earth rune formation to assist the earth mana needs of a growing plants.

These rune formations all intersect creating a partial natural rune formation. This is why fire mana was added to the mana gem shards that are embedded within this ring. Therefore, natural mana is slowly created in small amounts to allow the wearer to utilize a boosting effect to all plant based attacks, growth, and defenses that they use. It is the perfect match for someone that relies on plants to survive.'

Seeing that this had surpassed that of a normal ring, Walker was incredibly impressed. He could tell that Gil's smile would only grow as he understood more about the limits and uses that this ring had. Even the bits of wood used within the ring made everyone that looked at it feel that it might burst to life and change forms to become a great tree.

Regardless, when the wandering blacksmith and Gil had finished speaking, Walker was sure that there would be more to do in the future. The wandering blacksmith wanted to grasp the right forging techniques and methods to be able to create a changing armor. The shifting armor that Midnight would wear might be the future armor for all demi-humans and dragons.

The idea that such a large change might occur during his lifetime made Walker wonder just what they would look like.

For the youngest of dragons, it would mean that they were safer. They would be able to change their forms at a younger age as they grew up in Genesis and learned more. That was already something that everyone began to think about whether they believed it or not.

But when it came to the safety aspect, Walker knew that it would be when they went outside Genesis or when they challenged places like the coliseum that was having additional construction to be ready for a grand wedding in just a short time away.

The demi-humans were a challenge for this as well. Many of them had monster or animal traits. This was the reason for the shifting armor creation. They had to wear armor that could handle when they brought out the most in their skills.

For example, a wolf traisted demi-human could often have skills that brought out their claws or their teeth. Some of them even gained extra muscle or at most, could use a skill called werewolf which was a

transformation that got them confused for being a werewolf monster. During that, they would be unable to wear armor that they had before because it would harm their bodies because their bodies would be larger.

Therefore, if a shifting armor was made, they would be more protected in battle. This would make coliseum battles much harder and last longer. But more than that, it would mean that battles and wars coming up would be safer. Especially for those that gained strength by changing their forms in some ways,...

This could also be used for the tamer's guild. Many people would forget that they had some abilities to change their form as well. Clearly, they had not met tamer's like Elise who could mimic the form of a harpy because she was literally raised with Stella as a sister.

Many of the other tamers could meld with their beast or even share blood to change their forms. It was an entirely new realm of knowledge that Walker had not yet managed to understand. Mostly because there were many prerequisites to skills within the tamer's systems.

"This will be the exact thing that will make Alma cry or stunned in to silence. I know that's weird to say, but it's exactly what I think will happen." Gil felt that he had taken a massive weight off his shoulders by doing this. It was a major part of what he needed to do for him to fulfill a human contribution to the wedding.

"Walker, I will need your help with the other half of what I need. Part of the elf traditions for a bond like this means I need to live for a full day in the wilderness forests. What I am saying is, I need you to help me get to the forest from here and take all my stuff. I have to do it with my own ability." this came out of nowhere, but with what Gil was focused on, Walker understood.

Gil was looking to have everything he needed to properly marry Alma in his human traditions and also in the elven traditions. Things that would be hard for the average person, but since Gil was willing to stand for the elves as their hero who united their race yet again, it was just one step he had to take.

"Then I guess that means when we finish up here I will be busy. Su, Alice, can you two handle helping Alma? I know that there are usually a few things that a bride might need." Walker was going to tell Midnight too, but from what he could see, she was too focused on the future armor she may have.

"Brother, I will find Remey and ensure that she is ready to be present at such an occasion. I know that she has worked too hard the last few days." Onyx spoke up for something that Walker was going to rush back here to do anyways. Therefore, it was a very big help overall. It was something that the entire party worried over.

It wasn't that they knew Remey did not care. But with her walking a new and dangerous path alongside Ignus, there was some fear. Fear that she would be unable to be there and keep the mana in her body balanced. Especially with the fact that she was not at all a dragon.

"Then I guess we will leave you here for the time being. You will be fine?" Walker saw the wandering blacksmith smile.

"I will attend the event as well." This was proof that the wandering blacksmith valued them more than just his forging. He had a love for the forge and the discoveries he had made. But, he had found connections with the party at levels well above any others he had in life so far.

