

Master 2011

Chapter 2011 2011. Charity

Alice had a brilliant smile. One that radiated more than just her joy. It radiated a feeling of calm and peace. One that was much stronger than the aura had been around her before. Even the mana around her seemed to be allowing those nearby to feel a better calm, to feel more well rested.

alice didn't want a single second to share the information about the changes she had gained because she gained a title. While the rest of the group were unique in their own way and had gained hero titles and more, Alice had very few real titles. She had gained her first major title that not a single person had ever had that anyone knew of. All because the manas of the world had been unbalanced.

'Virtue title of Charity

This title is given to someone born and raised in charity. Their life was started out of the goodness within someone's heart. Allowing them to grow and truly see the best in the world.

Every step of life has been given with charity. Kindness that was allowed to be planted and taught step by step. As time went on, this charity only blossomed in to a beautiful expression of true caring for every soul.

The injured were healed. The suffering was counseled. The lost were found. Due to fully showcasing these things in every aspect, even to the extreme, this title is well deserved.

Every healing skill will be massively boosted to help those in need. The distance of healing skills will be expanded. The distances and strengths of buffing skills will be greatly improved. The more kindness and desire to help behind them, the more this boost will grow.

Due to the class being in relationship to healing and protection, the unique system, charitable songstress of the masses had been created.

This class perfectly works with the charity virtue title. Allowing the light affinity skills to be greatly boosted with every song sung. Every word can hold potent light healing mana, defensive mana, and more.

The only drawbacks of this title are that attacking skills and songs will be greatly weakened. They are not in line with what charity is based and grown on. Harming others is something that should only occur to face great evil and the title will be removed if used in any other way...'

Walker and the others were amazed that Alice had gained this title. She was someone that had been left on the doorstep of the cathedral as a child. Mostly because of her having light mana move with every sound or word she made.

This had been a major start for her life. Most people would have left her because she would have struggled to grow. And she had. The high priest had been the one to tear his hair out as he guided her with this immense trouble.

Every time she used her mana, she would drain herself to nothing. Eventually, she learned to hold herself back. Eventually, she learned to sing properly. Eventually, she had some control.

However, things had not changed until Walker had met her. She had gained an item from the elves that helped her with the mana that bled out of every word she spoke. But she had the habit of always being silent now.

Even when she could not speak or sing, Alice had seen and grown up with healers and the high priests' knowledge to learn from. She had always found ways to prepare and games to help those in need. Help the elderly with their joint pains. Help the greatly injured. Even help those who could do nothing but pass away regardless of the treatments do so in peace and warmth.

All of this was the story of her life. Someone that truly represented the charity of what should be a healer. What should be a saint.

"That's not everything?" Walker had been ready to tell her how amazing it was that her healing and buffing songs were so much better. How it was amazing that she had gained a new unique system too. But then Alice showed everyone that she had more to show off. That she had a second title.

'Saintess of song

Due to the constant focus on singing and using it to defend, buff, and heal, the title saintess of song has been awarded. The songs of the world should be to tell stories and truly warm the world, not harm. As one that lives this and places all emotions within song, the title saintess of song was earned and given by the word.

The additional relationship with the virtue title of charity also influenced this title. Instead of just boosting affinity to light mana and the skills related to song, this will also affect the strength of healing from song related skills. The strength of buffs. The strength of mana that gathers for songs.

There is also a better ability to teach those with applicable skills, how to sing and boost healing slightly. How to sing in general. Other Musical related systems will also be influenced and enlightened upon hearing the songs from this title holder...'

The second title that Alice had gained just pushed her up another level. She was not the best of the best beyond what she had been before. A massive leap in strength when it came to songs and whaling as a whole. No one would be able to stand up to this level now.

From now on, Alice was a saintess of song. Someone that could represent the entirety of the world when it came to charity and healing. So much so that no one had the words right now to say what they thought.

Yes there were some drawbacks when it came to the title of charity. If Alice attacked and used her strengths for wrong, she would lose the title. But this was better than the sin titles that had come with major drawbacks because of the ways that the titles worked. One of the people affected by the titles had even become an immortal without the ability to control themselves for so many years on end. They had even been sealed away in prison of their own making because of this.

Yet, the virtue titles appeared to be something that would only go away if they were betrayed. If the title that they were was fight against and forsaken. Something that other titles could also be affected by.

The hero titles could be easily lost if the party betrayed themselves and were acting as villains. They had to act as heroes now. Not that this was hard because they had gone above and beyond what they should to protect others. Ingrained in their beings so much so.

"You deserve this title. Your voice shows the true emotions and desires that are within light mana. Not to harm, but to nurture the world as a whole. To bring hope and blossom the beauty of life itself." Rise spoke very softly. She wasn't caring that anyone else heard her. Just Alice.

While the rest of the party realized that Rise might have a connection with Su, they had not expected that it was also with Alice. They had not realized that Rise had focused so much on how Alice had grown and how Alice acted.

But as a light dominator dragon, Rise was the closest to light elemental mana than anyone else was. She had been able to feel the purity in the light mana even before that. The mana was naturally drawn to Alice at all times. She had seen how Alice respected the light and allowed it to work to neuter others.

The buffs were always enough to help and even at the cost of what Alice would feel harmed or weak, Alice had used the skills she had to help. This was what true respect had grown in her. What a healer should be. One that had ignored all negativity and grown their strength.

"Does that mean we have to call you Charity now? I like Alice better." Remey questioned if they had to do what the sin title holders did. Change the names to line up with the major title that was held.

"Some people may call you that now. The saintess of Charity. That would make many realize that you are powerful and also there to help.. But I believe that you can go by both. It would be a good nickname." Su's thoughts were also simple in this matter.

"Charity or Alice. I like them both. Congratulations again on becoming very powerful and showing the world the reasons that you have to grow that powerful. Now you can help many more people." Walker hugged Alice, bringing a scarlet bloom to her cheeks. She was tired from the loss of mana due to the battle and so was Walker. But everyone felt that their hearts were even more full than before.

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Chapter 2012 2012. Change Of Slime

While the party and the royal dragons were speaking about everything that had just happened, many of the angel leaders had gathered. They had followed the plans as they had been told and they had not been prepared to see so many Genesis forces hiding in the shadows.

While surprised, they realized that this had been the plan to start with. They had been impressed that they had been kept in the dark but also been able to play their own roles perfectly.

Because they had fought the slimes and had been on edge, they had managed to push back the weaker slime enough that the party appeared to be fighting a head on battle with the lord slimes as a target.

This meant that the sin title of Envy had been perfectly able to see that the party was not backed by many other forces right then and there. It had played a part in baiting out the strongest of these monsters the angels had begun fighting.

But where the leader of the angel groups had seen a greater difference was in the manas.

They had heard and some had seen the strengths that the angels had in comparison to the Genesis forces. They had believed that they had managed to grow a lot because of how they were coming together and fixing the past mistakes of their people. But they were wrong on that.

The Genesis forces were clearly more powerful than they had ever imagined so much so that they are sure that the angels had generations to go before catching up. Not that they didn't remember to consider that angels were already going toward Genesis to live and learn there.

That meant that the angels would grow faster than any of these current leaders realized.

When they eventually got over their conference, they had split up their forces. While the nature dragon domain skill had released an immense amount of natural mana created as all the dragons put their manas together, it had not cleaned up all the damage or the slimes still living.

Ebon had also been brought out with his brilliant slime partner. He was a demon and a slime breeder. Some of the angels looked at him with wary eyes. Yet, as they realized he was a young child and had stars in his eyes while looking at the party, they understood.

