

Master 221

Chapter 221 - 221. Cracks

Walker had stored every vial of the pure water very happy with the amount they had. He wanted to save at least three hundred for any possible potions the party would need or make. This sounded like too much but he wanted to think long term, how many potions would they need if they reached a higher level. The battles they had been in so far they party had not used potions mostly because there would have been no time to stop and drink them. However Walker was thinking that as holders of the hero title they would often find themselves not in need of the potions themselves, but those they may save. How many people could they help with higher grade health or mana potions?

Asking himself that question Walker would sell two hundred and eighteen so that they could make a bit more gold. The pure water would also go in to circulation for alchemists in the kingdom leading to breakthroughs in potions and even higher grade potions reaching the markets. This may be a roundabout method to slightly strengthen the kingdom but it was enough. Their kingdom's economy was very important to everyone that lived within it.

"You two go off and bandage a few people up, I am going home to see my brothers and sisters!" Remey was already running off before Su and Walker could even reply. She was way too excited to go tell her stories to her family.

Su and Walker took a leisurely pace on the way to the cathedral, not having to rush somewhere was a gift. Taking their time to reach the cathedral, they soon found the familiar intricate stone building and colored glass windows. Walker could already feel his face heating up as they climbed each step. The door was open as usual for the public to come for prayer or for healing, the sight upon entering was unexpected. There was a large crowd of elderly people all trying to get toward the front of the cathedral where the large crystal was. The aura did not seem as strong as it had been when they were last there.

' Daily quest: Prayer troubles

The cathedral has been damaged causing the healing aura to slowly fade. Assist those who wish to repair it,

Requirement:

Heal those in need

Repair the healing aura light crystal

Reward:

300exp'

Walker read the system quest and immediately understood the situation, the elderly had come to be healed but instead found that they could not be healed at all. The effects of the healing aura around them were too weak to affect them, let alone the elderly who were dealing with their weary bones.

Walker and Su made their way to the front of the cathedral, "Please be at ease, we are working to repair the damages done. We can still heal you given more time to rest. If anyone had a mana transfer skill or would like to donate mana potions this would greatly assist in the healing efforts." The high priest was trying to calm the obviously frustrated elderly who did not seem to understand why they could not get their usual healing. Many healers and nuns ran about focusing on a group of injured people, they were putting those with serious injuries as a priority. This made plenty of sense to Walker and Su, who were trying to get a mental handle of what was going on.

The elderly continued to throughout angry phrases wanting to be relieved of their joint pain. Some even went so far to try and guilt the high priest by saying they could not even lift their grandchildren to hold them. The high priest was very pale and had used too much of his mana.

Walker could not take this sight any longer, Su was of the same mind, but before she could move Walker had already stepped forward. "Someone said that they need healing? Well I have some extra mana and a healing skill why not line up and receive my help!" His voice echoed through the stones of the cathedral silencing many of the frustrated voices. The high priest gave a pleading look saying thank you for diverting the elderly attention. "Su can you help out over there? Also gather some information on what exactly happened?" Su gave a sharp nod and headed toward the high priest who was in need of a seat very badly .

"High priest are you alright? You are much too pale." Su was very soft spoken so that she would not draw any attention from Walker who now had a line in front of him.

"Yes, I will be fine with some rest, it has been a very long day." He walked leaning on Su's shoulder to the nearest bench. After resting for a moment he gave her a small smile, "I am sure you two are much more worried than you are letting on, I am sorry to cause you some stress." The high priest in his old age was not the happiest when he found himself troubling the youths.

"It is no trouble, you have used too much mana and deserve any assistance. If I could bother you, how did this happen. I remember the cathedral is always very well upkept." Su did not want to seem rude especially since she was worried the high priest could pass out at any moment. She was still allowing him a bit of support even though he had sat down on a bench.

"Well everything was fine until this morning, the healing light crystal was being polished to let the sun's rays shine through it better when the one responsible for the task slipped from their ladder. It was a surprise to those below him and in his desperate grabbing for support he slammed his head in to the crystal causing it to crack and leak its mana. It was an accident, since then he has been unconscious along with the three priests in training that tried to catch him." The four of them have been healed but not woken up, it is worrying, I feel it is because of the lack of healing aura they have been around for so many years now, their bodies are a bit weak." Even though I am affected by this, I do not often feel my true age because I am within the healing aura even when I sleep." The high priest sighed in defeat, he had no such knowledge how to repair such damage and could only try to pour his own mana in to the crystal to create the aura. The plan had gone well until he drained his mana to a very slim amount and the crystal returned to leading more mana. The mana that was leaking from it was indeed light elemental aura but without being channeled through the crystal properly it was not healing anyone.

"We are going to try everything we can to help! You can count on use, we would hate to see anyone suffer, and we know that every member of the church feels the same." Su reassured the high priest which was met with a sad smile, he wanted to hope that this would prove true but had his doubts.

He leaned back letting Su be free from his added stress, he knew that she could do much more good helping take care of those with heavier injuries. Su gave him a reassuring look and moved to the groups of injured. She quickly found work in those that needed bandages changed and put her knowledge in to practice. She could not re apply bandages as fast as the nuns or other healers but she was able to make a large difference. She was very aware of her surroundings since she was always trying to block an enemy attack. Every time someone near her needed a bandage, water, or even another hand she was already there.

The other healers saw her efforts and silently praised her, they would not stop their missions to say anything but every single one of them had started to idolize someone who was not a healer doing something so amazing. This bit of inspiration motivated every single one of them to work ,more

efficiently and heal more. Many were on the ends of their mana and could not use healing spells but did what they could. They would work while they waited for their mana to regenerate.

