

Master 2021

Chapter 2021 2021. Immortal King's Plans

The unsettling rant did not seem to end. It wasn't just the fact that the immortal king was ranting due to his anger. He clearly was using the mana all around him in ways that didn't make sense. Like a child trying to break out of a closed room from a time out. He was pushing against the trap that kept him here. Every step that the party took brought it upwards. Toward the ranting. Towards the manas that were being pulled in and used to push against the tower itself. From what Walker could tell, the immortal king had changed something. Had become too angry just to sit and hope for an experiment to free him. "Rotten winged rats! I will come and take you down for attempting to destroy our kingdom! Our precious true path to real immortality!" The roar caused the tower to shake again. However, the party had just reached the top of the tower. The large top floor was full of space compared to what they could remember from the lower area full of experiments and rare items. All the things that the immortal king had gathered within his undead ruins. Had saved through the years. Taken from those who perished due to his entertainment. "Siding with the worthless brat that contested the flow of the world! You rats with wings will end yourself if you are smart. I will torture you until that fake immortality is washed away!" The final roar came with even more mana being thrown around. However, it reminded Walker of the unique feelings he had while trying to grasp more understandings about manas. Specifically, he sensed the odd way that death mana interacted with the world. Both part of the flow and also an end of the flow before it would restart. A mana mysterious and ominous. Death spirits were far and few, Walker had only seen a few since the spirit race had become a proper race and been freed from their bond with the world to uphold the flow of mana. He also recalled the nightmare that Midnight Had been trapped in. the feeling of death mana that had ebbed in to their minds. How he and she had gained some form of understanding of it without truly understanding what it was or that it was even a thing in the first place. All of this seemed to be revolving around the immortal king. But that was not all that Walker and the party could sense. They saw a different being before them. A different monster. More bones were a part of the immortal king. The form he showed them of a simple black skeleton sitting on a throne of other bones was not his real form. It was just the face he put on. now that they could see the hundreds of bones that came together to form the elder lich's body, they realized that he had not just experimented in attempts to leave this place on monsters and other undead. He had done so to his own body. The multiple arm bones reinforced each other making the skeletal arms larger and thicker. This was the same for his entire body, multiple bones reinforcing one another. As if multiple skeletons had been overlapped with that intention. The height that he stood at was more than any normal human would stand. The skull was the worst part though. Instead of normal teeth, bestial sharpened teeth were there. Glowing black flames also revolved around his skull to make it appear that these ghastly and deathly flames were his eyes. Flowing darkness mana came off of his skeleton showing that he had both the affinity and the control of darkness to act as a barrier and protection for his body and bones. But what stood out more, was the small marble within the center of his body. This was the elder lich core that held the soul. Bound to the tower through unknown means, this was what kept the immortal king in existence and not moving on. The anchor so to speak that allowed him to remain immortal. Therefore, this was the true body of the elder lich. "You so called heroes. You have grown a bit. Not enough, but maybe enough to get my revenge." The growling voice of the immortal king made the entire party feel that they should attack while they could. However, their instincts warned them that they would fail. No matter what they tried. "That pathetic corrupted aman

from in between the elemental planes was foolish. It is destroying the flow that the world has. It is forcing unstable mana bridges to the elemental planes where he can not travel. Where he can not use his power to destroy this world and live free in the power of endless mana." "That's what you think is outside the world and the elemental planes? Eternal power?" Walker did not argue, but countered with a question. It was enough to trip up the enraged rant that surely was not happening just because the party was here. "Ohhh? Confidence now? You aren't trembling as you have before. A short time passed you by and you think you have power? Is that what natural mana has for you? Or light mana? But you can not affect me with that. I have enough mana to stop anything you believe from harming me." As if to mock them, skeletal hands reached from the shadows all around. It showed the true hiding dangers that the immortal king had as an elder lich. He always had undead controlled and with him. They just were kept within the shadows. "You came here for a reason. When those rats with wings arose and began to call their kin, they caused more of that corrupted mana to break away my connections to the undead I sent out in to the world to enjoy you dance as my entertainment. Years passed and I finally had something to make new theories with." The immortal king rose up even taller to show off more strength. The manas around him causing pressure to suffocate the entire party. Yet, they still stood strong. "You wish to enter that ruinous castle and defeat the vampire scourge that will attempt to reclaim the world and rebuild their monstrous armies. Whether that brat wants them for their power or just as pawns does not matter." the immortal king ground his teeth together making a horrendous bone screeching sounds. "If you free me from this place, I will end them. If you can not, you will still help me with what I desire since you will want the information about how to crush them. Make a choice. Free me, and I will destroy them. Or give me something that I can use as research materials for my own desires." It was very clear that the immortal king wished to use this as a chance to escape this tower. But Walker was already solid on the fact that he would not knowingly help free him. He was an evil that would ruin the world. "You still believe in the flow of mana even though you tried to break it by becoming immortal?" Walker had not considered the differences between the immortal king, vampires, and the demon king. He expected the immortal king to be against the flow of mana. "Do you not understand? Are you so foolish that you believe death and the manas that assist it are not a part of the natural flow of the world? Beyond that the manas would be chaotic. No being would survive that chaos of colliding manas without reason or explanation." "The world did not trap me here. I am undead and wield manas more unique and powerful than you currently comprehend. I am still part of the world. Even going against life, I am part of it." the immortal king made every word shake the tower more. It was very clear that he was looking down on the party as a whole. "Then what could you want? You could just tell us and watch us beat your enemies." Gil spoke up letting the venom in to his voice. He didn't want the immortal king to see him fear anything ever again. "Little elf wannabe. Ha! Something like you shows confidence in front of me? But you are on the right track. I let you here without opposition because I want something. You have it. The manas and the connection to spirits. That new spirit race. I want access to them. Their knowledge of manas. I want to leave this world entirely and give up this prison." While not impossible, Walker was unsure if he was thinking correctly about what the immortal king wanted to try. "You want to escape here by leaving the world entirely for the death mana plane that might not even exist?" the words fell like a hammer. ...