Ebon was learning from literal heroes. People who stood at the top when it came to how one should act. How one should strive to be when it comes to the good of the world. If he was learning these things, then it was only a matter of time before the slimes were out of the right path as well.

With a slime breeder on their side, the angels understood one very good thing. The slimes that plagued this area would eventually work for and with them.

The slimes could be taken and put in ideal environments. The decaying slimes could be trained to help break down waste and allow for better fertilization of the farm fields. This could boost crops by a huge margin. Ensuring that every single one of the people in this alliance would be fed. This would also give way to new slimes that might be more specialized in doing that.

The acid slimes that had worked against the dwarves also had a chance to shine. They could now work with the dwarves.

While many people would wonder why an acidic slime body would be good for this, they would realize that their opinions were wrong. They would believe that the acid slimes would just melt the metals and ores. That it would ruin everything.

This was not correct in a controlled manner.

The acid slimes could be trained to work with the dwarves in the forging process. They could use the acids that grow in their bodies to melt the improper portions of metal. To remove the incongruities within an alloy. It would refine the metals as a whole making a much better overall product on the very end. A great chance to change techniques and refine certain processes too.

Then it came to fire slimes, who even had to ask. Imagine the benefits of heating in the winter. a slime that literally radiated heat and could absorb the more intense flames from forges? This would just bring in even more safety for those in villages or in the cities that were built. Not to mention those that could bring these slimes in to dangerous wilderness areas full of ice monsters that would freeze anything. It could be a massive deterrent and safety net.

This could go on and on. The boons of earth slimes would be everywhere in construction. Especially with how fast these places would be rebuilt or be built anew. The wind slimes were something that the party

had not even encountered. Yet envy had them somewhere and they might still be a few roaming the area. A newer slime that not many people had information about due to their rarity.

Ebon was just a kid in a candy shop now. He had his own bodyguards as well. They were mostly the dragonkin that Mordant had led with him. This was because they had been the ones to better hide Ebon in the shadows with their skills. Meanwhile, Ebon was just happy to be able to help and learn more throughout this entire event.

"I wonder who else will get the sin and the virtue titles. They were going to show up more and more. I don't think that we need to worry but it should be something that we keep ourselves looking for. They might be able to help a lot." Su's thoughts on this were the same as Walker's

"As much as I want to say that the sin titles will always be evil, we have to wipe that thought away before it spreads. Even in Genesis, people already think that the sin title holders are evil to begin with. But they might be different titles as time goes on. Imagine greed as the person in charge of money for a business. They could make that business thrive instead of other things."

Walker's hope was that they would all be able to see the titles change. It was already evident that the titles were different based on treason the title was awarded and the person it is given to. The world seemed to be allowing different strengths and effects for those that outshines others too.

It was easy to understand that the titles might also be different in this age where the manas were becoming more balanced.

"Before we worry about all that, why is the floating corrupted city just staying there now?" Gil had noticed that the extremely slow movements of the corrupted floating city had halted. It had been moving slowly but surely in to the oceans. In to the unknown that was very hard to travel. Even with the ships, the party knew following the corrupted city would be an immense task.

"Well, we just defeated a monster holding the title of Envy. it might be that they are watching us and debating to attack." Remey flexed at this. Her knuckles cracking as she wished to charge right then and there to defeat the city and the remaining monsters within.

"I think that it is mostly there because Envy left. Even with him defeated, the remaining sin title holder, Sloth, and the demon king are keeping an eye on us to see if we attack them next." Walker heard this from his left. Current had changed a little as he adapted. His hair was long and his figure more elegant like a stream or brook made in to a dragon like humanoid.

Regardless, Current was right. This would make the most sense. It was a leader and the strongest of the sin title holders deciding what to do with this occurrence.

"They didn't care about one another. We already saw how the other sin titles were used as ways to attack and ignore. They never backed one another up or worked together. They just all attacked in their own ways while the demon king and one or two of them worked together." Gil scoffed at them. It was a poor way to make their goals met. Leaving behind those that had helped them along at every single turn.

"Then we should not live up to their standards. We will keep gathering our strengths. We are nearly ready for a proper fight against that floating city. I just have no idea what will happen and what the goal of the demon king is." Walker had a lot on his mind as he looked over the battlefield and some of the damage that remained. He wanted to ensure this was not what the whole world looked like one day

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Chapter 2014 2014. Ahead Again

"It's moving a lot faster now, but it's also dropping corrupted undead monsters in to the water. Why would it be doing that!?" Walker spoke out loud. He was mostly asking himself since he knew that there were no answers. Nothing that had happened felt that it made any sense. The entire plan that was somehow unfolding at the end of the day, did not seem to have an end. Everything had been down to get power and knowledge. The demon king had literally been gathering unique strength and sending his underlings as pawns to cause more issues to gain what he needed. This made some sense, but the end goal was still shrouded in a lot of mystery. Yet, as the party watched, the undead monsters were various. They were not just the angels. They saw larger and smaller monsters. Some that had clearly been taken from the ground since they were just skeletal undead monsters. But others, were as if they had just been killed recently. "I can see acid and decaying slime marks on a lot of the bodies. I think that Envy was attacking this area more for the monsters around than what we thought. They aren't just attacking here for the fact that they wanted to cause trouble." with Gi's sharp eyes, he was gathering more information just from this distance. Walker couldn't even see that many details and he was trying with all his might. "Then what would he need them for, the water is not a place for them." Rise's hateful tone was not directed at the question but the very fact that she had to ask why an evil monster such as this demon king would be literally creating corrupted undead just to get rid of them. "There are more monsters here. Whatever the reason for the actions, there is reason for the location." Current's voice was loud enough for everyone to hear at once. But he was right. The more that everyone thought about

the land they ran over, the more it made sense. The monsters in the forests would come nearby the marsh lands because this was the last place where various streams flowed for fresh water to drink. It was also a great place where many monsters thrived due to the cross of environments between fresh and salt water. Not to mention that even more monsters would come along the beaches before the oceans. It was a massive ecosystem full of many monsters that would roam various areas. That way, the variety and a large number of monsters could be hunted. Some that might not even have been named or discovered yet. But here, the demon king appeared to be mocking everyone. Seemed to be using the slaughter of hundreds if not thousands of monsters to throw in their face that envy and caused a lot of damage before he was stopped. A big middle finger to their faces. "Damn this stupid monster. We can beat it now!" Remey felt she might lose control of her mana. It was clear that she was struggling to hold it in as Ignus approached her side more to assist. He knew the massive dangers that came if Remey were to exhaust all her mana. She could not damage more than her body, she could damage her soul by having this happen. It was just who she was now. "Then this is a potential attack on our minds. We will have to deal with the undead corrupted monsters washing up on shore. They would cause massive amounts of damage. Let alone the massive risk of monsters in the oceans ate them and created a harder to defeat undead monster group." Su's fears were greater. If the demon king and his last sin title holder created more of the corrupted undead and used the ocean to hide them, then they would just multiply within the ocean. Every single continent and island would be surrounded around the world. Only teleportation rune formations could sense people from other places. And that meant that there had to be those formations everywhere. But worse off, the isolated places could be attacked from the ocean constantly.