Walker was still distracting the elderly who seemed to be more and more impatient the longer they waited in line. They had been relying on the cathedral for years and years but now it was unable to help them as it always had. Seeing this Walker started to look about for another healer to jump in so he could try to remedy the greater problem, His sights fell on an unconscious girl laying on a bench. "Alice!" Walker was worried that she was ill but watched carefully and saw that she must have used all of her mana, he felt silly for his sudden outburst. The old woman that had just stepped in front of him noticed this.

"Oh, dear are you worried about Little Alice? You should really let her know when she wakes up, I am sure she would be more than happy to hear it." The old woman gave him a wink.

"Miss I do apologize but I have realized that I need to solve this problem at the root. Can you please wait just a bit longer?" The old woman only smiled more and with another wink let him rush to Su.

Chapter 222 - 222. Repair Man

"Su did you find out what happened?" Walker found her washing a cloth in some greenish tinted water. This was an herbal solution used to help heal burns that was commonly used in every church in the kingdom. It was even for sale at the alchemist stalls in the market.

"Leader, one of the priests in training, was polishing the healing light crystal and fell, they hurt their head and those that tried to catch them were also hurt. Not the crystal is cracked and losing its mana. Somehow the crack needs to be mended but I am not sure how." Walker absorbed this information then looked more closely at the large healing light crystal.

He was able to see that there were small cracks spider webbing out from one side along with a ladder still propped up near it. "Su you wouldn't think that I could climb up there would you?" Walker was already in motion with those words. Su wanted to stop them since it was dangerous to climb up somewhere where another had fallen not too long before. But she was involved in a task that must be completed for an injured man who had been burned working in the forge.

The healers and nuns paid Walker no mind since they were so involved with their own tasks. The second Walker approached the stone pillar that had been carved to hold the crystal he could sense that there was light elemental mana traveling in strange ways. He looked around the area to see that the colors were not the normal assortments of a rainbow but a weird mix matched pattern of reds and yellows. The crystal having this damage was keeping it from filtering all forms of light through it.

Walker could feel there was more of an issue with it as well, the mana that was leaking out was the partially filtered light elemental mana but instead of storing any of it , it just flowed back out. It could not store any of the sun's rays at all right now!

Reaching the foot of the ladder Walker placed a shaky foot on the first wooden rung and started to climb. There was a wobble here and there but not enough to deter him He was three quarters of the way up when the ladder started to sway side to side. This ladder was in need of repair for sure and was definitely the reason the priest in training had fallen. Walker did not want to abort his climbing to reach the crystal but felt the ladder would topple over if he went any higher. "Don't you worry I have the ladder under control!" The weak voice of the high priest reached his ears. The high priest had forced himself to stand and was not holding the ladder which was much more steady. "Just do your best, if anyone can figure it out it will definitely be a hero." The tiredness in the high priests voice was evident but their hope was stronger. This was exactly the job for a hero. It was not glamorous like slaying evil monsters or rescuing damsels in distress but this was just as important.

Walker was on steady footing and easily reached the top of the ladder. The healing light crystal was shimmering weakly trying to filter the light as it normally did. Reaching out and touching the cracks Walker could feel that the built up light elemental mana was flowing out as fast as it flowed in to the crystal. This flow caused the strange colors to appear in the air.

"The problem is that the crystal can't store the light mana any more! I need a bit of time to see what we can do!" Walker had a few ideas on what to try to get things to work, his first plan was to use elemental manipulation to keep the mana from flowing out of the crystal. With that he could examine how the crystal structure was affected. The real question was how would he change the crystals structure? It was not technically a part of earth anymore since it had taken on the light element. So using earth sculpting was out of the question, but what if he could somehow shape the light elemental mana within the crystal to change the structure.

He placed his hands fully on the cracks and channeled his mana in to the light element mana seeping out of the crystal. The light elemental mana was held back in the center of the crystal, however the more that built up the more it pushed against him to escape. This was like a river pushing on a leaking dam! The pressure building would eventually break the dam, or in this case Walker's manipulation.

He needed something to use to repair the crystal, using his mana manipulation he tried to force the light elemental mana to move and fill the cracks but only found that the mana could slightly affect the crystal. "Ugh why won't you change!" Walker let out his thoughts verbally to think through the pressure. "I need something to plug these cracks, stupid broken crystal."

His frustrations sounding around him smacked him back in the face, he did have something he could use to plug the cracks. Removing one hand Walker pulled some of the crystal shards from his inventory. These crystal shards could be used to craft gear that could store mana, furthermore they used to be light crystals too! He had a handful of about ten shards, by letting some of the mana from the healing light crystal flow in to them he felt it being trapped inside each shard. Without his control the shards would leak out the mana, but when he placed them in to the cracks they seemed to keep the light elemental mana within them.

This theory to use them to plug the cracks could work! Walker began fitting in the shards pulling out another twenty throughout this process. After a great deal of time there were only very small cracks left that were still bleeding the mana. The light elemental mana had somewhat started to build within the healing light crystal. Walker gave his next attempt to channel the light elemental mana within the crystal to fuse all the shards back together and close the remaining cracks. He imagined the diamond light structure of the crystals becoming attached at corners held together by the light mana within. The mana was flowing along these connections slowly gaining more traction.

Walker felt something click together and he opened his eyes to the perfectly smooth surface of the healing light crystal.

' Skill crystal crafting has been learned through specific use actions and taken from the crystal craftsman system.