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"I didn't know that undead could dream. If you think we will let you out of your self made prison then you are dumber than you look." Remey's comment following up what Walker had said brought another thrum of mana to shake the tower. Small pieces of stone seemed to fall where the tower stones had begun to crumble due to time. But almost as if being controlled by an outside force, the mana moving through the tower forced the stone back together. This was just a part of the mysterious way that the elder lich had been trapped here. Even he didn't understand it. "I will get whatever I need eventually. You can not stop it. But you have no choice to help me." the immortal king spoke with a clear tone of mocking. He knew that the party did not like anything about this. Through the eyes of his undead, he had seen a lot. He had strived to break through the barriers that he could not overcome. Especially the fact that he could not leave this place. That he had limited undead that he could send in to the world and show him what was happening. The party had already seen one undead that came to look at the unique plants they had grown. Some that were from when he was still alive. That had been one moment and a clear explanation had been given from the immortal king himself. He had said that he could only send an undead that far and see things like that maybe three times. That was something that made the party feel that even a powerful elder lich was extremely controlled and limited due to his position. Yet, here they were. The immortal king had said he witnessed many things that the party had done. He had seen them through the undead that he sent out. Therefore, this was one obstacle he had broken through already. He could send multiple undead in to the world to be able to see, hear, and somewhat experience what was going on. But that also brought another thing to Walker's mind. "You can't even let yourself see things properly through the undead you tried so hard to send out of here. Can you? The corrupted mana is getting that bad and you also want to escape it?" Just escaping this prison was not what the immortal king wanted. He wanted to avoid whatever was happening with the corrupted manas that were too chaotic to control. They ruined the connections between him and the undead. Hence why he might have them all standing still and not moving. It was too hard to maintain perfect control over all of them at all times right now without using too much mana. "Oh, so you did get smarter. If you had a few more decades, you might realize that I will not frown at ending you all here and making you my undead as well. That way, I can gather whatever information your bodies hold. Unique hybrid zombies as well. It might be more entertaining." The immortal king's threats came with even more skeletal hands reaching from the shadows. He was still showing off the powers he had over the entire tower. "Then what can you tell us about the vampires that are in that castle and ruins. They were sealed there by someone somehow. But they can't be freed. They can't share whatever knowledge that they have with the demon king or else you know what will happen. Regardless of leaving this plane or not." Walker did not play any more. He was disgusted as well as the immortal king was with them. There was no middle ground for them. They would always be on opposing sides of everything there was to be. It was just how it would be due to the gruesome evils that the immortal king had done. "You will provide me with death spirits or death mana items. Or you will give me the natural mana condensed to allow me more time to experiment." The payment that the immortal king wanted was not just items related to death. Yes, there were items that would always hold death mana. There were plenty of cemeteries that had stones that had ominous energies around them. Now that Walker was more clarified on manas and what might be, he could guess why these places always felt a certain way. It wasn't within people's heads, it was the death mana there. Walker would never send a spirit race to here. To a being that he was certain would use and abuse them as tools. This was off the table. Completely. Especially since Walker had managed to meet a death spirit before and had the feeling that the spirit would always be somewhere around. Watching him since it was clearly thankful that it had been awakened properly. But it was a mystery

within itself. But natural mana? He could provide that easily. He had the ability to bring manas together to make natural mana. The only issues were what the immortal king would do with it. Too many things could go wrong. Everyone knew the potential that came with using natural mana to boost attacks and other skills. Walker had already shown that he could also allow areas to grow and become almost like knew. If the immortal king had seen these things, he could be trying to use a skill that would free him from this place or generally allow him to send an army of undead elsewhere. I can provide you with some natural mana. The spirit race is a living race and they will not be used as tools for you. I will not allow you to do that to anyone." Walker stood firmly even though the immortal king loomed over them. "That is acceptable. I have multiple mana gems created with the same means that you used to create your little toy there. But I had them simplified to only store natural mana for a temporary time period." the immortal king dropped three large mana gems in front of the party. "Brother, how can he do that?" Onyx spoke within Walker's mind. His confusion clear since the immortal king could not be a blacksmith of any sorts with his form and mana affinities. "Undead that he controls. I would be willing to bet he has undead with skills and methods for such things. It's why he is more dangerous than we realize." this response to Onyx was correct. The rest of the party had also realized it. The immortal king could have undead blacksmiths that retained some skills. Enough to make a mana gem capable of holding natural mana and not just one mana. It was hard to accept since it was a greater threat with more levels than what they all expected. "Share what you know too." Walker picked a mana gem up and felt that he could easily add natural mana. But he did not start until he saw the books that the immortal king was dropping. Two books had pictures. Diagrams that depicted different species of vampires. Some of the race that had once walked the earth as a recognized and controlled intelligent race. The others, the monsters that they became when they lost their intelligence or when they controlled others to become mothers. Vampire thralls, rabid vampires, bestial vampires, and many more were depicted. All important pieces of information that the party could use when they were fighting these enemies. That they could share with the joint Genesis and angel forces when they were about to go to battle. Things that would keep them all alive. "Many races failed to document the true terrors that they are capable of. They could use their charm skills to make you kill your own family. Then you would thank them for it before you offer your own life blood to them. They are not just simple creatures." the immortal king didn't sound evil at this moment. Almost hurt. "Cutting them apart is a temporary measure to slow them. But you can read how to erase their false immortality. That last one, is how they ended up there. You may believe you have discovered the Sigil continent. But my people had traveled there when we were gathering the most important items." immortal king began to sound scarier. If his people had traveled the world, they would have been stronger than what the party originally believed. Yet, they had still ended up with only one city. With only one survivor. With only one who remembered the past. And even that might end if the party could get strong enough to defeat him. "Look through it as your leader gives me the mana as payment. You can learn from it, but you will not leave until I have full payment." The threat came with another vibration of mana. But this time, there was a clicking sound from outside the windows. Undead had started to move again. Making a pathway out of the ruins which could easily be closed. ...

Chapter 2023 2023. Worrisome Knowledge

Nothing was comfortable about the fact that Walker was putting natural mana from all around them in to the mana gems. His mind was having a hard time focusing on the fact that the immortal king knew

too much about what had been happening. From just the time that they had seen him until now, it was very evident that the immortal king had learned a great deal. The party was at fault for this. They had been doing things that were out of the ordinary. Gaining titles, uniting races, and so much more. This has caused the world to change as a whole. New races had appeared that were changing the ways that everyone looked at the world as a whole. Especially since there were monster races that lived and acted different overall. The spirit race was a new race that had been on hold for so long. The flow of mana being returned more and more was the reason for this. They had been the holders of the flow of mana for so long. But they were also born of mana and made their bodies from mana. They even grew by combining themselves or using more unique sub sets of manas to create their bodies. It was too much unknown to study. Too amazing. This all put aside, there was also the fact that certain parts of the world had changed. The flow of mana changing was a big part of why the immortal king may have made more breakthroughs in his experimentations. He had been more free to try things that might not have worked in the past. Getting him closer to being free from his self made prison. Having one mana gem full of natural mana, the immortal king stopped standing still and witnessing it. He spoke again as Su had take the books and was holding on to them carefully now. "They are weak in the daylight and have skills to block the sun. They enjoy the fog. Some are called mistwalkers and can even walk through the mist which will protect them from physical injuries. They are just weaker pawns to the real vampires." The immortal king was clearly remembering the wars fought between his race and the vampire race. It was already known that the vampires were not just a race. They were mostly beings that became monsters obsessed with power and blood. That had already been very clear from the many fairy tales passed down. From what the immortal king had already said. "Many times we failed to eradicate the noble vampire creating his armies. They would move to another place and start again. It would be months passed the last battle, and they would have an army of monsters yet again." This was something that none of them doubted. Many of the things that the vampires had at their disposal allowed them to create forces. Specifically, they would either control the minds or flat out create a monster. It was ideal for creating armies. "A rotten undead creating armies fighting another rotten undead creating armies then?" Remey's mocking tone made the immortal king lower his head and look at her carefully. The flames within his skill seemingly flaring up more than before. "You are too young and foolish. My people were necromancers and experimenters of life itself. Not undead. We were flesh and blood as you were. Vampires were a foolish race that had been better off remaining the monsters hiding within caves that they had been before they sparked the pathetic intelligence that led them to build castles. To create armies of blood thirsty monsters. You do not know the challenge of fighting a vampiric bear." While it seemed like that might be a metaphor, the immortal king truly meant a vampiric bear. It wasn't a metaphor for a large vampire at all. The vampires had created many different monsters with their skills. Had caused great harm when unleashing these monsters toward the living. Toward all that was around them. "We took the weak and gave their instances purpose. To discover true immortality. To bring new brilliant discoveries to this world. But vampires, they caused constant slaughter and destruction. Only the smallest group of them left that senseless destruction and obsession with blood and power. You have no mind that can comprehend that time. How many species were eliminated as their food." The scathing words were nothing that was wrong. Yes, the way that the immortal king and his people had acted was evil in a different way. Experimenting on living beings, terrible. Using lives as test subjects just to see if they could learn or manipulate skills of certain people, worse and worse. However, it was not the same as senseless death just to have more strength and power. To kill so that the lust for blood could be met, only to grow greater. This was a difference. The immortal king had the intelligence to do