Then there was the potential that the lakes, streams, rivers and other bodies of water would become the same. Next thing, the skies would be full of avian monsters that fed from the bodies of water. It all got worse if one were to think about it. "I need to do something. Brother, can we fly there now?" Onyx and Midnight had caught back up and listened in on this theory for Su. it was worse in their minds since they feared that the dragon hatchlings and little serpents could get caught up in this too. They truly wished to protect them as much as possible. "Wait!" Walker shouted and everyone stopped running. He even used wind mana to send his voice to the nearby angel forces charging ahead to see what was happening and handle more dangers. He saw that something appeared to be happening to the water where the monsters fell. Walker saw that the waters of the ocean were retreating. He then realized that every single one of the undead chaotic monsters dropping had been making themselves in to a wall holding back water. It was barbaric and disgusting, but it was happening. Some used their larger size to tear apart others and force their pieces to plug cracks. But Walker felt that he had seen a similar creation. A wall of skeletons that had been made. "It's using the same barriers that the immortal king used in his undead ruins." Walker spoke softly, but he felt shivers. This had been the first dangerous place they had gone. The entire party remembered this evil place. A prison made by cruel being attempting to find immortality but because an elder lich trapped in a tower. The undead only able to go so far to be his eyes and ears in the world. Unable to make an army since the adventurers constantly cleared out areas of the entire undead ruins. "We already had a theory of the demon king's origin. Right? The immortal king told us a story." Walker felt this coming back to him. They had done too much the entire time that they had been adventuring and becoming heroes. They had all forgotten the fear and knowledge they learned from this villain that they had all survived meeting. "So that means, the

demon king is using other skills and spells that came from even the being that it hates the most and leaves there to torture it?" Remey knew she was telling the truth as she grew more concerned for what was happening. "And you all remember the echidna island that was sinking because there wasn't solid stone below it? Well, what if like that island, another was fallen beneath the waters too? What if there were ruins and an ancient looking castle on that massive island that was now being brought back to the open air." Everyone knew this was way too specific. They also realized that Gil was talking about what he and Walker could see. Because they were seeing the very thing he described rise due to massive amounts of corrupted undead monsters using themselves as a base to raise this island. Multiple angel's bodies, from the floating ruined city originally, moved as well. Channeling corrupted manas to bring it up on a stable ground. "There are other ruins we do not and the angels did not know about. And we know that there might be more dangerous and ancient monster bodies in there. We need to go. Now." Walker said this with a lot of worry building. An entire ruin had just begun to resurface. One none of them knew about. No angels alive know of them. Yet, here they were. Witnessing it happen. "Water is going to flood this area for at least a full day. We need to retreat the forces." Current sense the shifting water manas and understood that there was a major issue with this all happening. "The water is displaced and will make waves. Larger waves than we saw even when we were in those ships." Everyone understood this as Su spoke her mind out loud. Her realization made the air feel double as heavy. It also spurred Walker to begin shouting orders to every angel that could hear him. Every single force nearby that could hear him. They all needed to retreat, now!

The sounds of water rushing and becoming waves was met by the cracking and rumbling of earth. Yet another sign that nothing good was happening whatsoever. They had to move faster. They had to ensure that no one would be dragged out in the unforgiving ocean right now. Then they could figure out their next move. The demon king was again at an advantage.

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Chapter 2013 2013. Not Done Yet

Since there was no movement in the area with the demon king and the floating corrupted city, this allowed everyone to begin moving sooner than later. Reports about the battle with Envy had already gone out to Genesis and the angel's leaders. This in turn had brought information back to the party. There were already celebrations and even some people saying that it would be best to push everyone back toward the floating city to eliminate it. What that would do, would surely be a failure. Those people were not those that were taking the front lines. They Were the inexperienced or the desk warriors. Those who just wanted to get rid of a problem on paper and had no idea how to handle the physical side of the issue. Let alone the al side. Luckily, plenty of people were around to deal with those kinds of people. Many of the leaders of each race were already acting and explaining the future goals. It was definitely an issue that the corrupted mana was making more appearances. More monsters were appearing that were being pushed to the brink of running berzerk because of the corrupted mana. Worse yet, the elves within the forests had been exploring their territories yet again. This was the same as the other more distant elves who had been discovering mutated plants that had no real ability to help anyone due to the corrupted manas that made them that way. Just here alone, Walker had spotted

places where the angels had been forced to burn up and dig out spots of the marsh lands as they had come to fight the slimes. This was due to the different plants that had been corrupted with manas running wild. It made him understand the growing severity of this issue. "Are we going to move right on, or can we take a break?" out of everyone to wonder this, it was Remey. From what Walker could see, the new state that her body was in was much more demanding than what any of them had realized. The royal dragons had been the ones to expend the majority of their manas. While the others had been more of a physical drawback. However, Remey relied on densely purified fire mana more than most people or even the spirit race did. This was to nourish her soul and body that were now on soul the same thing. Without the right sustenance, anyone or anything would suffer. To create the uniquely potent flames around her in battle, Remey had to focus on using a lot of the fire mana that lived within the core of her being now. In doing so, it left her weaker. Remey had trained her body alongside everyone. She had managed to become much stronger because of that. She was definitely one of the most powerful, physically that is, people in all of Genesis. But where Remey failed, was her mana and general ability to control and condense it. She had an extremely high ability to use it because of her alchemy side of things. But she had always had to focus on the physical side of her strength due to being a brawler and now an alchemical brawler. Fighting fist to face was her focus for a very long time. She ended to catch up to Walker in her understanding and gathering of manas. At the very least, just improve the way that she did. That also raised another question. Now that Remey was a unique form and race that didn't normally exist within the world where they were, how would that affect her. She would obviously need more condensed and unique fire manas like the elemental fire planes had. None of which were here. It was also a wonder of what else she might need in relation to that. She might have to do different things or need things that people couldn't even know here in the world that were cut off from the elemental planes due to not having proper balances in mana for so many years that it was impossible to count. "I will help you for the time being. My dragonkin soldiers are preparing for the battle ahead of us. They are on their way along with the elders that are not involved with creating our new village." Ignus spoke up before Walker could snap out of his own mind. His worries were similar to Walker's anyways, especially when he could understand the feeling of being low of manas right now. "I am surprised that you can stand. I fired plenty of arrows, but my mana is recovering naturally much faster now than it did before. But you channeled all of that mana and even used that nature dragon domain skill." From the way that Gil was speaking, there was a major question whether or not Walker should be awake now. "Fleur was helping me out, but I think that there is more to it. You all know that our bodies are altered by mana and too many other aspects to count, right? Well, Midnight and Onyx are bonded with me. And I am the nature dragon here, even if I am technically human. I also let various manas flow around and through me at all times. I really think that has a lot to do with it." Since Walker didn't actually have a better answer than this, he had to just say it. He knew well that everyone would understand this. But he also wanted to wonder a little longer what was going on with him.