"And we will wait to hear how your potential apprentice does." Walker and the party gave a wave as they left. The family of three were having their own moment while they finished their food. But the wandering blacksmith did not frown when he looked over at Allison and her family. Instead, his eyes glinted with a small bit of interest. Just enough that it was sure that he would be keeping a careful eye on what she would be doing. The entire party had a feeling that the wandering blacksmith had more planned than he let on.

## Chapter 1979 1979. Beyond Others

Beyond Others The alchemy guild was abuzz with many conversations and events. But no place was in greater contrast than the largest lecture hall that had been built. It was dead silent. Even the whispers were quickly silenced by those nearby the offender. They even tried to breathe silently. Some feeling the effects of such actions as Onyx slithered in behind them.

The oldest alchemical masters had taken up positions to assist the two master alchemists that acted as two of the three masters of the alchemy guild. The third had ventured in to the elven forests to test newly awakened alchemists to see if they wished to join the guild. To find new herbs.

The older masters were prepared to offer any herb they were yelled at to det. They gladly followed even the smallest orders to uncork a mana potion or to open a vent for better air flow. It was amazing for the youngest apprentices who had just taken their first steps in to the world of alchemy to watch their high and mighty masters and instructors acting like this.

What they did not grasp yet, due to their ignorance, was that they were witnessing the creation of a grand potion. Something that was considered once in a lifetime. Something that is often found to be some rumor to attract business. Very few alchemists could make them. Even fewer succeeded more than once in their lives.

Since the alchemy guild was formed, the alchemists had been forced to gather their knowledge. Change their ways of extorting people of high priced potions. To lower and focus on their alchemy for real. Others finally had the chance to shine because their competition was not stomping on them.

But with the formation of the alchemy guild came promises. This event, was one such promise.

All that alchemical knowledge brought together could create amazing things. One of which was a grand potion potential. More than one in fact.

The guild masters that had sat atop this guild had shown their faith in the fact that the guild would produce grand potions within the future. Specifically, within a short time with their increasing power and knowledge. Therefore, this event was very important to the older alchemists.

Beyond that, the ones who had more knowledge and had a burning flame to learn more, had pushed their way to the front to stand. No one could sit, the hall was too full. Even some returned masters had come to watch and were helped up to see by others. It was amazing event which had been going on for over a full day so far.

Those that had passed out had been carried to areas where healers had been stationed in case the process went poorly and people were injured. But the healers quickly realized that people watching were their main job. They had to handle those without the energy of body to survive witnessing such a process.

Every now and then, someone would rush from the room. They had witnessed a technique that they struggled with. A technique that they had not used before and was somehow appearing simple. These small epiphanies were something that they would have taken a much longer time to reach.

What they did not realize, was that even Remey and the master alchemist were in a state where they were creating some ways to make their potion on the spot.

So many incredibly unique and challenging herbs were everywhere around them. Some needed to have the outer layer scrapped to get a single layer of their pulp. Other needed to be dried on the spot and reduced as their own potion to be added. Even more were requiring other herbs to counter the toxic qualities of the desired herbs.

This was so many techniques that only the alchemists with the highest amount of experience and knowledge were able to follow. But Remey, she had managed to watch the old master alchemist for years. She grew up watching him when she could barely understand what he did.

The old master alchemist had also been raised on alchemy. His other the one that literally shaped the alchemy building that he had become the master of in the first place. He had spent many hours of isolation that allowed him to learn the ins and outs of alchemy to a level where he had even finished potions while falling asleep. His body and mind knew alchemy as it was part of them as well.

The learning here was much higher than any lecture or spoke word could share at this level. Especially the flame control.

Remey was clearly using every ounce of focus to perfectly control every small wisp of flame. The fire mana was in the palm of her hand. Some flames even lit on her body only to be drawn away to the flames boiling the cauldron. Or they were snuffed out instantly.

When people saw that Remey was even using unique alchemy flames with a golden hue to process some herbs in her hands, they were shocked. Such flame control was only seen on very unique systems related to fire mages or other rare systems that were so rarely heard of, that most people would not know then anyways.

They forgot that Remey was an alchemical brawler. The only one in existence. A unique class that she had based on her desires and the world reaction to them. But a reminder that there was more beneath the surface was Ignus. He stood watching with eyes fully focused on Remey's every single movement.