more with things than the vampires who would just kill and that was it. Not that either were good. "That's the third mana gem. Is there anything else you should tell us? We are finishing the war you started when you were not just made of bone." Walker stopped the ranting for the immortal king. He was certain that something else would be said. "Do not allow your little pet dragon to become food for them. Only a noble vampire, the proper race, not the minions they make can influence a dragon's blood. But when they do, you will need to face the vampire dragon. Worse than those rogue dragons or the skeletal undead dragons. Even worse than the death dragons I witnessed before they ceased to exist." None of what the immortal king said sat well with anyone one of the party. Midnight in particular felt the need to give in to her pride and growl. But as she saw that the immortal king was not tricking them, nor was he adding any mana to his words. They were true and blunt. A true warning. But knowing that the immortal king had witnessed undead dragons and death dragons, made all of them feel that he might know portions of history that no one knew. That only his race had delved in to. This also reminded them of how he had told them that his people had been to the Sigil continent before. But they had done nothing but gather materials there. It was unnerving. "Then we will be leaving." Gil made it clear that not a single one of them had the intention of remaining here. The immortal king laughed causing the entire tower to shake yet again. "Take weapons with you. In the courtyard opened by the undead, there are the remnants of a special tree. One that had been dead but was an ideal weapon against the vampires. Perfect for properly imbuing with light mana and stabbing their hearts." the tower ceased to vibrate with mana as the newly filled mana gems were scooped up by the immortal king. The sounds of undead moving to come to him already sounding outside. Seeing that they couldn't even be seen as something to watch right now, the party moved. They did not wish to see the immortal king reengage on his words. It was also very clear from his actions, that he disliked the vampires so much so that he didn't care to speak to the party of heroes that might one day be able to fight him. The staircase already had a line of undead bringing materials toward the immortal king. They moved out of the way for the party, but this was just so that they could keep moving. The party felt as if they barely existed any more. It was a drastic change but a better one than what would come of fighting the undead here. When they eventually made it to the entrance, they found that the lower staircase was blocked. Clearly, the immortal king did not wish for them to move downwards at all. Toward the many treasures and gathered experiments. But that was fine by them. The party also saw the line of undead. They were spaced out to keep them from going anywhere else. Compared to the last time. The undead were not free roaming or fighting. They were strict watchers that kept people from nearing anywhere that the immortal king did not wish them to go. It was an oddly strict take to happen from ruins. But that was all still fine. "Do you think that this tree will be as good a weapon against vampires that the immortal king thinks?" Su was worried, it was understandable. "The all around appraisal should tell us. I hope." Walker did not hide his own stress. Everyone had the same right now. ...

Chapter 2024 2024. Useful Wood

Moving with undead on each side of them was unnerving. Walker was seeing more that he did not realize. They were just standing and waiting for further orders. But this was also how the immortal king was gaining his energy back. How his mana was being held for whatever he was about to do with the natural mana that had been paid in return for his information. Various undead with limbs missing were here and there. They appeared to be lost due to the fact that they had become too old. Yet, this just showed that there were many undead that had been raised from their graves. 'Ancient skeleton

While very badly damaged due to the time left in an open grave, this skeleton is one of the oldest within the runs. It suffered in life due to the experimentation on it and the skills it had. However, this just brought it more strength. It is able to wield strong earth that will allow it to become an ancient earth mage skeleton at some point. This will cause it to gain some intelligence if the master that summoned it allows. But it may also cause it to become a singular monster that can grow beyond being a monster...'

These were the sorts of all around appraisals that Walker had been seeing. Ones that spoke more to how old the undead were. The bodies had been there for more years than what Walker had realized. While he had found that the undead and many of the things within these ruins were not that old, it proved to be wrong. This was because he had been too young and not been able to truly grasp the wide spread effect of the immortal king's people once upon a time. The facts that they had even traveled over continents was too much to say that they were not a race that had been extinct and weak. They seemed to be a race that had their anchors in base cities first. From there, they had secretly spread throughout the world and gathered what they needed. A reclusive race but a powerful race. People that had gone to do evil things. So much so that they had made enemies with everyone that had been around them. It was something that was undeniable. But their history was longer than what everyone realized. Because of their secret experimentations, the history known and the city they had that had now fallen to ruins, might be older than what they knew. Especially since it was not considered that old of a city in the grand scheme. Therefore, there might be more that had been underneath the ground or hidden away. The proof was already all around the party right now. Undead that had not been seen or were made out of extinct species. This meant that the immortal king had hidden a great deal and might be even older than what he said. It was undeserving yet again. "That's the tree that we are brought to?" Remey looked at the gray and deteriorating tree. It was full of holes from insects burrowing in to it. Parts fallen off and rotting there. Even some marks from where some undead had bumped in to it over time. It was not the picture of what anyone would think about a vampire slaying weapons would be. But Walker knew better than to believe what he was seeing here, many things would not be what they were at first glance. The all around appraisal had shown this. Especially when he had looked at materials. When he had gone to the markets within the demi-human kingdom, he had seen items that anyone would have bought normally. Yet, they had been cursed items that had allowed people to suffer there. If he did not look more carefully with the all around appraisal, then he would have missed a lot. 'Light ash tree

The light ash tree is a species of tree that is normally called the brilliant ash tree. Many different races or people will have different names for it based on their own cultural differences. However, one thing is clear, when alive, this tree is naturally able to collect light mana to grow. It allows it to have white leaves that when they fall off in the colder months, become nourishing ash for the earth around it. They purify the decaying negative aspects of the soil and lead to a better overall quality of earth and nature. Especially in the fact that it is a constantly working aspect of their ecosystem. This is seen in the fact that they will attract light affinity monsters to it to nest nearby or to live peacefully nearby. The wood will perish when the land around it becomes overwhelmed with darkness manas or other aspects close to decay and death. When this happens, it becomes a light ash tree or a dead ash tree. The wood will rot from the outside in and be eaten by many things. But the wood at the core will be able to be used to

make many things. All related to light affinity, a wooden sword would be able to channel purifying light mana within. The same for wands or staves. Using it to make a stabbing spear would be ideal for fighting certain monsters that have a darkness and death affinity related to undeading, undeath, or even immortality. While it will be weak and easily break, it will be strong when reinforced with the proper manas...'