Crystal crafting- mana 1+ cost

Using mana to manipulate the natural elemental mana within a crystal the user can make the crystals more easily change shapes and fit to gear. The crystals used can be made in to unique energy sources for gear and other items.'

Walker did not look at the skill much since was too concerned with the healing light crystal in front of him. He had spent over an hour on the ladder. The high priest was using all of his physical energy to keep the ladder still watching Walker work. During this time he was in awe to see the repairs being made, Walker had used more than one form of to fully fix something none of them were able to fix themselves. It was impressive to say the least.

Feeling the faint aura of healing starting to return along with perfect rainbows flowing from the healing light crystal Walker descended the ladder. When he came face to face with the high priest the high priest began to collapse. "Ah! Are you alright?!" Walker was extremely worried, he did not know how long he had spent on this project just that there high priest had been there the entire time.

"Mhm- ye-ss I am...fine. Just-tired." The high priest was unsteady so Walker helped him over to the bench Su had led him to earlier. The high priest looked like he had just had the energy sucked from him. This was one of the busiest days at the cathedral in a very long time. He was thinking that it may be time to retire soon if this kept up.

Walker wanted the high priest to have some peace so he left him to the bench alone where he seemed to be alms falling asleep. The elderly that had been restless and frustrated before had started to settle down and instead shout their praise to Walker for fixing things up well. Walker wanted to go check on Alice but realized she was nowhere to be seen. The spot she had been resting on was empty. He turned around here and there trying to see where she had gone. Feeling a slight tap on his shoulder Walker turned to see the massive smile on Alice's face. She had woken up while Walker fixed the healing light crystal and was extremely impressed.

Chapter 223 - 223. Blue

"Alice! Are you ok to be standing? You looked really tired on the bench before, did you use too much mana?" Walker showed a bit too much worry but it only seemed to make Alice smile more. She was slightly embarrassed by being fawned over like this.

She could not control herself and gave Walker a massive hug. She not only was glad to see him again but had also witnessed him save the most important part of the entire church within the kingdom. Without the healing aura then many people may not receive proper care in the future, especially those with severe injuries, not having the healing light crystal's healing aura could spell death for them.

Walker had not expected the sudden embrace but returned it automatically. His face had turned more red than ever before but he was very happy. "I have so many stories to tell you about! Would you like to sit down and rest? I can tell you all about it." Walker did not want to drag Alice on a walk with him, he could see that she was definitely tired still but the returning healing aura was starting to work on her.

Alice nodded her head more than she needed while most of the elderly went to sit on the benches or chat in the hall, they had seen the youngster fix the crystal and were enthralled by the scene. They started to chat and share the amazing things they had witnessed and also gossip on what the party was like. They seemed to be the worst gossipers in the entire kingdom.

Finding a corner of the cathedral without many people around where Walker could tell his stories he felt a bit bad leaving Su along with the healers. However he was relieved of this worry seeing that with the healing aura the running around slowed and most of the healers seemed to be relaxed. Many of the injured had started to fall in to peaceful sleep their wounds or illnesses healing slowly without as much attention. The entire atmosphere had returned to the normal calming warmth that the cathedral was known for.

"We ended up fighting in a coliseum with all these demi-humans....then the demon was selling the cursed....General Scylla showed up and..." Walker was unloading the weeks of stories all at once but instead of having trouble keeping up Alice seemed to be completely consumed by them. She had never left the city let alone the kingdom and desired to hear more and more about the world.

After some time Walker finally finished the tales related to their journey to the kingdom of Ordist, "Now we have a month or so to prepare to go back out to the deeper sun hollow forest. Honestly it seems like we may be working to death." Alice giggled slightly at Walker's defeated look knowing he wouldn't have it any other way. The light around them seemed to vibrate at her soft giggles. Walker became enticed by this giggle wanting to hear more of it, his cheeks showing the redness that had just faded.

Alice poked his shoulder getting his attention, "New skills?" She said on;ly two words which made the light form a rainbow question mark in the air, Walker had promised to show off his progress with the light element when he returned.

"To be honest things were a bit too busy and I was very bad in my practice, but I made a breakthrough in the earth element which let me figure some things out. I took some time practicing the light element this morning and was able to create three skills." Walker first created the yellow ball of light, "This is pretty simple, it only lights up the area, since we will be in a dimly lit forest I thought trying to get a light source was very important." Onyx had woken up and gotten a bit hungry, he had wrapped around Walker's shoulders again some time ago while he told stories. Onyx snapped up the yellow light orb as he had done before, he was rather happy with this new snack. "Oh yea, and Onyx likes to eat this one." Alice thought this rather amazing and made a small oh face. She had not expected Onyx to just swallow a little orb of light whole.

Onyx was very happy with the cathedral, the amount of light element here was very high, this helped him absorb better quality light elements and he could feel himself growing. Having had another snack Onyx decided he would explore a bit to see if he could find any other interesting spots. He slithered off toward the more crowded area causing a few healers a little shock but otherwise no trouble at all.

"Then there is this one," Walker created the purple blurry orb and watched as Alice's vision fogged over. "It makes it harder to focus your eyes, it is pretty useful against long ranged attacks. Remey hates it though because I used it to tease her a bit, she couldn't even land a high five while looking at it." Alice heard this as a challenge and lifted Walker's hand to try and high five him. She wrinkled her forehead finding that every time she tried to make contact she was slightly off and only brushed his fingers or arm. "Exactly like that hahaha" Walker released the blurry orb and high fived Alice who did not seem as amused but far from angry.