Normally, he would feel tired or more strained. He had felt that way immediately after the nature dragon domain ended, but he also had a very quick recovery. The nature dragon domain skill had been focused on healing, balance of manas, and overall buffing. Therefore, it could have been the reason. But for him, he wondered if there was more to it. Things he didn't notice. "Before we move back to the angel's city, we should begin setting up a major base in the forest nearby. It will allow us more options than right here." Su was staying focused while the others appeared to be a little distracted. This also

managed to get the rest of the royal dragon's attention since they were very focused on the fact that they were all low of manas. They couldn't do much but physically fight right now, not that it was anything to laugh at. As the order was passed around, many of the Genesis forces began to bring more information back to the party. They were realizing that the area that the slimes had spread was larger than they had expected. "We need to start sending out more forces to heal the land that was damaged. We can rely on the elves and some of the farmers that are helping the smaller angel villages. It will be temporary to take them from there, but we can save the marsh lands that were broken because of this attack." Walker made the executive call on this. It was the best shot they had. There was a fear that a more major battle would happen here. The floating corrupted city could be the center of a major battle that caused much more destruction. "That will be my goal then, I will let you set up the camp and I will start on that. I have a few elves that have been learning the high elven dagger skills with me. They might be able to learn a bit as I cut away the corrupted plants we find with the naturally attracted natural mana." Gil didn't even wait a moment for this. He was off. But that was the same for Alice who was off checking injuries right now. "Brother, sister and I will see what we can help with. The little serpents that came with us are joining in the search for damaged areas. They have been helping already and I just spoke with one that asked for more help organizing his siblings." Walker nodded as he watched Midnight and Onyx head away as well. It would have been a smooth process, if not for the fact that at that moment, a wave of corrupted mana left the corrupted floating city. This was matched by a guttural roar from the corrupted undead monster that was once parts of a dragon and a wyvern king. Every single person nearby saw the massive city begin to shift. The undead monster being the reason that it appeared to be pushing out in to the open ocean again. "They weren't moving because they were waiting for Envy, but I also think that they made their forces stronger." Walker spoke with grim tones. He could see different monsters now effected by corrupted mana. Undead monsters. ...

Chapter 2015 2015. Ruin Island

The royal dragons took the natural dominator dragon forms. Current stopping and moving toward the water. The remaining water mana he had to spare being used to stop as much of the massive waves being pushed towards the land as possible. The sheer amount of water displaced as a skeletal corrupted undead wall was made and used to raise some unknown ruins from the ocean was too much to grasp on to. There was so much wrong with what was happening. But the party couldn't worry about the horrendous act of killing every monster possible to use as fodder for this one skill. They had to help evacuate the forces here. That was why the royal dragons had used their wings to take to the sky. They deftly scooped up groups of those that could not easily move. Thai was focused on the injured specifically. They could not move due to their burns, decay affected body parts, or other damages. They had to be healed still and this sudden wall of moving water was not going to help them whatsoever. Walker used his mana to step in to the air, he focused on finding Ebon and helped him move. He wanted to ensure that the newest slime breeder and the youngest on this battlefield was not harmed. He had made promises to protect him. He would not allow Ebon to be harmed. Some of those that had the ability, used the shadows or used buffing skills to rush away. This was the best option. Others, used their natural skills to create defenses. Earth walls to block water in a similar way that Current was holding back some of the first waves from hitting as hard. While it was just a small way to slow the water flowing at them, the earth walls made by mages had immensely helped. But it had also shown off the damage being done. The marsh lands were already damaged from the slimes that envy had sent down. So much

so that even Walker's natural dragon domain had not done enough to save it all. Yet here they were, being bombarded by a lot of force. Grasses were torn up and entire channels of naturally flowing water were carved out deeper than they should be. Hiding monsters were torn up from their homes and ended up not surviving in seconds because they couldn't handle the water pressure and salt water. It was terrible and not even the end. Once the water hit the forest, the trees that did not normally experience anything like this were broken. Many toppled or shattered at their base. Those that were uprooted were mostly the saplings. The future of this forest as time would have gone on. This was going to leave scars on the land for generations to come. Even if the living races forgot about it, nature would show evidence of it all. It took well over a lifetime for nature to recover from damage that should not have been done in the first place. That would just be evident to anyone that looked. However, as the majority of Genesis forces and angel forces escaped, there was a profound stressful silence that came as the roaring water receded. It would not be a quick thing, but it would be a hard thing to fully grasp. "Get as many of the leaders here that we can. We are preparing to attack as soon as possible." Walker did not skip a beat as he placed Ebon down more in to the forest where the water could not reach. He ordered a group of the darkness affinity dragonkin to make their way toward the elemental rune teleportation formation. They would be gathering those that could communicate the current situation. "I already asked some of them to begin searching for any records of the ruins. I told them to speak with the people that were exploring the angel's ruins nearby and the demon city where the demon king was. That huge library might have knowledge about this place." Gil had through well ahead of Walker. He had been sure to sent this message as soon as he could. Meanwhile, multiple elves had already begun to record what they could so that they could consult with angels from the area. They wanted to ensure that they put nature first. Recovering this area would be a major endeavor that would take years. The more work done on it, the better. It was easy to already feel the chaotic manas taking effect here since the corrupted undead had been the cause of this event. It had spread small amounts of the corrupted manas within the water and waves that came. Therefore, causing more of the chaotic mana to spread all over this area in general. "We need to worry more about what we might face now that the water is all messed up. The entire population of aquatic monsters will want to come looking for food, or for what caused the disturbance. We will end the merfolk warriors. Scylla would also be the best option." Su's analysis was smart. They could rely on both of these groups to handle the dangers that would come up here. "Then we should also see if we can move the ships that are still on the angel's shores. They can come this way and manage to fight or defend our forces from anything that might come from the waters." Walker was issuing these orders quickly. The royal dragons landing and returning to the party were also sharing this with their dragonkin. Along with issuing their own orders. A bright light started to gather and a small snow of light fell over a large area. Alice's song began to be heard as she was taking advantage of her new titles along with new system. She wanted to heal all of those that needed it as much as she could while she had mana to spare. She was completely ignoring the fact that she was already low on mana due to the buffs she gave while everyone fought Envy. When Walker saw Midnight and Onyx, he saw that Midnight was covered in water. She had made it to the edge because she was helping bring some of the injured with her. Onyx was the very same. They had ended up going toward the injured after dealing with some of their own worries. But when the water had come, the waves had caused Midnight to be hit. Luckily, she was far enough away and with everyone working against the waves, she was just splashed. The same with Onyx. but the two were still clearly on edge because they had never seen waves that large. And they knew of the reason they appeared. "Don't worry, we are preparing now. They did this all on purpose. They killed off monsters and ignored that envy was

defeated. We just happened to show up after they were ready to take their next step. Now they used those corrupted undead monsters as a wall to raise a sunken island village." Walker looked toward where the water had hit the forest and began to step back in to the air. He took to the sky to see the damage, but also to see what they had to deal with. The large island was not truly an island. It appeared to have been something intentionally sunk. He could tell from the marked towers. They Were in better condition and appeared damaged now. Towers that were a white colored stone compared to the dark gray and black stones the smaller buildings and the large castle were made of. The oddly well kept together buildings and castle. While he could not use the all around appraisal due to the distance, Walker had a bad feeling. The ruins that had been brought up to the air for the first time in an unknown number of years just radiated danger. Made him feel that there were terrible things waiting within. That if they did not send an army sooner than later, that this would prove to be an even worse event than the slimes being released earlier. "The wyverns are on their way now. They will maintain a flight area around the marsh lands and forest to scare monsters away. They have orders from their queen." Terron had returned at this moment. He had been able to call on the younger wyverns who were still adapting to their newfound existence as a race. "That's a good idea. We can't have them getting more corrupted monsters for their army. Or for those walls." Walker returned with some descriptions but had heard Terron clearly since his hearing was sharp enough. But he still felt that things were getting worse by the second. His instincts were screaming at him that those bruins were supposed to be buried and never seen again. ...