This all around appraisal was very in depth. Walker was amazed that this tree had survived and slowly rotted here. But he could clearly see that when he pushed in to the wood with his hands. There was a hard and tough core within the wood still. Enough to make at least five wooden spears. But when he pulled light aman toward him, he was equally amazed that the wooden core of the light ash tree drank it up. It was so efficient that he believed it would be the ideal weapon for many things. Especially for Alice if she were to carry another staff. One that would help her channel even more light manas. "Wait, before we dig in to this, we need to find the seed." Gil tried his best to search for seeds. If this tree was so valuable that they had both not heard of it and that it could slay an ancient monster race, they had to get it. "You are looking in the wrong place. I know where they might be. Many trees can put dormant seeds somewhere where they won't die. Where they can live for many years. The immortal king might not have taken them because they were not valuable to him, but they can be valuable to me." Remey smirked. She had a smug look on her face while she started to dig her hands in to the ground. Beating Gil out in something to do with plants was hard. He had been raised on a farm and learned a great deal of knowledge from his mother, and then themselves. But Remey focused on herbs. She knew well that when some unique plants were able to grow seeds on their roots before separating the root and leaving the seed to be dormant for the chance to grow at a later date. Her hands began to pull seeds from the ground. Some were broken, rotten, while others still had some tough shells around them. "We can bring these to the elves and grow a few. They might be good for some small arrows that can be used against the vampiric monsters." Remey beamed with pride at her win here. "Wise choice. I did not expect that. I was ignoring something of value right here. But I have other things to care for. Leave my lands." The immortal king's voice came from a nearby skeleton. It took away any of the positive atmosphere here. But the party had gotten what they came for. They already had everything that they needed. "We are leaving. We have a war to fight. And evil to protect the innocents from." Walker spoke with harsh tones but the undead did not move again. The immortal king went back to not caring about them. However, Midnight was focusing very much on the bodies of the lizard like undead. Some of them reminded her of the dragons. The wyvern and the dragon body parts that were not mixed together as a powerful undead corrupted by the demon king. They had to deal with it. Her pride as a dragon was being insulted. She just wanted to be sure that she was prepared and strong enough to take that step. Fighting the vampires would be that step. Challenge herself to be more as a true dragon champion. Walker could sense her feelings. He felt similar. The entire party did. ...

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Chapter 2025 2025. Staring Undead

Taking the wood entirely was easily done with the high spatial storage. Walker even found that he was able to flow through the motion of storing it even better. Something he had not realized was that he had

gained a better control of using this skill. The many times that Walker took things in and out of his spatial storage skill was innumerable. He knew very well how useful it was. The constant use of storing things was always happening. Especially as an adventure. The monsters that they defeated had to be taken care of. If they were not, it would be a waste. Therefore, even whole monster bodies were stored away with his touch. He had to butcher them sometimes to take materials, but with how they had gotten so popular, the party just dropped them off here and there to the places that would do it for a small or no fee. From there, Walker also stored all their armor, weapons, food, you name it. There were too many things. That was also using other skills like the moving forge. That could be taken out of the spatial storage as long as he had every required material or tool to use it. This was something that made him even better at using the small amount of space manas. Therefore, when he went to touch the tree and it disappeared in to the high spatial storage while still a foot away from his hand, Walker realized that he had grown without noticing. His understanding of space had changed. He understood it much more and had a better theory about how to improve that strength. From there, he even understood that he was going to be able to do multiple other things in the future. Using the space mana to teleport would just be the start. Imagining battle style using spatial mana was something too fantastic to even talk about right now. The idea that he would be able to teleport behind monsters or enemies to fight them at an advantage was huge. Being able to skip over difficult terrain using skills to teleport small distances was also attractive. Now he couldn't do such a thing. But one day, he knew for certain that he would. "The undead are staring at us. We should leave." Su made it clear that Walker was taking too long. They had gathered the light ash wood and now they had to retreat from the undead city. The ruins were not their safe haven like it was for the immortal king. Regardless of it being his prison. This was his land. His territory that should not be tread on. Beyond that, there were also the facts that there would be many other instances that the undead could cause trouble. Right now, they were the lucky ones. The immortal king was distracted by the mana he had gotten. While it worried all of the party that the immortal king now had some form of new toy to play with in the essence of natural mana, they were unsure what to do with the knowledge. They could worry a lot and manage to cause themselves a lot of stress. Whoever, they would not be able to do much with that. Especially since they were going to face a worse threat. As the party began their brisk run out of the ruins, they found that the undead had started shuffling toward the massive tower. Not toward them. The undead had only been looking at them as a warning to leave. The immortal king did not wish for distractions. He would be very angry if anything bothered him right now. Therefore, it was best to wish for the safety of anyone foolish enough to try and loot these ruins or explore these ruins in the coming weeks or days. Who knew how long this would go on. Focusing on the fact that they were leaving, Ventus had seen them. She had managed to remain in the air without any bother the entire time. Her growls acting as a reminder to whatever was down there that she was not some easy prey or just a dragon flying around on its own fun journey. She was saying that she did not mind attacking with all her might. The fact that she could break the tower in the middle was clear. She did not hide that. Especially since she could sense the odd manas and see the runes on it. Even Walker said he did not understand that place. The prison of the immortal king. But she also knew that she would not stand much of a chance against the immortal king. It was a monster that was more powerful than that of what anyone could understand. While it might be age or the mysterious nature, no one knew. But she could still destroy a lot. As a wind dominator dragon, all the ruins that were not the tower, would be destroyed. All the undead would be reduced to bone dust at most. That was just the power that Ventus could bring using the full forces of wind blades that slashed through everything. It was a threat that she would be petty and destroy as much of what the immortal king had

as she could if the party was harmed. This was just a set back to an immortal undead. As the party neared the outer edge of the ruins, Ventus swooped down and caged them within her talons. She did not see the point to them remaining here for even a second more. She didn't care that they had yet to tell her what they found. Instead, she focused on the fact that she could not do anything with them the way that they were, in the ruins. After the ruins were left behind in the winds, Ventus finally lowered the party down outside Genesis. It was a longer way back, or at least it felt that way since they were all recoiling from the stress of their encounter. Many things were there for the party to think about. Midnight and Onyx had their own thoughts on what they had seen. Onyx had seen serpents that were massive which had been turned in to undead. He had fears that one day his little serpents could end up the same. Especially the heavenly serpents that were more relaxed and less prone to battle. Mainly Aurora, who had followed Alice in healing as a focus. Midnight had her own thoughts, but Walker had already comforted her as he sensed her feelings becoming unstable. "We need to make progress here. We need to get Alma to grow these trees." Gil's thoughts had not strayed too much. He knew that they could use the elemental teleportation formation to get to the Sigil continent. From there, they just needed to grow their weapons faster. "We will need Walker to help with natural mana. He should help make them grow faster than what Alma can normally grow. Especially if he can gather enough mana to use that nature dragon's domain skill." Remey felt that she would be ready to fight very soon. She could even have someone give her some shaped wood as a gauntlet, the elves were skilled in their growing methods. She could just stop herself from using fire on her fists. Su's focus was on the way she would have to fight against these new foes. She would not be able to fight the same way if they were going against monster that was great at illusions, charm, and generally used others as their method of battle. Not to mention that she used shields and not wooden spears or other weapons. But all of this was not just her. Walker was considering it all as he retold every single detail to Ventus who was walking along with them after taking her dragonkin form again. She would be the one to tell all the others what had happened while the party and Alma focused on growing the trees and beginning to shape their weapons. It felt that they had only lost a few hours, but realistically, they still needed more time. The only hope was that whatever seals and defenses were left to trap these vampires would remain. But the question still stood, how had they been sealed in the first place. Walker knew that one of the books they were given held the knowledge of how this came to be. He also understood that the vampires had been the enemies of the immortal king's people. The questions that came to mind all revolved around these things. But also about how some vampires did not become evil. Did not become a race focused on blood and power. What about them? Where did those good vampires come in to play?

Chapter 2026 2026. Build A What?