"Lastly there is this one, I bet you will be stuck on this one a bit longer." He let a small smirk form on his lips while Alice looked expectantly. The blue luring orb started to condense and draw her attention. This was the perfect blue sky that she had stared at while singing outside. This simple color had inspired many songs for her. Alice had her eyes locked on it not wanting to look away, not being able to look away. Her hand reached for Walker's sleeve and tugged on it.

"Beautiful blue." Her soft words did not echo through the cathedral but they did cause the light to change. The same color of blue from the orb filled the rafters of the cathedral causing everyone inside to become silent. The color did not have the same luring effect as the orb did but it was an inspiring color. It was almost as if all the light had turned in to the sky within the Cathedral. The high priest had seen Walker telling his story to Alice and was happy to see that she had such a dedicated friend. Seeing how she was inspired by Walker he realized that the little girl he had raised had become an amazing person so young. It truly made all the efforts and stress of the day melt away, he looked upwards at the beautiful blue above him with a foolish smile on his face.

The light slowly turned back to the normal hints of rainbow coming from the healing light crystal. Walker's luring orb had long faded but the two were still looking up at the rafters of the Cathedral. Every time Walker thought he had something to show off Alice was able to outdo him with a word, he would need to work harder to do something more amazing.

The two eventually looked back down unsure what to do now, Walker didn't have another light skill to show off, but he did have something he might be able to try. "Alice, is it ok to play with a little fire here? I have another skill that could be kind of interesting but I can't break any rules. It's not dangerous so it shouldn't harm anything." Alice thought for a few moments before she gave a nod to Walker.

With her approval he pulled out some basic fire making materials and some of the dried grasses he had left. With the pile in front of him he created a few sparks and started to shape the small growing flame. The cathedral still had decorative torches from before the healing light crystal had been brought in and began to naturally light the entire space. This meant that there was enough air flow to keep the smoke away from anyone that could breathe it in. Walker had an image within his head that he wanted the flame doll to take on. He had thought hard about what he would show her.

Alice was watching intently as the flames took shape before her eyes. It was pulling in pieces of dried grass itself and forming limbs. This shape was smaller than the actual person but in front of them Walker had made a fire doll of Maria. "This is not as detailed as Maria really is but I wanted to tell you about our new friend. This is what Maria looks like roughly. She is the girl in the story I told you that we rescued from the mean demon." Walker realized that Alice was having trouble listening as she was too caught up in examining the flame doll in front of her.

Chapter 224 - 224. Invitation

Giving her more time to get used to the flame doll Walker patiently waited. She eventually looked at him wanting to know more, "Like I told you she has the light benders system, she was able to make light bend around someone and make them invisible. It was really cool and I think she would come here next time. It is very rare for a demon to have a light elemental affinity let alone a light based system." Alice was still having trouble believing that a demon had a light elemental affinity as well and had read all the books about demons in the cathedral. She had believed every word that demons were often evil and only after the destruction of others, however, Walker had started to change her perspective as he spoke of Maria's hardships. Alice had never known of these cultural aspects of the demons territories and hierarchy. Today she had learned something she could not read in any book here.

She had pulled on Walker's sleeve again after he had said he would bring Maria to meet her at the cathedral. This was her expressing her agreement for his idea. "We told her she could stay with us as long as she wanted, we have too much space to do anything with so why not right? You know...You're also welcome to come visit any time for dinner...if you want." Walker had been gathering his courage to invite Alice to the mansion the entire time they had been sitting together.

Alice grew a bit flushed in the cheeks herself but gave a firm nod that she would want to do just that. Walker had told her all about the mansion but wanted to see it all herself. She was very enticed by the garden he had described to her that was being guided by a farmer from the fields. She also wanted to be present when the weeping willow tree Walker had described bloomed, she may be able to use the experience and pollen to have an epiphany to stop her mana from being consumed whenever she spoke. She wanted to say so many things every day but was always limited.

"Actually, I think next week my party and I are going to a VIP auction, as far as I know there are no rules against bringing guests. You and the high priest are more than welcome to come. If you see anything you like I'd gladly put a bid in for you." Alice, who had never been to an auction before was very excited by the chance to go to one. She jumped up and started to pull Walker toward the high priest. She wanted to let him know that they had dinner plans and an auction to go to. The many years of guests talking about the Garnet family and a few of their elders visiting for healing was enough for her to have enough knowledge to be even more excited than someone who had never heard of it before.

She had easily pulled the red faced Walker along to the high priest, Walker's face tomato red having Alice holding on to him. "Oh and what has made you so excited all of the sudden?" The high priest had recovered as well from the restored healing aura. His face had more color and he did not seem to need any support while sitting. In all honestly Walker thought that if he hadn't seen the high priests prior appearance that the high priest was having an average day.

Alice tugged on Walker more and more wanting him to tell the high priest what he had just asked her. "Haha ok ok, I just asked Alice if you two would like to come with my party to a VIP auction that we have a ticket for. Afterwards you two are very welcome to come to our mansion for dinner." The high priest was not expecting this kind of invite. The garnet family rarely just handed out VIP tickets to their VIP auctions. They were usually reserved for very important figures. Had the party become so important already?

"Well we would indeed like to attend a VIP auction. I hear it is very hard to get such tickets, how did you manage to get a hold of one? Don't tell me you tricked that old Garnet family elder,' The high priest laughed a bit at his joke knowing that his friend who had not visited in a while would never allow himself to be tricked in any way.