While some only saw what was on the surface. Ignus knew that Remey was still settling the extremely potent fire mana within her heart as he was. The formation of a core of unique fire mana that was part of them was still a hard thing to manage since they had to allow their bodies and manas to revolve around it. It was like having a new heart that had to match the space of the current one. But it had to be controlled with intention at all times instead of a passive action.

This took a lot of mental and physical energy. Yet, Ignus was surprised that Remey was adapting at a seemingly faster pace than him. As if she had used her sheer will to make it work better. That she was driving herself beyond what a human should be able to do at all times.

That didn't erase his fears. He worried that she would be a second too slow to help stabilize the mana if the worst happened. He feared that it would be impossible to do that if such a thing were to happen.

Ignus noticed the very small shadow slither in to a very small serpent beside him. "I will let Sister Remey continue. She will need to be at the ceremony in a few days' time." Onyx saw Ignus move a finger slightly as if that was his form of a nod at the moment. "And I will remain here to witness her grand accomplishments. Families should be there to support each other." Onyx had learned his values from the party. Naturally he felt the same as they would.

This made Ignus seem to grin a little. But Onyx was unsure of this was just in his head or not. He was just thankful he could still speak to others mentally without causing any noise or bother for others.

A feeling of tension moved through the entire hall. When Onyx saw the herb being taken, he wonder if it was real or just some fake item. He managed to hear a whisper from someone before they were silenced. Luckily, he also saw that the item was in a container to display it. That was proof of the rarity. The display even had a description of the herb.

"The golden phoenix root. A fire type herb that can be dug up and planted in hot environments. It is extremely temperamental and will be extremely resistant to any flame or process used to attempt to take the unique fire mana and fire resistance properties from it. The oils will dissipate before they can be removed and processed." Onyx read this to Ignus who clearly had an idea of what it was.

Ignus had seen this growing in literal lava pools. An herb that was even tougher for dragons to eat. They would need to be at least a hundred years old to be able to handle the potent fire mana within it. Nowadays, he believed that his body will adjust think of it as a snack.

But Remey, was using flames to manipulate it already. Her flames slowly began to grow as her body was burning too. The armor and runes she wore to resist flames were struggling to keep up. Ignus had to maintain some of his own control to keep Remey safe at this point. It wasn't her flames running rampant, but her control of them that required this. She was going much further beyond what any alchemist had before.

## Chapter 1980 1980. Becoming Grand

Becoming Grand As the flames increased, the temperature within the large lecture hall became too much for many to handle. They were forced back away or even out of the room.

Only those that had withstood flames for a longer time were able to handle the heat. They had been fighting heat and gaining resistance to heat for many years. That was what came with alchemists that used fire. It was similar to the blacksmiths that worked in front of flames at all times.

However, there was something that many had noticed. The potion in the cauldron was rapidly reducing. But along with that, it was also resisting the influence of the old monster alchemist and of Remey.

Ignus's eyes focused more on this fact than he had focused on things before. Onyx could sense the worry that was coming from Ignus. Specifically because of the flames growing.

Since he and Remey had taken these steps to become dominator dragon together, Ignus could sense the unique flames that lived within her heart. They were growing and the mana was spreading even more through her.

His heart beat made him feel the same. When he had attempted to use flames and controlled them beyond what he was able to right this second, he had noticed that a burning feeling pulsed through him.

This was not a simple burn. Burning was hot and painful. A stinging that went deeper. However, this burning was like an abrasive acid melting through something. People could even compare it to feeling something white hot melt through their skin. Intense pain that rivaled what many people would be able to handle.

Because of Ignus's understanding, he was ready to leap in. but what stopped him was Remey. She was still working. She was overexerting herself to force this potion to break the limit of the high potions that she had made before. Desiring this to take that step and break that ceiling was her entire focus.

Due to this, she did not worry whatsoever when it came to the fact that her body's fire resistance was no longer keeping up to the same level. She had not fully incorporated the unique new existence that she was yet. She was still more human than anything. Therefore, she still had some weakness to fire, even though it was a very hard to show damage from flames at all.



Nothing ceased though. Remey continued to increase the heat. She had to be able to condense all the high value herbs they had added. Some had fire resistance that was becoming much stronger due to being mixed properly. This meant that Remey had to bring the heat higher to remove impurities. Even the tiniest impurity would ruin the batch.

The impurities were what could force the potion to be in greater volume. All the added liquid of whatever kind could make the potion had side effects. Make the potion fail overall. Or even make the potion just a high potion that was made with expensive herbs.