The growth in communication crystals being made and sent around the kingdoms was one of the best things from the new Genesis alliance. Not only because they were a shared secret production method from various races coming together, but also because they had sped many things up. Various merchants used it to be able to communicate with their merchant caravans as they traveled through the wilderness. Others used it so that they could send out guards to different positions that needed assistance with crime happening at that moment. The usefulness had outshined everything that could be said about how rare and how hard they were to use before Genesis had come together. They had been improved to be used more times in a row without breaking. Be able to communicate more clearly using them. And furthermore, just in general numbers. That was how Gil had communicated with Alma

to have multiple elves, farmers, and other forces with unique plant growing related skills prepared. She herself, was also right there with the will to lead that group on the other side of the elemental space teleportation rune formation. An army of them to be specific was waiting for the party. Easily a solid seventy five to a hundred people with related skills were there waiting. Along with them, a multitude of tools, and materials had been gathered. They waited in perfect rows just for their skills to be used. many farms had been put on hold with the less experienced watching them. This wasn't because these people had abandoned their duties, but had stood up to keep their duties. To keep the people of their alliance fed and safe. To be able to pull their weight and regale the world of their tales where farmers stood as the front line reason for victory against an evil. "Alma! You worked much faster than it even took us to get here from the undead ruins." Gil's surprise was great since he was unsure if they would be able to gather so many people so fast. "If you were paying attention, you would know that the elves and the demi-humans have both finished their elemental space teleportation rune formation today. Genesis already built the matching spots for them as well." Alma sounded like she was teasing, but the hint of pride in her voice really said it all. The people of Genesis were working incredibly hard. "I have every single farmer, plant manipulator, harvester, and so many more here to help. What can we do?" Alma brought the topic right to the front. She was sure that there was something related to plants, but Gil had only instructed her of that much. Mainly because all the details would have burned out the mana within the communication crystal that he had. It was better to be quick anyways. "I need you to grow a new forest with a tree that has been nearly extinct for a long time. It's called the light ash wood or tree, or a whole bunch of other random names throughout history. Basically, that doesn't matter. What does matter, is that weapons made of this wood can kill the vampires because of the naturally purifying light elemental mana that it gathers." Those that heard this were stuck on the spot. They had just heard that they would be growing an entire forest? How could that happen. But on top of that, they were growing it to be cut down and used as weapons? How did any of this make sense? "That would destroy the land. If we grew that so quickly, all the nutrients would be pulled out and nothing would grow or live here." it was completely right. Alma's reluctance was for the best of nature as a whole. She did not wish to pursue something that would destroy nature. It was against her methods as an elf and as a person. "It won't destroy it. Walker will use the nature dragon domain to help bring in natural mana to allow the land to remain fertile. It is perfect. He can counter the cost by channeling larger amounts of natural mana. With mages helping him, it will be perfect. It will just exhaust a lot of people." Gil knew that the mana potions would be spent. Almost every bit that was here and prepared for this battle and more might be used to do this. But the vampiric threat was too great right now. They were something older and more dangerous than what the party or Genesis really had ever faced. "What about that?" Alma could understand when Walker was involved. She knew that he had skills to counter the threats of destroying the lands where plants and animals would be unable to live. Yet, she was worried about the sky. "It will be light out later. It's just the night?" Gil responded with a questioning look. His eyes glanced around and soon realized that no soldier or force from angels or Genesis were asleep. He looked further off in the distance and understood where he and the party was wrong. Yes, they had taken a lot of time leaving and heading to the ruins. Yes, the day time and night time were different on the continents. But, here on the Sigil continent, it should be brighter. It should have been the middle of the day. Yet, there were dense black clouds covering the sky for a great distance. It was creating a place ideal for the light hating vampires to live. They had yet to break free of whatever seals remained, but they were able to manipulate even the weather now. It was showing that they had managed to wake up more. Call more power to themselves. "Brother, Alma, everyone. I will handle this with my fellow abyssal and heavenly

serpents. We will handle the threats that walk in the night. Just be prepared to watch over us as we do so. Many of them are too young." Brutally serious and somber tone came through from Onyx's words. He knew well that the growth of his little serpents had been because they had been given the perfect environment to do so. Just as he had grown much faster due to his bonds with Walker and Midnight. However, they were young. This would take a toll on them. Using their manas to counter a powerful skill that was literally blocking out the sun would consume all of their mana. And all mana that Onyx had to use. Because of this, they would be incredibly vulnerable during and after using their combined efforts to open the sky so that the sun could help create the forest used as materials for this battle. "Are you sure? You won't be able to fight after that. I doubt you can even hide yourself after that." There was worry intertwined in Walker's voice. The entire party felt the same. "Do not worry, we are the abyssal and heavenly serpents. We are going to be recognized as our own race so much so that even the universe, let alone the world, will recognize us." Onyx's boasting pride was on full display here. He planned to show everyone just the pure strength of his species. To show how much he and all of them had grown. "Then we should get working. I dragged myself all the way here from my garden just to help out my daughter in law build a forest. So get a move on!" "Mom?!" Gil had no idea that his mother had come to answer the call here as well. "What? Is your mother too weak and useless to do anything? Oh no, I think not. You might have the hero title, but you are my son and I will be the one that makes sure the world turns for you. Especially since you keep making my little daughter in law work so hard. You're supposed to make things easier for her." Gil's mother gave Gil an earful. "You should listen to your mother. I had to come to make sure she kept herself standing after giving it her all. I expect you to do your best too son." Gil's father was acting as a body guard. The hunter ready for a fight in a forest made by his wife and daughter in law. An interesting event to witness. "All farming forces, prepare to create a forest!" Alma shouted out and caused many people to begin moving. Multiple moved to purify and strengthen the waters they would pour on to the saplings. Others began preparing the soil and removing damaged sections due to the saltwater and other attacks from slimes. Walker's nature dragon domain would repair other things they could not do in such a short time. The flurry of movement was only brought together through years of experience and reliance on the best of the best. Not a single person moving was divided or alone right now. An untrained force working perfectly together with a goal to protect their futures. An astounding feat.

Chapter 2027 2027. Flow Together

As Ventus had been the one to explain things to the other royal dragons, they had no reason to make moves toward the party when they arrived with their entire force of farmers. Especially Current who was extremely exhausted from stopping a mass of salt water at a moment's notice. It had been the final nail in the coffin so to speak for the stored mana he had tried to gather back.

The other forces around had also been doing their own preparations. As the forces that were behind the party had begun to arrive, the soldiers had already started to prepare the land.

They knew well that there were many things that could stop the plans being formed. That could interrupt the skills that would be used to create a literal new forest with incredibly skill combination.

The corrupted manas were still around and seemed to be growing. Along with the dark skies, this was already a worse issue that they felt that they had to handle right away.

A few monsters were still roaming around, but had begun to fall in to wild antics due to the corrupted manas. These were captured and defeated by the angelic forces which had begun to patrol the skies. Especially since they were attempting to find any of the other bat kin that had managed to survive the previous night's battle.

Remey felt that she was not needed and made a move toward Ignus. She had her focus with him since the two of them together could better gather whatever fire manas that they could at a faster rate. This would both help her and him when they came to battle.

The idea that she had was to use the fire mana that she condensed to counter the attacks of the vampiric monsters that might be awakening within the ruins that the demon king had risen. She also felt that she might be able to take some of the light ash wood and dissolve it within some potions.

This idea had led her to search her mind for applicable potion formulas and herbs that could work together. Potentially using the explosive potion formulas that she knew could be the ideal possibility. Especially if she could make some stopped vials out of the wood. When the potion would explode, shrapnel of ash wood tree would hit the monsters. A great weakening attack.

It was a brutal battle style that would be able to handle many monsters at once. Hence why many of the alchemists nearby that had come to assist and work alongside healers were inspired by it. Remey also had the skills to memorize all the herbs and formulas which helped immensely. She was the leader in this idea.

"Brother, we are prepared, are you?" Onyx called out mentally to Walker. He sat in the center of a hastily drawn light rune formation along with every single heavenly and abyssal serpent. They had all come when he called for help. Even some of the youngest who should realistically still be absorbing light mana and resting. But they had not wanted to let their elder siblings down.