"Actually the story is not as positive as that, my party was traveling on the way to the demi-human kingdom and we encountered a pack of frost wolves. They had previously caused some trouble by defeating a young merchant that was transporting some goods for the Garnet family. The issued a quest to the guild to have the wolves defeated and the reward was the leftover supplies they were transporting and the VIP ticket. It was pretty lucky that our paths seemed to align in this way." This was a good explanation and was indeed very lucky. Not many adventurers had ever been in a situation to gain such a nice reward. This was sly of the Garnet family who could have given the ticket out expecting that the adventurers would not be able to attend or have the fund to bid on anything. It could have been a reward that technically offered the party that accepted the quest nothing.

"Well well well how interesting and lucky you are. If we do attend would you be offended if I bid in the church's stead?" The high priest could only imagine what amazing items may jump out at them at the VIP auction mostly reserved for nobles or those with high status. This was a very fortuitous opportunity to strengthen some of the up and coming healers.

"Well it is an auction so I would not stop you from trying. We may bid as well though, my party is always in need of new gear. We are actually considering inviting a blacksmith to our mansion to use the forge there to try and create some very interesting items." hearing this the high priest was impressed all over again, not many adventures would be willing to bring in a blacksmith and work with them to create gear. It was much more common for an adventure to have existing gear adjusted to their needs or for them to just buy something already made.

"I can see you are very dedicated to the future you wish to pursue. I believe I have rested enough it is time to get things straightened out after the episode earlier." The high priest stood up looking invigorated from his rest. "We will meet you at the auction house when the VIP auction is scheduled to happen, I will even send a letter to my friend to let them know we'll be coming. They might even set up a special setting just for us." With that the high priest was off to the group of healers that had finished up their duties and looked ready to fall asleep on the marble floors.

Alice pulled at Walker arm again this time showing her happiness that the high priest had agreed to go to the auction and dinner. She would be able to try a bunch of new things all because of her lucky encounter with Walker. "Ehm well I am looking forward to it as well..." He innocently replied to her bright face not sure what else to say. "We should probably go help, I have left Su to fend for herself too long, I am sure she will be waiting for me so we can go back to the mansion.

The pair found Su who was also taking a rest with the healers that had just been spurred back in to action cleaning things up. Many of the nuns had already carried away the injured to rooms on the side of the cathedral so they could sleep and heal without any interruptions. Su saw the two coming up to her and gave Walker an exhausted look, but she was still smiling through it. "Leader, thanks to you the healers can finally get some rest. They told me that they had been busier than they had in years trying to keep up with the use of mana."

"I'm not sure I am the start here Su, the healers seem to be looking at you like you are their idol now. A shield bearer revered by the healers, huh." Alice agreed with Walker nodding vigorously. She grabbed Su's hand and gave her a high five too.

"Leader, did you show her the purple blurry orb?" Su laughed a bit knowing that the reason behind the high five was most certainly the sharing of the skills effects.

The two sat and chatted with Su until she had rested enough to get back on her feet. Walker and Su were about to say their goodbyes when Walker remembered something he had held on to to give Alice. Onyx came back to Walker after a little and changed back in to tattoo to rest, he seemed to have eaten his fill.

Chapter 225 - 225.One Days Work

Walker and Su were standing about to head on their way since they had already spent most of the day between the alchemist building and the cathedral. They were feeling hungry and a bit worn out from their unexpected quest. Remembering this Walker checked the system quickly seeing the notification.

'Daily quest completed

Requirement:

Heal those in need

Repair the healing light crystal.

Reward:

300 exp multiplied to 3000exp.'

He smiled while looking at this but did not forget that he had saved some things from their purchases in the markets of Ordist to share when he came back to the cathedral.

"Alice! I almost forgot," Walker pulled out a basket full of fruits that Gil had chosen from the markets. They Were all still perfectly ripe and waiting to be eaten. Walker had not seen any items worth bringing back and was also too put off after the incident with the cursed items. So he had decided to hold on to some of the fruits instead. "We purchased a lot of fruit so we could grow them in the garden and have them for whenever we wanted, but I made sure to save some for you!" Alice took the large basket in her hands having a bit of trouble holding it all up.

"Yes Alice you need to try those little brown fuzzy fruits. They are green on the inside and a bit sour but it's very good." This one had been Su's favorite. "I really enjoyed those kiwi fruits and I am sure you will too." Alice just nodded along with here seeing the sincere feelings in Su's words.

"I hate to run off but we need to get back for dinner, we have been away for so long and it would be rude to keep everyone who is waiting for us to get back to eat." Walker said his goodbye and so did Su. The high priest had disappeared off somewhere and Walker was not worried about saying good bye since they would see them in a few days anyways. He quickly released the flame doll of Maria he had made before heading out so that it did not cause any trouble if someone else tried to deal with it.

Alice waved as they left trying to hold all the fruit with one hand. Waving back Walker was very excited for the auction now. "Su I invited Alice and the high priest to come with us to the VIP auction, It should be very fun. The high priest was pretty surprised though, it seems like this auction is much harder to get into than I knew."

"Leader, I actually happen to know a bit about this. When I was younger I tried to sneak in because I heard that they were selling a miracle potion to heal any injury. Of course it was a rumor but the VIP auction only gives tickets to those high class merchants or very rich nobles. I have also heard that many very high ranking members of the castle or guilds show up as well. We will need to wear our best clothing to attend." Walker could definitely see Su trying to sneak in to an auction if she thought that there was a way to heal her mother, she really did care for her family. Although it was a past event Walker enjoyed imagining Su trying to sneak in somewhere wearing a bunch of armor or carrying a shield.

"I will definitely have to ask Lisa to get something sewn up for myself then, I don't have a lot of formal wear." Walker had not expected this to be a problem. "Oh speaking about clothes and gear, we should stop by the forge tomorrow and see if we can get a high level blacksmith to come to our forge at the mansion soon. I will also see if Midnight wants to practice breathing fire, she may be able to learn a fire breath skill to help in the forging process."