Some of the herbs used might not get found for many years. Even lifetimes for some races!

With a grunt, Remey pushed for more control. The result was a large increase in steam coming from the cauldron. Even as it cracked, the cauldron did not release the liquid within. It had been made with multiple layers of runes and of metals. This allowed it to survive this process while it would be completely useless afterwards.

Many of the alchemy guild members wept when they heard the cost of a cauldron that would be considered as a one time use item. However, they also felt extreme jealousy because they knew that such a high quality cauldron was more than what they might ever be able to see in a lifetime, let alone use.

"I need to move-"

"No you don't. They are fine." Ignus had started to tell Onyx that he would help Remey. The flames had gone out of control in his eyes. He could even feel the chaotic manas within Remey's heart because his hummed in response. They were linked very deeply now.

Yet, with Onyx taking a larger size to halt Ignus enough that Ignus looked more carefully, he realized that he did not need to move at all.

"Really? You are letting it control you. I wanted to complete the best potion of my life with my daughter before I retired and just gave lectures. But you tried to make this old man fail by putting it all on yourself?"

The old master alchemist reached a hand out and grabbed Remey's. His skin burned because he could in no way handle the heat of flames he would never be able to resist or control. However, Remey felt his touch and the calming voice that had spoken to him when she was the worst off.

Many days when she feared not to have the medicine for the other young orphans she had taken charge of, this same voice had come to her rescue. Talked her in to sleeping within an alchemy lab since she had gone days without so much of a nap. Or when she had cried herself in to a hoarse fear. Even when she had threatened to fight the world itself because she wanted to be an alchemist, the old master alchemist had used this tone.

In an instant, the flames seemed to become peaceful and elegant. They perfectly wrapped the cauldron as the liquid within condensed in to a single vial's worth of potion. Without hesitating, Remey finished the process and poured the liquid in to a high class vial with many runes covering it.

Those that had stayed in the room rushed to grab appraisal scrolls so that they could see what had been accomplished. Only two people other than the master alchemist and Remey noticed that Remey had tears streaming down her face.

"You got hurt too badly." Remey's voice was barely a whisper. She feared she had just harmed the one person she valued over everyone else so badly that he may not ever do what he loved again.

"Hurt? This was just the risk I took making a grand potion with you. What's wrong with you? Too happy to have helped me reach my dream before I retired from making potions?"

The two could only share this moment were Ignus and Onyx who saw this all happen. But it was broken away in seconds as ten healers rushed in and grabbed the old master alchemist to begin healing him with everything they had. Healing potions included.

"Really, so dramatic. I barely can use these hands anymore. Old age does that to you." The old master alchemist still did not show a single ounce of pain. Just unbreakable pride when he looked over at Remet.

Meanwhile, everyone else was shocked by what they were learning. The multiple appraisals of the created potion had broken history. It had done things that they had yet to record. Even amongst other grand potions, this was better than all currently written in the books they spent years studying.

'Grand fire affinity potion

This potion greatly puts the other fire affinity potions to shame. Not only is it guaranteed to increase the rate of understanding when learning fire mana, it does so by a massive amount. Those with the weakest of fire affinities will have a great chance of taking extreme leaps in understanding.

Those with no fire resistance can also gain a high fire resistance after consuming this potion.

The effects of this potion last for a full day which is greater than every other affinity potion ever created.

The shelf life of this potion is fifty years which greatly outdoes every affinity potion ever created.

This is a joint effort between two alchemists that consider one another family. Their combined fire control, usage of unique fire mana, and incredible knowledge allowed this to be possible. Because of this, multiple theories of grand potions have been proved.'

This was the recorded appraisal that every scroll came up with. Nothing less and nothing more. But no single appraisal of any potion had been like that. The people that had been forced out due to heat ran in to hear every word. They were almost worshiping this occurrence.

Meanwhile, Ignus stood carefully nearby the potion that had been set on a side table. He made a mental promise to guard it until both the old master alchemist and Remey were prepared to decide what to do with it. He did not need to speak to sense that Remey had taken a very important step in solidifying the mana within her body.

"Now that was something I can tell the younger serpents later. They will be amazed." Onyx felt that he was floating on a cloud while seeing everything. He wished he could have teleported the entire party here to feel what he had.