Arora had become a leader among the heavenly serpents. She was nearly matching Onyx's size in such a short time away from Alice. But she had managed to gain her own unique skill to hide away her true size. While she did not speak yet, she clearly was using Onyx as a rival of sorts. A reason to grow. A being to match and stand next to.

Alice didn't say a word about this, but it was clear that she was proud of the heavenly serpent she had made a close bond with. Proud because she had begun to grow and represent the healing light that came with the cathedral and with genesis as a whole.

"It's as good as things will get, Ventus, please keep an eye out. If things look to be failing, you are the last resort." Walker did not wish Ventus to use a large amount of wind mana. She would be needed to fight powerful vampiric monsters. Not to blow away the al storm clouds blocking the light.

"Alma and I are ready too, Walker, it's up to you and the mages that made that rune circle." Gils' call from a distance was loud enough for everyone to hear. A wave of tense preparation happened. Everyone took deep breaths and began to focus their attention entirely.

The mages had worked with a few rune carvers and used rough natural mana runes that had begun to be created. They formed together with various elemental mana runes to form an ideal formation that absorbed ambient mana and channeled it toward Walker.

"Midnight, please keep an eye out. Once they notice what we are doing, I have a feeling that we might have some opposition." Walker heard the gruff growl from Midnight showing that she was Ready. He also saw that Su had taken a position where she could defend the key runes in case they were targeted. They needed the forest to grow to be used as weapons against these monsters.

"Well, now I understand why nature called to me. I was unsure why until I felt the desires here. Let us grow these forests and remove the corrupted manas taking root within that land." the words came from more than just one being.

The many echidna from the village that the party had met were all standing at various points among everyone. Not a single person had witnessed them arrive. What they did know though, was that the manas had rapidly jumped as they had shown themselves.

"I knew the echidna would arrive at some point in the coming battles. But you chose now? A very big surprise. So let me show you what I have learned since we last met." Walker knew well that the echidna had come because they sensed the natural mana. That they had come to help repair and enlighten the world to be within the balance it should be.

Their race had appeared from isolation recently. They had reclaimed their title as a race. They also lived in mysterious and unknown ways due to their massive wisdom when it comes to nature and the world. Yet, when they arrived, it was a very big deal. Everyone in Genesis had heard the tale of the echidna and their unique way of life.

Walker pushed all the mana in to a single point. The eternal codex acting as the central core for him in a staff from. Various manas drawing together and forming a dense ball.

"This is my nature dragon domain, and it will be the key to removing those clouds and building a forest." Walker said this more for himself before he released the ball of natural mana. It spread out in a wave making every single bit of plant life grow just by being touched by it. Things only grew more as the mages joined in to provide manas.

While not as extreme as the previous use of the skill, the echidna had not acted yet. When they did move, they began to hum and bring more mana toward the domain. Elevating the strength and coverage.

"This is our turn. Show the world what the heavenly and abyssal serpent race can do." Onyx roared out as if in a battle cry. All the light mana between every single one of them shot up in to the sky. Light mages joining in to help direct the mana to purify the clouds storming above. The clouds keep the light from reaching the earth where it should be.

"And that would be my turn. Please watch my back." Alma spoke sweetly before a fan of seeds were thrown out. She and a large number of farmers had been using their skills to multiply the seeds from the light ash tree. A tough skill that required a lot of knowledge. But they had that knowledge.

Seconds passed before more mana flowed. More skills were activated. Small sprouts were growing.

The ground rumble as massive roots burst up and winding trees started to push toward the sky. The sky that was growing lighter and lighter.

So much cooperation had come together in a spectacular display of mana and unity. But the wondrous sight and feelings as mana flowed together with so many people working so hard were quickly interrupted.

The blood curdling screeching that came with the sounds of shattering stones were from the ruins. The sound had traveled from far enough away that it felt as if they had been much louder. So much so that they could have made everyone deaf.

The next moment, a breeze of bloodlust flowed over the entire area. Monsters were coming. Monsters in service to the ancient evils that had started to wake up within those vampiric ruins.

Chapter 2028 2028. Forgot Me?

Midnight's growl was the next sound heard. It was mirrored by multiple dragonkin that knew well what their missions were. They were to face the oncoming enemies that wished to interrupt their lord's slumber. To fall in line behind the young true dragon champion of the nature dragons wishing to cull this great enemy from these land.

While this sounded dramatic, it was how the dragonkin thought. They levied for the royal dragons. They protected the youngest of the dragon hatchlings. They shared their lives within the villages. They fight beside their royal dragons.

This was the life of a dragonkin. Therefore, they did not frown toward it. Genesis might have opened up entirely new ways for them to grow. Giving them entirely new paths to take which could allow them to be more individual. However, they had a dragon's pride.

They trusted the dragon blood within their veins that prevented them from being a monstrous lizard man. Or from being any other form of monster. Because of this pride, they stood tall and lived the lives of warriors.

Hence why the demi-humans had gotten along with them so incredibly well. They shared similar warrior mentalities. But where the dragonkin really stood out, was their ferocity that matched the terrifying anger of dragons.

When a dragon was angry, even the world shivered. A saying that many would use when referring to the very powerful. Now that many people of Genesis had met dragons, they believed it was founded in truth and not just a fantastical saying.

With Midnight charging away from the party toward the shadowy figure that she could see, the dragonkin and other available forces followed. The others were too busy growing an entire forest. They would be too tired to fight immediately anyways. Not to mention the crafters and others that would be too focused on creating weapons for the light ash wood trees.

Walker's focus was split and he could see where Midnight was heading, but he could not see what the enemies were. However, he could sense a surprising clarity and understanding from Midnight. The same feelings that he would get when she would hear his all around appraisals.

"You learned the skill from a spell scroll. You hid that from me." Walker whispered out loud as he channeled every bit of natural mana he could in to the happening where he stood. He was proud. Impressed. And greatly excited to hear what Midnight had to say for herself when she admitted to hiding her own secret.

While it was not the same skill, Midnight had managed to gain the general appraisal skill, not the all around appraisal. But it was incredibly useful. She could use it on many things and understand it much better.

The chances of her gaining the all around appraisal skill when using a spell scroll was very slim. Everyone had been purchasing them and hoping, especially the party members themselves. They had their own jealousy for Walker's skills.

Yet, Midnight had been the lucky one blessed with gaining an appraisal skill. Now she could ignore using spell scrolls or even asking Walker everything. Not that she wouldn't want to hear what he had to say. But right now, she had the chance to see what monsters were coming at them.

'Vampiric skeleton

Raised from the victims of monstrous vampires who even feed on their own vampire race, these skeletons are thralls to their killers in life.

They have a thirst that can never be quenched. The thirst for blood can strengthen their bones but will never bring back the life they desire to have. This leads them to be full of blind rage. They can only follow the orders to attack and kill. Their intelligence completely lost due to this rage.

While they do not feel pain, they are incredibly hard to kill since they can repair their bodies with the spilled blood around them. They are also able to use shards of their own bones to attack along with the grotesque skeletal fangs that formed when they were created by monstrous vampires.

While very resistance to physical and al attacks, they are very weak to fire attacks. But they are also susceptible to the drastic cooling which would force them to be unable to move and easily be broken in to bone pieces that can later be burned to ashes....'

Midnight had not gotten any of the extra information Walker might have gotten. The details about how these monsters were formed. How they were controlled. Or even hope they could be purified using natural mana. These things were not general information.

But what she had gained, was knowledge that was valuable to her. And since she ahd been working harder than any other dragon hatchling and worked to learn general language, and she had the world translating her words, she was able to shout out her orders.