"I agree, if Midnight were to learn a skill like that she could imbue our gear with her elements or just strengthen them more. The Tamers guild master's dragon had very hot flames that melted those metals like nothing." The two recalled the crafting they had witnessed and could not wait to see what they could do themselves. Walker also had the thought of asking a blacksmith to show him how to properly repair and sharpen gear so that he could gain some skills to do just that on their journeys. If Walker really wanted he could one day gather all the tools for a forge and carry them in his inventory to have a portable forge! How great would that be for when a weapon of gear broke.

Falling in to his own day dream Walker spent the entire walk home to the mansion lost in thought. Su did not mind this since she was also thinking about what kind of shields she would gain, Walker had said something about having two made for her which meant that she could properly learn how to dual wield shields. If she were to train on this she may increase her blocking speed and how much she could block. She could imagine defending two or more people at once in dire situations. She had started to take after Walker and became easily lost in thoughts.

When they returned to the mansion it was a sight to behold, Gil's mother had torn up a massive amount of soil. There were many paths marked out and some even were already lined with small stones. She seemed to be developing a small walking path. The benches that she had uncovered had already been moved. There were even wooden trellises made and placed around the starting path. For one days

worth of work she had done an amazing amount. Walker would never look down on a farmer ever again.

"Leader, this is already looking so amazing, I can not believe how much has already been done. It looks like there will be bushes planted over there. Oh and that spot will be perfect to reflecting on training. Look the path even goes out back to the training field." Su was much more excited than Walker expected, however since the warm weather was approaching he thought it all the better. They could all enjoy the garden to its fullest once the rainy month had passed and they were in full swing of spring.

Walker could hear the familiar thunk of arrows and knew Gil must be out back. "I'm going to go see what Gil is practicing, are you coming or going inside?"

"I will head inside leader, I want to clean up after today's errands." With a nod Walker left Su to her own plans and headed around the side of the mansion.

Gil had set up the training dummies at different angles and distances and was currently running around the sides to try and fire arrows differently. The thing was Walker thought it looked odd. He would run and get close to a dummy and fire behind it but also use his newly free hand to land a punch or push the dummy a bit. He felt that Gil needed a weapon in the free hand so that he would be able to properly attack. He added a dagger on to his growing list of gear and weapons the party needed.

"Training the day away huh?" Gil heard Walker and came to a stop, the sweat dripping down his face spoke volumes.

"Back from your little date huh? How was your errands" The small bit of teasing in Gil's voice was evident but not in a mean way.

"We did very well at the alchemist building, we also mentioned we would sell some vials of pure water at the VIP auction." Walker wasn't sure if he wanted to tell Gil he invited Alice and the High priest to the auction as well but figured it was a bit better than to hide it. "We ran in to a bit of trouble at the cathedral but we fixed it all up no problem. I invited Alice and the high priest to the auction with us next week. The high priest asked if he could bid on some things for the church, I said we would not mind. Things should be a lot of fun." Gil smiled a bit too much hearing this but did not make any comments back.

"We should be getting the items from the horned rabbits and that greater snow imp delivered right? Will we sell some things from that too?" Gil was already thinking way ahead but it was a good thing.

"I wanted to see what we could do with the materials from the greater ice imp but at the moment we don't have any use for the high water mana crystal it had in its body. We also don't really need the skin for gear since we plan to have things made with the bronze dragon scales and other metal we have. It would just be a waste to hold on to those two items. The gold can at least help us get more material better suited to our needs." Walker and Gil agreed on this, they may not have included the others in this debate but none of them had any use for those items as well. "Actually I was just thinking of one thing we definitely need to get for you." Gil was confused by this but listened for Walker's theory.

Chapter 226 - 226. Designs

"You were practicing mixing in close combat to your shooting right? Well i figure you can't land strong punches or palm strikes like Remey so why don't you use a dagger?" Gil understood immediately.

"I was actually thinking about that too, but I am not sure how I would keep it in my hands when I fight while also pulling back an arrow."

"Well we are going to look for a blacksmith so maybe we could have a special holster made that lets you put the dagger in near your your hand is when you draw your bow?" Walker gestured to right below the left side of Gil's chest.

"That could work, I could pull it out fast after I released an arrow then place it back while I drew the bow." Gil started to envision the process. "I have used a dagger before to fight a little since my system has some related skills but I have never really used them since I am always so far from my targets. But lately I have been worried about what would happen if I do not have my bow. I could basically be left out of the battle completely not to mention easily injured. I would be a liability." Gil had realized this a long time ago but had decided to act on this shortfall in his techniques with the time they had before they left for the deeper sun hollow forest.

"That sounds like a great plan, the forest will be very different from the plains, I won't be able to use my fire bolt or fire flower skills without causing a massive fire. I hope to learn water or maybe develop something else. I have yet to try out those new swords I got." Walker joined gil In brainstorming new fighting techniques that may work in the forest. The two quickly rule out many of the longer ranged strategies they had used just due to lack of visibility. They decided that a weapon like the scythe Walker had used would also not work out so well since it would get caught on a tree if the area was crowded, after all most of the trails or paths in the forest were tight and weaved through heavy growths.

Before they had realized it the sun had started to sink down behind the horizon, "My stomach is telling me it is time to eat." Gil stood up from the patch of ground the two had been using as their drawing board.