Chapter 2016 2016. An Ancient Threat

the injuries from the water flooding parts of the marshlands and the forests were not small. Many people had been left behind in the rush to escape. Even with mages and the royal dragons working their hardest, there had been some people who could not be seen or caught up to. This was a reality that the party slowly gained reports on. It hurt them immensely to know that this was the case. But they had lacked the mana to change that. Stopping the entire wall of water would have been impossible unless they had the mana. Some people were wondering why the royal dragons had been unable to use their manas, but Current was the only one with the ability. He was currently passed out after using all his remaining mana to stop some of the largest waves. If this was not the case and he had had more mana, he would have stopped them all. He had the ability but not the mana after giving almost all of it to Walker to create natural mana. But that also raised the question, if Current had held back, would Envy have been defeated? Or would corrupted manas be flowing everywhere and the entire area destroyed? Reality was hard to accept when it came to the limits everyone had. But it also highlighted the fact that the royal dragons were not yet at the levels of the ancient ancestors. Everyone already knew that a dominator dragon could create mountains, destroy entire expanses of land, and even do more with their mana and control of it. Yet, what everyone did not fully grasp just yet, was the time it took to reach that level of strength. They had grown stronger. Very much so. But they needed the time to adjust and gather the proper manas to be able to control their power. If they did not, then they would remain the royal dragon strength that they had. They were dominator dragons now, but they had just overcome a hurdle that was stopping them from growing even more than they had before. Walker could understand this and did his best to send that throughout the forces gathering. But he had also needed to remain focused on the fact that the water was receding and many more Genesis forces were arriving. The forces gathering had already sent prominent information for the group to sift through. Especially since they

had specifically said that they ended evidence related to ruins that may be sealed and sunken. Ruins that might be part of ancient angel cultures. When a potential relationship with the immortal king came up, it was thought that the party needed information about him as well. This would have made sense if Walker wanted to find a way to break the massive corrupted undead skeletal wall that had been formed, but that would just sink the ruins that had been brought up from the depths again. They would not have answers as to what it was or why it was there. However, it still was information brought to them. Enough information that those with the ability were called to examine it all. The scholars that had joined them from the angel forces were working hard with the Genesis forces to have answers sooner than later. This was one thing that Walker actually felt blessed to have known. The scholars working together were much more suited to examine these pieces of information. They could discern more from them than he could in a shorter time. Thai was due to bother their skills and the high amount of experience examining important historical documents in general. "Walker, should we consider seeing if we can actually go over there? Scout things out?" Gil's long sigh after asking this was something that he really didn't want to do. The ruins were very large. A massive city almost, but the buildings were small like it was a village built around a castle instead. "I would like to tell you that we don't have to do that at all. But I have a feeling that we need to go over there no matter what. It's starting to get darker though. We should focus on this camp first. It will be much better to have a dedicated and protected base for the time being." There was a part of Walker that told him the night would be much worse. Not being able to see the dangers of a ruin he had no idea about was enough of a stressor to keep him from sleeping. The rest was the look for information and preparations as more Genesis forces arrived over time. He was already notified that many rune smiths were rebuilding the elemental rune teleportation formation. Using it so much at once had caused it to wear away and no longer be safe to use. But that was just enough reasons to make another one. They had the idea to do exactly that anyways. Improved runes could be used for it. The rest of the party ended up splitting up. Remey's mana issue had been helped by Ignus which led her to create a small outdoor alchemy lab. Her reason being simple. Healing potions. Mana potions. Affinity potions. The more she made, the better for everyone coming here to their base camp. Su was right beside Alice. Alice had lowered her mana too much and the two were dedicated to bandaging. Alice and Su truly proved the dedication that they had to the cause of healing and helping. Midnight and Onyx were the surprising pair. They had managed to find a few monsters that survived the water. They had begun to aid them in healing with a few tamers who were crushed to discover the injured and even young monsters without parents. It was a different kind of healing for a different kind of being. Still righteous in every way. All life mattered. Gil's focus with Walker had been brainstorming the things brought to them. But they were coming up without answers right now. Both of them felt that they could only say that they were missing something. "Freaking bats! There are a lot now that the night is here. I thought that the area would be clever due to the water coming here. But it must have stirred up the bigs that the bats eat." Gil's annoyance came from his heightened senses. He also could feel the changes in the wind mana as the bats flapped all around in the air. "It must be an entire colony displaced by the water. If I use the all around appraisal I can figure out how we can make them move to a new home." Walker felt it was the least he could do. These were surely more of the displaced monsters harmed by the cruelty of the demon king and his followers. 'Blood kin bat

This bat and the remainder of its colony were forced in to a slumber when their masters were sealed away. Having the connection with their master's renewed, their species awakened. They consume

mostly blood and mana from their master or the things they hunt. Due to this, they are considered just as evil as their masters. However, they are often only use as fodder to allow their masters to use tricks, scout the area, and spy on others. Due to this, it used to be a normal occurrence for the people of monsters of ancient times to hunt this species of bat at every chance. The worst aspect of these bats is their saliva. It causes numbing when biting and attacking with their small fangs. It may not kill, but it causes the attacked target to slowly lose control of their body...'

Walker's breath caught in his throat as he looked up and created a fire ball from a nearby torch. When he tossed it in the air he saw a few hundred of the blood kin bats. Enough to easily scout out the number of forces gathered here. Enough to grasp what the forces here might be capable of. "Kill every bat that we can. Tell everyone that these blood kin bats are spying on us. And we should know that it can't be a good thing." Walker's sudden words made Gil jolt up and prepare an arrow. A light arrow to use as a flare. Questioning Walker was foolish. But understanding that danger was here was easy. The hundreds of bats made that simple. While this began, Walker wracked his mind for every monster that might cause this. But where it landed, was one that he had only heard from a few people. From old books, stories, and an immortal undead that had once cursed another seemingly immortal species of monster race that had lived when he was truly alive. "Vampires should use these monsters as eyes and ears." ...

Chapter 2017 2017. An Ancient Monster

As much as everyone wanted to ask if they had heard Walker right, they all knew that he was not joking or messing with him in any way. It was very clear that he had already used the all around appraisal skill. When Walker had called even more fire balls and started to attack the blood kin bats, it caused a chain reaction. The other forces nearby had begun to attack as well. Worse off yet, the bats had begun to make loud and sharp pitched sounds. Everyone knew that this was just how bats could see. They made sounds that would somehow make an image for them to see in their heads. Echolocation. It was a common fact when people who lived anywhere near forests or caves would see bats and learn about them. The different elemental attacks that went in to the air causing many of the blood kin bats to fall were also being disrupted by the sound attacks. They vibrated the air and even snuffed out one or two of Walker's fire attacks. This was a surprise since he was able to better control the fire than most people. Even some of the fire mages were struggling to attack. The only ones that appeared to really give a decent counter to the sound based attacks by groups of bats were wind mages and others that used wind skills. The sound based attacks needed the air around to be able to carry their attacks. That was just how sound traveled in general. Therefore, when the wind would be compressed in to blades or gusts, it stopped the sounds entirely from vibrating through the air to the ears of everyone. "There's a larger blood kin bat above us!" Walker managed to spot a larger one. He even used the all around appraisal to see that it was a colony guardian. One of the bats that had lived the longest and received the most attention from a vampire master. "No, it won't be there much longer." Gil's sharp eyes did not fail to spot the pitch black and red eyed blood kin bat colony guardian. Ten arrows fired so fast that it was nearly impossible to count them without the stats high enough to comprehend it flew upward. Multiple flashes of light from light arrows caused many bats to suffer due to the light that further hurt their nearly blind eyes. They might use sound to see, but they did in fact have eyes that could