"Use fire! Freeze with ice!"

The roar erupted in to the air as many roars from the dragonkin echoed behind her. She was not just alone.

Now When she spotted the spiky skeletons, she understood that they ahd been broken. Damaged for years within the seal which was broken enough to let them out. They were not the most powerful enemies within that ruin, but they were the pens that ahd been freed and sent to kill everyone.

Naturally, the vampires within the ruins who were waking up ahd connections with their bat kin. They ahd seen what was happening. They recognized the wood that could be used as damaging weapons. things that could kill them and end their immortality.

When her claws reached the first skeleton, the tough bones were like brittle glass before her power. She was not weak by any means. She had been growing. She was larger. She was tougher. She was not a hatchling. She was making records with her strength for her age as the one and only true dragon champion.

As her claws were wreathed in flames, Midnight's growls only grew. She allowed her instincts to guide her in battle. The many vampiric skeletons that wished to harm her family did not deserve to walk this earth. That was her pride speaking. Her pride looking down. But more than that, her desire to protect.

Five dragonkin that followed Ignus came to her side and slashed through the vampiric skeletons with flaming swords. They stood as guardians for Midnight in particular. They disliked that a single monster of such disgusting origins would attempt to touch a dragon worthy of respect. It made their scales crawl.

Feeling the fire mana all around her, Midnight breathed in. the five dragonkin lending their fire to her without hesitation. They had fought alongside Ignus. They could recognize what an attack would be that needed their aid to become easier.

The horde of vampiric skeletons only continued to charge before the massive dragon fire breath lashed out in a wide array before them. Unable to scream or even sense the pain, the dragon flames only grew as those with the ability to fuel them shared their mana to do so.

"Now that is a real dragon!" Barry shouted out as his axes slashed through ten of the attacking vampiric skeletons. Midnight almost jumped in surprise since she had completely forgotten that the powerful human and vice adventurer's guild master had been there. He has kept himself back until he was needed. Right now, was the ideal time.

Barry had so much experience dealing with large hordes of plague inducing monsters. These were the very same that he had dealt with. Not the same species, but the same premise. They would cause ruin wherever they went. Therefore, he jumped in to battle.

"Step back little dragon. Let me handle this so you can fight the big bad bosses later. You can use that natural mana stuff. I can't mess with in the slightest." Barry brandished his two massive axes.

Midnight noticed that they were seemingly more terrifying than what she had remembered. But when she noticed the rune patterns on them and the large mana gems, she understood. They had been

modified so that they would hold Barry's mana. It would extend his berserk state so that he would not be exhausted after it. He would also be able to fight for longer.

Behind him and nearby the many dragonkin, multiple adventurers took up arms. They were not all the strongest, but they were here to protect and explore the Sigil continent. They also had the jobs to help everyone here. They could handle these monsters while the real heroes and powerful forces kept their strength for when the real fights began. This was just a day's work right now. Just doing their part.

Midnight huffed slightly as she watched them push forward. Only a few dragonkin needing to act against the enemies being demolished before their eyes.

Chapter 2029 2029. Light Ash Wood Forest

The sounds of battle began to be crushed as the silence of the soldiers slowly patrolling began to take place all around the massive forest. But that silence was only there because the large light ash wood trees had finally stopped growing.

The earth still showed with the dark and rich soil that it should have. The simple reason being the nature dragon domain skill that Walker had used. It was fueled by multiple mages so that he could ensure that the land was not destroyed by what they were doing. Especially when it came to growing things in the future.

When Walker sensed that all the farmer related skills and plant related skills were ceasing, he stopped his own domain skill. This was due to the fact that his mind had erupted in to a burning head ache. He had used this skill just a while ago and not fully grasped it yet. He needed more training.

He knew that the nature dragon domain skill would surely be doing more than just affecting the elemental manas. Using it again this time spoke volumes in that aspect. But it had taken its toll. Walker was completely exhausted and could barely focus on the battle nearby.

Midnight's return from the sudden attack made many of the forces nearby relax. They knew well that she had dashed ahead with every dragonkin nearby for a reason. The battle had been enough to ensure that they had to focus on their task with trust that they would be safe here.

Furthermore, there was the added bonus that they had no idea what energy they had to even attempt to look at the battle. Those in particular, being the farmers. They had never been part of something this dramatic. They had never used all their manas on something like growing a forest.

For farmers, they might grow seeds to sprout faster with their mana. They might make a vegetable or fruit ripen faster. These things were a potential task that they had to complete. But a forest? Altering the way a tree grew immensely? Neither were things they were used to.

Alma was the very same. Gil caught her as she fell forward with weak knees. She was still conscious, but she was exhausted beyond belief. She had used her skill to the absolute limit along with the others. Channeling massive amounts of mana while guiding the trees to grow as many twisted branches as possible.

The twisted branches had been something she noticed Gil and archers speak about. Some archers would ask for a tree to be grown in a certain way so that they could make even more unique arrow shafts.

One in particular were the arrows made from the densest central wood core of the tree. But Gil had once said that he wanted to make arrow shafts from twisted wood. Specifically because that would be wood that was somewhat braided. That way. The arrow would move in a twisting action already. It would add to the strength physically and even the speed through the air.

This idea was already somewhat proven, but to grow a proper arrow shaft like that took mana, time, and experimentation. Things that Gil and Alma had not done due to how busy that they were every single day. But now, Alma had chosen to cause some of the trees to take this form out of her trust.

Gil had long proven that he was able to change the way that the elves thought about arrows and archery as a whole. His outside opinions had stopped the stagnation of archery as an art of the elves completely. They were moving forward now with many new arrow designs.

When Su ran to where Onyx was, she found him and every single serpent that had come passed out. They had used every single little bit of light mana to provide the trees with what they needed. To free the sky of the dark clouds that were now slowly appearing again as one of the monstrous vampires made their active.

Su felt that she had to protect them all, but many of the Genesis forces were already acting. They were creating defensive barriers that they had begun making at this location as a base camp for the battles to be had.

The serpents needed the light mana and the time to properly recover before anything could be done. This made it clear that Onyx could not join the next battle. He would not be able to handle things with such low mana. Even using his purely physical strength. Onyx might face a monster that could beat him down easily instead of physically.

The same could be said about his skills though. He would be missing the light and darkness armor that he would form over his scales. That was a major defensive skill that would be gone. Leaving Onyx with fewer defenses was not an option that any member of the party would allow to happen. He had to rest whether he liked it or not when he woke up.

The person that seemed to be doing the most though, was Remy. She was already providing mana potions in watered down forms to people. She knew that she would be unable to make enough to replenish what they had already used. She also understood that the side effects of using all mana within the body were drastic.

Therefore, she took the high mana potions that she and everyone else had and began to split them. Using cleansed water that a healer had purified, she was able to water down the high mana potions into some water with healing abilities.

Not healing in the sense of physicality, but with mana recovery. It removed some side effects that everyone had who participated in creating a little forest.

The towering light ash trees were not small. While some believed that this was instantly so large due to all the mana used, those that participated knew this was wrong. A poor assumption to make.

These light ash trees had grown much more than what was expected, not only had the nature dragon domain boosted them beyond a level that was expected. It had also allowed them to remain at the top shape. This way, their roots had reached the nearby underground water sources. They had grown spectacularly.

"Those of you that can do so! Begin making adjustments, this land is now a moving crafting guild!" This caused many to look up and notice that Walker gathered his breath and shouted out. He had to ensure that Gil was teaching and showing the arrows and other weapons to be made. Remey was already helping people recover some mana. Everyone else needed to work.