"Yes let's go see what we have to eat, I bet my mother has been experimenting with the fruit we brought back." These words made Gil nearly jump in to a sprint. He really did like the fruits they had had in the demi-human kingdom.

Walker did not feel like being left behind and picked up his pace, the two rushed inside to find almost everyone at the dining table, even Remey had beat them back.

"Well we thought you two would be outside all night! Come sit down and get your plates full, I made plenty of food tonight. Try some of the spicy roasted chicken, Midnight has been eating it and if you aren't quick it will be gone before you know it." Hilda had broken in to her old books and found some of the spices she had been hoarding. Tonight seemed to be many of the dishes she had been wanting to test. The two happily dug in while answering any questions Hilda asked on the dishes.

Everyone seemed to enjoy their meal, Walker even found that Maria had left the library to claim a seat next to Su for dinner. Su's mother seemed to also be treating Maria with a lot of attention, fussing over her as she tried the spicy chicken which made her face red.

This was very uplifting for the party since they had promised Maria a better place to live, this was exactly the kind of life they wanted to give her. "Maria, in a few days we are going to an event with some friends, after they will be coming to dinner. They can both use healing but more importantly have light elemental skills just like you. I hope you can find the time to talk to them a bit, they may just want to recruit you to the church." Walker laughed a bit but realized Maria seemed worried instead.

"You don't have to worry, they are both very nice. The high priest takes very good care of anyone he comes in contact with, he even adopted and raised an orphan. I am sure you will get along well. Plus our friend Alice has a very unique light element skill, you can try to show off but she will definitely shock you." Maria became much more curious than worried after Su reassured her.

"Walker were you even going to let me know we would have guests then? I need to prepare a menu and desserts and drinks. It's for a high priest you know! They are much more refined than your tamer friends." Hilda fell in to a mad fury trying to build a menu in her head.

"Mother you don't need to worry there is plenty of time. The auction we are going to is in a week, after it we will come here. The guild will have delivered all the horned rabbit meat we gathered while in the plains. You will have a lot of fresh ingredients!" This seemed to bring Hilda back to reality.

The dinner started to pass by quickly leaving only the party to speak on their future plans. "So Gil and I were talking about the gear we need. We will have some really good crafting materials but should look for more at the auction. Once we have gathered them we can have a blacksmith come over. Tomorrow I should head to the forge to see what interesting materials they have and also if a blacksmith would be willing to come over next week. Midnight I hope that you can join me tomorrow too, we can try to awaken a fire breathing skill, if we can figure it out you may be able to help us forge our gear." This made Midnight much more energized, she had the image of dragon flames changing the solid metal to liquid in seconds ingrained in her brain.

"Sister says she will have the best flames even if she needs to try a thousand times." Walker pet her head encouraging the behavior. If she had this drive to do so then the work would definitely pay off.

"We will need a dagger for Gil. Two shields of Su. Remey you really need some better light armor at least, I know it will need to be flexible to move in but it is really important that you have it. I am also thinking of having a bunch of basic weapons made. Oh and Gil you need to choose some arrow heads, I can use a new skill to add mana crystals to gear so if you choose some arrow heads that can have crystals added maybe I can make that work." Remey was a bit annoyed that Walker wanted to weigh her down with more gear but she did not argue at his firm tone. Gil had nearly forgotten his withering wood arrow shafts that he had been neglecting for lack of good arrowhead materials. However now that they had their bronze dragon scales the scrapes from crafting other things would be perfect to reshape and make a bunch of arrowheads.

"Leader, do you have an idea for what shape my shields should be? I have some ideas of my own so that I may be able to move with them more easily." Su had thought about this the entire walk back and while she cleaned herself up from their work at the cathedral.

"I would prefer to hear what you think, it's much more important for you to use them comfortably." Walker wanted Su to feel more connected to her shields and not have something she did not desire forced on her.

"In that case I would like almost oval shaped shields. I thought that having rectangles shaped shields would cover the best space but they would also slow me down when I moved because of the wind resistance, If I have oval shaped shields with a point at the bottom I can stab them in the ground and use the earth to help brace myself. That also gives me a better edge to attack an enemy. If they can be

rounded on the outside as well that would help me deflect attacks better. I do not want spikes or anything, what if I use them to brace up an ally?" These were all very viable options.

"Sounds perfect to me, in the next few days please try and draw it out so when we find a blacksmith they can take a look and analyze it. Gil that also goes for your arrowheads and dagger. Remey you are the easiest, since your gear will be light weight it will most likely not be anything super specific. Maybe you should get some gloves that can add damage to your palm strikes..."

Chapter 227 - 227. Insight

When Walker had said that she may need gloves to accompany her spiked knuckles Remey almost exploded with happiness. She had been trying to incorporate her palm strikes into her fighting style better and if she felt she could do more damage with it she would most certainly use it more. "If I am getting gloves to make them cover my whole arm, I hate when I get scratches and bruises all over my arms from fighting."

"Well in that case draw them out too, it is a great idea to mitigate small injuries like that. We have no idea if we will run in to an enemy with poison in the forest. At least the new species of purple slimes will have a rotting effect we need to avoid but we will need to learn how they do that." Walker was starting to think on what kind of weapons he wanted and how he would go about practicing them. "I need more time, if I am going to learn a bunch of weapons so I can better cover us I need the time to do it." One month just seemed so short. Training while in a new area was not the best way to go about things. In the plains they had a large and easy view around themselves so they could more easily see an enemy coming, in the forest they would not have that at all.

"Just start with the basics, you think too much." Remey brushed off Walker's worries without a single bit of thought. In her mind it was better to start with the most common weapons and just work his way through them. "You could just punch things too."