understand light to a degree. That was how bats could understand what time of day it was in general. The other arrows all hit their target causing the bat to fall. Its wings pierced along with the heart beating right in the middle of its chest. Well, not beating any longer. Gil had ensured that it would not be the cause any longer. "Weak little things!" an angry growl echoed through the sky as Ignus became annoyed. Before anyone could say or do anything, Ignus had breathed a vast spread out fire breath. Hundreds of blood kin bats fell and did not move. Some even turned to ash right then and there. It was a sign of his strength. Even though he was very low on mana and would need days to accumulate the right amount to fight at full strength, this level of attack was nothing to him. "I expect a full explanation of why my rest was bothered." Ignus's anger showed right away. He was not a changed dragon by any means when it came to temper. He had just been holding himself back because he had many more important things to focus on lately. "Vampires. That must be what was brought up." Walker tried to explain more, but there were others still fighting. Ignus though, recalled the tales of ancient monsters that had existed. He knew well that there were records of these monsters existing once upon a time. A race that was more akin to monsters since there were more gruesome and evil ones than world loving ones that could actually be recognized as a race. "When I was younger, I was taught that ancient blood like that was only passed down to certain bat species. Incredible darkness affinity could be found in them and that they would make a good meal to strengthen my own darkness affinity." Mordant also spoke up. It was clear that he had sensed the bats and attacked many from the shadows in his own anger. He had been resting as well. "But we have no idea how to fight them and we can't decide what is correct or fairy tales." Su saw a few more bats and watched carefully as the nearby elven archers handled them. While many had been defeated, she did not believe that an ancient monster appearing would be an easy event. Along with this, she also knew that it had to be a goal or a step for the demon king's plans. This would not just happen out of coincidence. Things were too perfect. A ruin gets dragged from the ocean with clear signs of sealing skills, then these blood kin bats appear out of nowhere surveying the area and causing general annoyance in their group attacks with sound waves. "There wouldn't be anyone that knows about them for real though. Everything is a story and old records for a reason. There hasn't been a member of the vampire race or vampire monsters for lifetimes." Remey was very annoyed with this. But that was a fair reaction. It was the same for Onyx. When Onyx had been found and hatched, he was a monster that was thought to not exist but for in extremely small numbers or not at all. Therefore, information about him was sparse to say the least. Yet, they had managed to discover it in ruins and through lots of help. "No, there is someone. Brother, sister and I can take the time to go. Sister wants some revenge. She has told me about the thing that he did to her with a fake gift." Onyx had listened to Midnight about the adventure to the undead ruins. The gift that had allowed Midnight to strengthen affinities but actually forced her in to a nightmare of undead and death related mana when she could not comprehend it. But that had indeed strengthen her because she comprehended the skeletal armor skill that she even used at all times now. Regardless, Onyx was willing to go somewhere that no one was really allowed to go in general now. Especially since the party had discovered the literal source of all the undead in the area. "No, you won't go there alone. It would be better to go there together as a party. But I thought that he was watching us. He used that skeleton to speak to us once. He didn't do anything, but he said he could do that more times." Su recalled the skeleton that had dug itself from the ground and spoken in the immortal king's voice.

As an elder lich, he had been trapped, but that didn't mean the other undead he controlled were not. But he had no reason to create an army. He was not free to leave his prison, why take over a world he could not roam?

"We can't just leave here though. There is clearly something happening. The longer we are away, the worse things will get." Gil knew that this split second choice in the midst of chaos could make or break everything. Time was a very big factor. That was why everyone was rushing this idea and trying to make sure information was found. "It's that or we keep waiting for information. Just in the time that we waited while researchers dug through everything, we managed to get attacked by hundreds of blood kin bats. It's sure not to be the end of them too. There will be more attacks." Mordant's calm and precise response made it clear that time mattered, but also in the sense that they needed correct information. "When we saw the immortal king, he did tell us that his people, no matter how twisted they were, had wars with the vampires. If the demon king is working with them or something, then the immortal king might become an ally. If not only temporary." As a hero, Walker did not wish to see any chance for an undead powerful enough to literally fight him and the dragons combined to be released. It was why he had pushed the elder lich from his mind. There was nothing to do with that trapped evil. Yet, if that evil could somehow save many and cleanse the world by sharing information... it might not be the worst choice. No matter the disgust Walker felt going to this monster, it was a monster he knew against monsters he did not. Monsters that had been strong enough to fight against other ancient monsters that Walker couldn't fathom. "We will go. The dragons and forces can gather here. Prepare and set a camp. Whether we can take that ruin or not will be up to us. If the demon king has to do something here, it can not be simple. Look at how low the corrupted city is floating. It must have lost a lot of mana. So we will take the chance to use this time to get the right answers." ...

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Chapter 2018 2018. Not So Friendly Face

Finding that just about every other leader within Genesis was against the party leaving the Sigil continent and heading back toward a place where a powerful undead was, was not at all a surprise. Scylla wanted them to stay right where they were so that they could help lead the gathering forces. However, she slowly began to reconsider when she understood the strength of what they would face. Scylla was a general. With that being said, she was able to easily convince a few others that gathering the right amount of information was the best option. Even under this potential time crunch. Losing the chance to be able to defeat a monster returning to power that could be worse than other already powerful was what her focus relied on. This was because no one understood the real depth of what a vampire could do. The information was too unsupported nowadays. Especially since every culture that had some fairy tale of them was slightly different. Alma made a point to focus on the fact that vampires were considered to cause death and use decaying skills. This was what the elves believed at least. They would make their strength in destroying nature and literally feeding off of it while they killed it. This would allow them to be stronger. On the human side of things, vampires should feed on blood of humans and only humans. They would then control the victims that they left alive. From there, they would be used as slaves of sorts. In many stories, entire cities or villages would be turned in to vampire

thralls. Not to mention the skills that could charm the weak minded and control them. These stories were terrifying because they often turned in to a horror like story where entire families would be turned against one another for amusement. The demi-humans did not have similar stories. They were actually the most tame since they had betrayed demi-humans. Some actually needed to consume some blood of monsters or animals to feed. But they could always just eat normal food which was what they really preferred at the end of the day. Every culture was different. Regardless of all this, most of the merfolk and the monster races were against the party leaving. They had been the ones that had relied very heavily on the party. Not just to help their races gain traction with the other races, but also to help them rise in strength from where they were. The risk was considered too great and before the next hour had passed, multiple communication crystal arguments were had until almost every single representative of Genesis had arrived on the Sigil continent with the newly rebuilt and slightly improved elemental teleportation rune formation recarved. Those who remained behind were people who agreed with the party whole heartedly because of trust and past experiences. That, or they were not in a position to leave and face monsters at all. They did not have the systems to do so. Once a person that did arrive, was a face that made everything much easier for everyone. "Barry, it is good to see you again. With you here, it will help organize the adventures to help a lot." Walker greeted Barry before trying to make another move. Barry was also blocking the elemental rune teleportation formation as well. His face having a fully serious expression. "I would say it is good to see you all. Especially since I have been away handling many of the issues and training a team of elite adventurers to begin exploring the Sigil continent with the angels." This was a well known new endeavor for Barry as the somewhat unwilling vice guild master of the adventure guild. He had been pushed to leave behind his post to be able to train some new and promising adventures with the best skill suited to explore and map the Sigil continent. While this was something that could be done with avian abilities and other skills, the adventurers would be cataloging certain areas that could be used as better camps for travelers. For new villages. And specifically, for people that would need to study the unique lands that even the angels were lacking in knowledge of due to their history. "But I am here because someone is trying to head in to an undead ruins to maybe get answers from an elder lich which was listed as a monster never to go near for any adventurers, even me." Barry looked like he had caught children mocking the rules right in front of those that made them for safety. It was insulting but also a little annoying in general. "We need answers that only he has. It could be faster than what we are doing now. I also know that with the skills I have and some help from Ventus, we can fly there and back faster than any other person can." Walker also knew that the royal dragons were purposefully holding themselves back. They wanted to recover for the dangers that would come. Ventus was just the one that could make it all progress faster and she knew it. She could remain away from the undead on the ground which was an ideal way for her to remain safe. Not that she would even give a monster the chance to bother her at all. She would be able to fend off the immortal king with low mana long enough to escape his range of attack. He was the one trapped, not her. "I am not here to stop you, just to remind you that everyone here will be waiting. That you all can not fail whatever you are doing. You might be able to fight me if you were a little faster at growing, but I was not standing still while you all grew too." Barry flexed a little and the air seemed to be forced away. The mana density within his body was clearly stronger than before. This small show of strength was enough to show that Barry was prepared to join them all in battle. So much so that it would make him indispensable. The royal dragons had even understood that he was one of the few that could fight with them without ending up defeated easily. Not that it would be the case since they became dominator dragons now. "So you just wanted to make sure we wouldn't go around being dumb? Fine.