Carpenters began to work the hardest. They now have trees for days. Specifically, wood that was easily being manipulated by the mages and elves.

With the order out, Walker's mind was a little more at ease. He also went back to thinking about the mysterious other mana present within the nature dragon domain skill. He could have sensed the life mana in particular.

Being the best option, Walker knew that this was also why the land was so fertile still. The innate life mana within all things had fueled this forest to grow. This forest to take the place of broken trees and plenty of damaged wood. Some of the roots had crushed the fallen trees and used them for nutrients as well. Just guided by the farmers.

Life mana within the nature dragon domain also meant that Walker was unconsciously controlling life mana much better than he thought. If this was the case, he might be able to use that against the monstrous vampires. They were immortal, but also stuck between life and death. They chose that though. They thought themselves perfect.

However, if the light ash wood weapons failed, then there was the chance Walker could develop a skill that forced the vampires to be fully living and only living monsters. That way they could be killed by the general physical and al attacks of everyone. Not just wanting to be pieced back together.

The flurry of activity made Walker's head hurt more. But when he leaned over and sat, he found that he was already leaning against a light ash wood tree. Alma had intentionally grown one to catch many of those she knew would fall down without any energy. Walker was not the only one giving it his all.

More crunching sounds came from the distance. Barry had gotten closer to the ruins and battled more powerful vampiric skeletons. This being the case, Walker forced himself to stand even though he should not be at the moment with his lack of mana. He had to ensure that they keep moving forward.

Chapter 2030 2030. Condensing wood

The fighting was dying down more and more as everyone was moving in to their next tasks. The fact that the dragonkin and Barry's adventure forces had seamlessly taken over the fight against the vampiric skeletons spoke much more than anything.

There had been too many of the vampiric skeletons than what anyone had expected. This was simply because the monstrous vampires had kept them around as cheap labor. As a force to use as fodder.

Something that happened like that was easily considered horrible. Yes, the immortal king also used the undead as his tools, but the monstrous vampires doing it seemed worse. Simply because they had kept the undead within a sealed and isolated ruins beneath the ocean for many years.

This had been done to keep them around to be used later. The state of their bones proved that it wasn't a good way either. They had been kept in terrible conditions and shouldn't even be able to rise again. The only reason they had was that they were still bound to the monstrous vampires until they became worthless lumps of dust in the wind.

These thoughts were sitting in Walker's mind as he looked at the forces in the distance. He was glad that no other vampiric monsters had appeared in this time. It was mostly because so many people were going to be low on mana.

Walker himself was low on mana but he was easily able to recover since he had the means to do so. His mana sensitivity allowed him to better draw in some mana to use as his own and heal his heavy mind. It was why he was able to use natural mana better.

On top of this, he had the best quality mana potions ready within the high spatial storage. He was not holding back with them either. This was simply because he knew that powerful vampiric monsters might appear and attack them while they began to prepare the weapons from the light ash wood trees.

Some of the farmers that had their mind still strong enough, the highest leveled ones, were making the trees create seeds. They knew that there would be many times they might need to create more of these trees for weapons. But they also understood that this was a species of plant that might not exist anywhere else any longer.

Many of the elves had gotten the quest to preserve this species of tree. The same with the echidna that had used their connections to nature to help all of them prepare this forest. Walker was surprised about

that. Not the quest to preserve these light ash wood trees, but that the echidna had appeared and were still here.

He could see that they were retired, yet they were all directing others with their wisdoms. But they were clearly secretive. They held back when they were asked certain questions.

How are you still standing with so much mana?

How did you know how to draw in natural mana so easily?

Why are you able to use so much variety in skills to help us?

These were just a few questions that they were asked and only met with smiles or polite responses. The echidna were secretive for their own reasons. They were polite and not violent or mean about it.

Understanding this, made many of those who asked keep themselves from getting annoyed that they were not getting straight answers whatsoever. But Walker had begun to realize that it might be the world itself that was preventing them. There might be some quest or requirement from the world to restrict what they told the other people.

It was already clear that the island that the echidna had lived on had reached a perfect balance of mana. Yes it had been sinking in to the ocean, but that was just things changing over time. The echidna had reached a balance so close to nature and the world that they had easily been considered one with it in many essence.

Seeing the tway that they acted now, helping people recover their mana faster even though some of them were clearly warriors and not mages or healers, proved this many times over. Walker could only hope that when the corrupted mana was dealt with and the demon lord was handled, that there was a way to know what the echidna knew.

"Walker, stay focused. You can do more than just sit there and use the all around appraisal on the trees and everyone to make sure things are fine." Gil spotted Walker still standing and looking around. He knew that Walker had recovered since the slight pale appearance in his face was gone.

"I was just taking the time to appreciate the echidna coming to help us. I Was wondering what they have been up to." Walker smiled a little when he saw a few echidna that heard him smile and nod out of respect. They were glad to hear that they were appreciated. Anyone would be.

"I know, but we need to start making things out of all this wood. Some of the carpenters that came are already working on their second and third daggers carved with earth, water, and light runes. They say that they might be able to make some that can cut the same as an iron dagger or better." Now this was interesting.

Walker knew that many carpenters and builders in general would use special runes or skills to make wood tougher. This was done a lot while the construction of Genesis homes were made. Many of the builders even added runes to prevent fires since they had learned from fire in the past. The party being some people that had helped save others from such a fire.

"I think I can learn to do that. I have the mana control to possibly condense some of the wood in to a much smaller but denser and harder shape. Maybe I should make some daggers?" Walker's idea was to make condensed light ash wood daggers for as many people as possible. Perfect for stabbing the monstrous vampires.

"No, you will be doing that to arrows." Gil was sure that a condensed light ash wood arrow would be many times heavier, but hit many times harder. There was also a much higher chance that light runes could be added to it so that it gave a bigger attack.

"You want to make an exploding light ash wood arrow that spreads the wood of the arrow and light mana all over the area that it lands. That way, even missed shots will handle many of the vampiric skeletons and other thralls of the vampires in there." Walker was not asking a question. He was stating exactly the thoughts that he knew Gil had.

"Exactly. So let's do it." Gil threw a branch at Walker.

The branch was a very straight twisted branch. It was one that matched the theory that Gil had for the wood that would spin when it was braided like this. But when Walker felt it, he relayed that it would definitely be able to use the wind mana to reach a very powerful rate of spinning.

But this was a piece that should be carved in to at least three or four times as many arrows as he would be condensing it. He wasn't even sure if the mana he used to force the wood to condense would allow the wood to survive.

Without thinking much more, Walker decided that the best method was just to accept the task. He was going to work on it anyways while he trusted the adventurer's and midnight to keep everyone protected.

His senses picked up the innate manas within the wood. Water, earth, and a very powerful light mana that had gathered. It allowed him to channel these manas within the wood easily. But that was not what he needed. He had to add outside pressure.

The first second he tried this with all manas pushed the wood to start to splinter on the edges. Upon stopping, Walker realized that he was letting the fire and water manas clash at the edges since they

were forced together in an improper way.

This meant he had to direct balanced manas at the wood. Natural mana.

Using this method, the wood began to release the air and other small impurities within it and condense. Very slowly, but enough. Yet, Walker felt that the earth mana was breaking free a little. That the natural mana was somehow naturally channeling itself in to the earth mana.

It was a very odd feeling that the mana itself was trying to guide him. Like he had missed the true essence of what he was doing. However, he also believed that this felt familiar. Like he had felt this sort of pressure his entire life.

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