we will be extra careful." Remey retorted when Barry showed off his strength. However, everyone knew she was not just being rude or blunt. She was being pretty damn honest here. She respected his strength since he had worked hard and shown how it could be used many times over whenever they encountered him. To be honest, they all didn't know where his strength ended. They had never witnessed him using all of his strength to the fullest of his abilities. "Then go off already. I will handle things here while you are away." Barry walked toward the royal dragon and nodded to Ventus as she went with the party. The dragons all gave him a respectful nod. They could sense he had gained more strength and were somewhat speechless at seeing this. A human that had surpassed what humans should be. A berserker system user that was stronger than any that had used that system before. Even the demi-humans that had well known records of that system had not reached this height. "I'm glad he's here. I want to make sure that Alma and the other elves on their way here are safe." Gil knew that Alma had held back from the simple fact that she was bringing over more elves to battle here. To set up and help the land recover as well. He did not want to return to her being harmed. "He is the strongest we know pretty much. Or at least he always feels that way. I haven't heard anything from Clara in a while about him. I thought that she was hiding it to be a surprise for Genesis when he was done training his adventure team. But they are all here with him." Walker pointed out multiple people. All standing in order with where Barry had just stopped. The people all seemed to be older and younger talents of various races from various adventurer guild locations. All of them had clear strengths. The party looked forward to seeing and learning more. Yet, this was now what they needed right now. They were stepping on to the elemental teleportation rune formation for a reason. The mana they used to teleport back to their home continent was already activated. They would be him but not staying long. It felt wrong to leave the Sigil continent without even feeling like they had completed anything all the way. ...

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Chapter 2019 2019. Familiar Ruins

Just as Walker stepped on the elemental teleportation rune formation, he sensed the manas more clearly.

He had missed these things when he had been on it on the way to the Sigil continent once again. But the manas flowed more smoothly in some places. This was the results of improving, and now recarving the formation for the second time.

The rune carvers had learned from the past experiences. They had also made it clear that they had advanced their knowledge of how the runes could form together. Especially when it came to the other runes that were made from parts of the basic elemental runes.

Natural mana runes had been somewhat formed, while rough, they were there so that the manas could all form together better. This was something that was not entirely possible before Walker had begun showing off natural mana everywhere. He had made a scene of sorts making manas fuse together better than other mages, even those with dual affinities.

Because of this, the rune formations had all been improved rapidly. That was also due to the mage tower. But that didn't explain how Walker was sensing more space mana everywhere around him as the rune formation teleported him.

He could sense that a lot more spatial mana was part of the formation. When he looked at the recarved and improved runes, he noticed some that held on to that spatial mana better. That they were rough to a degree that they did not perfectly allow manas to flow in to them. However, the spatial mana enjoyed that to a degree.

The spatial mana remained there for a short time. Walker could feel it dissipate while other manas came to replace it. This experience was short lived. It was only a blink of an eye in the comparison of the time he had meditation around the spatial flames that were created within the wandering blacksmith's forge.

But it was enough time to enlighten Walker here. He could understand that a spatial rune could not just be some flat and smooth thing like the other runes. Mostly because this would need to be an in depth rune that allowed the space it sat in to be affected.

That was why the spaces where the manas were being turned on jagged angles which were bad for elemental manas, were working. Space didn't need rules like the way water flowed through a water rune.

To be clear, the space mana was something that was everywhere already, so channeling it in a flow made no sense. Therefore, when Walker finally saw this happening, he was shocked. He had partially interpreted the space mana theories of his own improperly.

"Hello there?" Gil waved a hand in front of Walker for a moment. He wondered what had just happened in a second of teleportation.

"Sorry, I Was thinking about the space mana in the runes. It's much better than before and I realized that I missed some things. I should have focused on earlier. But I will think about that while we move." Walker saw that Ventus was focusing on him with a slight smile.

In the time that she had known this party, she had immediately opened her mind and heart to them. One, because she saw them as children just like her own. A mother's instinct was not simple. And two, because she already knew that these people were living a new and wondrous path that others had not before. She could not expect anything by amazing things from them.

"I will be taking you all from here. I will move quickly and place you on the edge of that undead ruins. It is a cursed place and I do not wish to remain too close. But from what you said, there will be reasons why you will get inside faster." Ventus understood that the immortal king was not simple.

Yes, he was a monster. An elder lich that wanted immortality at any cost. Unfortunately, the forced research and gruesome means had trapped him. An immortal undead in a tower that chained him down. But that did not mean the twisted mind within that monster was anything slow or lesser.

Ventus also knew that a dragon's body and parts of a wyvern's body were already corrupted and forced together to make an undead able to defend a corrupted floating city. How foolish would she be if she did not keep in mind that a powerful monster like an elder lich wouldn't want to kill her and use her as its own servant?

"Thank you for your help again. You can fly much faster due to your control over the wind." Su's thanks was enough to make Ventus smile before she took her dominator dragon from. This made many of those who were nearby the elemental teleportation rune formation cheer and shout in surprise. The dragons were famous after all.

But the people did not stop the party from moving. There were guards to ensure that the party could rush away. Some of the elder dragons were seen flying nearby, while many dragonkin had arrived who the party could spot before they were held by Ventus in her talons. The basket to hold them proved even more valuable every time this happened.

The wind manas rushed around and Ventus created a small slip stream to push herself through the air. It was a short time before the party witnessed the human city of Diamond beneath them, but just as fast as it appeared, it was gone. The wilderness around appeared to be affected in small places by corrupted monsters. Some of which still rampaged.

Small adventurers and military were with each other taking down the issue. This was them working against the problems spreading around the world.

While the manas were more fluid and the world was adapting, the corrupted mana also seemed to be growing. Partially because of the demon king's antics, but also because the world was thinning the shields from the elemental planes. The places so long ago blocked off due to the world not adapting and growing as it should.

When the undead ruins appeared, the party felt that they had just barely been in another continent. That they had been false to think that anything like that happened. They Were here again, at their first major adventure with one another. Their minds had trouble keeping up with where they stood now as Ventus lowered herself to the ground.

The many tents that existed as the marks that adventurers, grave robbers, and travelers had gone in to never return were still here. The marks of undead that strayed too far and were beaten outside the runs here and there. It was all too familiar.

"I might be able to use a teleportation skill sooner than I realize." Walker said this out loud. He had been the one deep in thought the entire time. Understanding the way the spatial mana moved in all angles instead of a flow made him feel he was a fool but also more positive toward his own learning.

He could already sense the spatial mana and could use elemental manas to help manipulate it. But with the better grasp on it, he could probably make it teleport him in a bit. "Yes yes yes, you can maybe teleport us places. Focus on this for now?" Remey sighed like she was being told something she had heard a million times. But to be fair, walkers always got like this.

Midnight also responded with a growl, but she had taken her dragonkin from. She didn't want to show off her dragon from to the immortal king. She could show her strength and level of growth by walking like this instead. It was her pride but also the threat she was giving to him for tricking her toying with her the first time.

"They are right brother, we have more things to worry about. I see many skeletons standing still ahead." Onyx had picked up on the edges of the immortal king's undead ruins. A city fallen because of the terrible deeds it was home to. A place filled with undead of various kinds all controlled by one being.

Yet, when they realized that the undead were standing still. Unmoving. It struck them all as odd. When they were last here, they saw the undead shuffling. Moving as if guarding or just exploring by their own instincts. Even undead in other places would do that normally. Never would they stand still as if frozen in place.

"I would say that it is highly likely that the immortal king did this knowing that we are coming. He was actually watching as he said." Su looked a little more tense. She wished that Alice had come for another person to use purifying and light skills, but she had remained to heal others. Now the party had to face their first threat again. The evil within the ruins.

Chapter 2020 2020. Unsettling Differences

"This does not look good." Walker was trying to think about why not a single undead was moving. Every single theory he had was being shot down before he could even formulate it properly. Mostly because he had never seen undead act this way. "They are all out here just standing still. Zombies, undead dogs, and even a few that I haven't ever seen." Gil was also feeling like this was somehow amazing. The variety of undead alone was more than what they had seen or expected. From just the outside edges of this ruin, they could see that a great deal had stayed the same since the party was here. But with so many things the same, that just meant that what was different stood out. Specifically, there were undead that shouldn't necessarily be there. 'Skeletal lizard

This undead was perfectly raised by an elder lich. Due to this, its flesh was taken perfectly off of it using a unique darkness mana to decay it and have it be used elsewhere. The rune carvings on the bones are enabling it to move faster and with more force than a skeletal lizard undead would normally have if naturally formed or raised by another. Due to this, it has exceptional battle prowess and a controlled instinct. It will not go rampage as more undead will....

Zombie python

This is a monster taken from the depths of a rainforest. Preserved using powerful ice from skeletal mages, it was able to maintain the flesh needed to become a regenerating zombie. While a regenerating zombie is already exceptionally rare, it needs five times the mana to be able to use the flesh of those it consumes to repair its rotting body. Due to the strength of the python body used to create this regenerating zombie, it is able to move much more fluidly and with greater strength. It does not possess venom but due to its body rotting, the various illnesses that can be contracted from its bites. It is also able to eat prey larger than it. While it also carries strength that it had when it was within the rainforest that it was born. Other serpents will naturally feel this pressure if they are of a weaker species...

Undead Night owl

This may be a monster considered to be alive, however, it is not. The night owl is actually a skeletal undead which has not lost its feathers due to it being infused with powerful manas when being raised. It is able to fly easily while also maintaining the senses it had when it was alive. Due to it being bound to an elder lich, it can transmit what it hears, sees, and feels to that elder lich. It is created for the respective reason that it can scout and learn things from a distance. It is also able to use the talons to attack with much more viscous movements due to being undead. It will not fear pain. It will continue to attack until the talons and bones it is made of are destroyed. Flames will burn away its feathers very easily though...'

Walker could have kept using the all around appraisal on the many different undead scattered through just the edges of the ruins. He understood that they were stopped because the immortal king made it so. But he also understood that there was somehow a way that he had so many undead. The entire city had been a place full of secrets. The research by those who once lived here was great. It covered a wide variety of topics in an attempt to find immortality. Believing that they preserved thousands, if not a hundred thousand monsters from all over the continent might not be a large matter for them at all. Even just comprehending that when the party was here last, most of these ruins were falling apart. All but for the large tower in the center. The best buildings and the tower were the most unkempt. They were also certainly the most well built in the first place. For many reasons. The tower was made to steal away life from others. It was unfinished and caused the elder lich to become trapped there, but it must also house the pieces of monsters, research materials, and many other things. Just the fact that the party recalled the many things within the chamber the elder lich lived and experimented was enough to believe that all of these undead had been hidden away. But why were they here?

"You may enter and follow." The gravelly voice that came from the undead night owl put everyone on edge. So much so that Remey had some flames jump up around her. Yet, the undead night owl did not move again. "I knew you would be watching. You already should know why we are here, right? I expected you to use another pen of those undead to speak with us on the Sigil continent. But you didn't use the pen, so, you can't?" Walker was well aware that the immortal king could not use the same thing he had done again. When it had brought an undead to their garden to see a unique plant that was lost years ago but the immortal king recalled from the years he was alive. But that was one of the rare things that could not be done over and over. No reply came however. The party just took deep breaths and began to walk. Not a single undead moved. Even the air was oddly still. The scent of rotting dead still existed, but it was no longer being blown in their face by a breeze. The soft growls that did come from nearby were from Ventus. She wasn't sure if warning the immortal king of what she would do was worth it, but she still did it. This put the rest of the party at a much calmer mentality as well. Even if the worst happened, they would have someone here to destroy everything that had caused them the worst. A viable threat indeed.

Unlike the memories of undead gathering and chasing them from an exit door, the party found that a path was cleared for them this time. The winding through ruins of homes and other buildings didn't need to happen now. Yet, when they saw the undead amalgamations that were gathered in one place, the party felt even more stress. They remembered the toughness of this opponent, and now there were six of them in one place. All frozen in their movements like the other undead. It was incredibly unnerving. Now though, the party could easily defeat them. They had the strength alone to manage this. The repertoire of skills that the party each had was enough to outmaneuver, overpower, and end the monsters that they were seeing. That was, when they were not controlled by the elder lich. The walk to the massive tower was short. Much shorter than the running from undead zombie rats that they had done before. In fact, they did not see one such undead the entire time. Instead, they had just seen the more unique undead. But they had also not seen any adventurers or grave robbers exploring. Clearly, the undead would still go after them. Or the people nearby would not approach this area at all any more. There was always someone foolish enough though. Which meant that they were also scared away by the odd actions of the undead here. The large doors of the tower opened up. Now the party did not need to risk going through the underground. Facing the undead leeches, or rising water left there for unknown years. It also meant that they did not need to break through a skeletal door or wall with odd runes either. From what they had seen before, the staircase that led upwards and downwards was the same. Now though, large torches burned with odd glowing green flames. They contained some different form of that the party had not seen before. "To the top." the voice echoed down. It was the immortal king. Instead of the lower area of the ruins, he was above them, at the top of this tower. Moving upwards, the stairs were fine. Nothing stood out. Nothing felt wrong. Just a general walk upwards that took them too long. No one wanted to speak though. Every word would be heard. Everything they did was certainly seen by the immortal king. "You should already know why I have called out my legions of undead. Here they are organizing themselves." "Years of research without a solution to my problems. Years without a single opposing force that could cause me issues. Just the knowledge that the runt who caused this was running around full of his own evil intentions. Now, that runt has caused more trouble and brought upon the world the remaining hiding rats with wings. Those disgusting things that refuse to be undead or alive. Immortal but not truly immortal. A fake race that should have remained sealed!" The entire tower thrummed with trapped mana for a moment. The party could only keep walking while they heard the immortal king ranting.