"No!..I mean I don't know any hand to hand skills. That's your expertise after all." Walker was afraid if he became a close combat type like Remey he would start to rush in like a mad person like Remey did." Instead of being insulted at the reaction Remey took the second part as a compliment.

"Well, I think we should get some rest, I want to be up to train a bit more in the morning. I even plan to hunt a bit with my dad." Gil was the one to make the move to go to sleep, he still needed to clean up after his own training from the day after all.

"I will go and start drawing out my new shields. I will also think about improving my armor more as well." Su headed off towards the library, Walker was sure she would be looking in to some books for inspiration.

"Well see ya, I will do my own thing tomorrow." Remey ran off too, all that was left was Midnight who had fallen asleep in front of the fireplace and Onyx who was in tattoo form asleep now too. Walker gave in and got up to go sleep too. The many thoughts and ideas on what to have made for him flooded his mind. There were just too many options. Part of him wanted to focus on some unique weapons so that he could take people by surprise with unique attacks. However he had a feeling that learning basic weapons like swords, bows, shields, and others would be easier to practice. This was definitely a tougher choice for him to make.

Wandering his way to his own room he saw a familiar short figure sneaking through the hallway. "Maria? What are you doing out here now? I thought you had gone to bed a while ago?" Maria seemed a bit startled at first but realized it was Walker and relaxed after a moment.

She had become much more open to them since they had journeyed with her all the way to this new kingdom. Since she had been here no one had woken her in the middle of the night to beat her, or test new curses on her, or even just to travel when no one would see them. "I just want to be close to Su so if anything happens..."

Walker had expected her to have trouble adjusting, it was clear that she had taken Su's promise of protection to heart and wanted to be nearby if anything did in fact happen. "Well she should be getting ready for bed too, I am sure if you knock and ask to sleep in the same room you will be good to go." Her face formed a small smile since she had expected Walker to tell her to go back to her room alone.

"Mhm." She started to walk quickly down the hall towards Su's room, Walker saw her stop and knock on the door. The door opened and Maria was let inside without any trouble. Su was really taking the big sister roll seriously. With his own smile Walker headed to bed himself. Before he knew it he was already opening his eyes to the sun just breaking the horizon through his window.

Walking through the mansion after getting all geared up like usual he did not see a single person around. It was just more to show how much space they really had. He couldn't help but think that maybe they should hire some staff just to make things a bit more lively. Remembering that his mother may just kill someone that messed with her kitchen he decided that it may not be the best idea to look for any chefs. Cleaning staff seemed most applicable since there was a lot of space that would need to be kept nice and neat. He did not expect everyone to constantly take on chores while the party was out on a journey or quest.

While thinking on this Walker made it all the way to the front door still not seeing anyone, having headed outside he finally found Gil's mother who was digging a trench to allow water to flow off of a marked out flower bed. "Good morning!" Walker greeted her since he thought taking some time to chat about the garden may help him plan out how he would help her plant the seedlings.

"Ah, Walker, good morning. Do you feel that slight chill still around from the night? It means we have another few days until we can plant anything. If we plant too soon these seedlings can be stunted or die." This was the sixth sense of a farmer alright, Walker couldn't even make sense of what chill she was talking about other than the cool air in general.

"Since I have your ear, can I ask you how you would like to plant the seedlings? I want to make sure I can help since trying to learn some farming skills sounds very useful. It's also pretty rude to leave you to all the hard work." He wanted to be a bit more polite since he wanted her to know how much he appreciated her effort.

"Work? What work? This is great, I get up early and get my hands dirty sculpting this garden in the most beautiful place in all of the kingdom." Gil's mother laughed a bit thinking Walker had been joking with her to get the day started on a good note. "I will plan to plant them soon. Once this chill leaves the air I can use a few skills to sprout the seeds faster. Using my growth boost skill we should have that weeping willow tree taller than either of us in a month."

"Really? In a month? That sounds great! I did not know that farmers had such great skills in their systems." Walker was very surprised to hear that Gil's mother could speed up growth to such an extent.

"Eh it's not all that great, If things aren't all ready the plant will die instantly." She was frowning quite a bit remembering how long it took her to figure out how to properly use this skill. "If you do not have enough nutrients in the soil and water the plant will start to grow fast. It will eat up all the water and nutrients and burn itself out dying on the spot and making the small part of the earth infertile for a few years. I had a lot of hardship before I mastered the use of this skill."

"Wow, I didn't know it would require that much practice. Are there more skills that can do similar things?" Walker was becoming more and more interested in how the farmer's system worked. He had mainly been learning skills revolving around battle, if he took a little time to learn some of these other skills he could be at a huge advantage. What if he found a rare herb while far away? With a skill that made it grow more he could harvest a ton of it all at once and still leave some to stay as part of nature.

"Hmm the over growth skill is pretty similar. Instead of making the plant grow faster it caused the plant to bear more fruit. If I used it on an apple tree it would grow almost double the amount of apples. The problem with this is that it uses up a lot of the stored nutrients within the plant. This leaves the plant much weaker for weeks afterwards. If it's done before winter it is basically saying the plant won't survive the cold."

Chapter 228 - 228. Lost In Thought

Walker was drinking up this knowledge, these were skills he had yet to come in to contact with and had very unique uses. Since he was little he had always tried to learn about the most interesting sounding jobs. When he would run after a mage he would ignore the farmers who came through the gates daily. It was plain and simple reasoning to his younger brain that these were boring systems that he was not interested in. Finding out that they were much more in depth now made him feel like he had been missing out this whole time. What else had he ignored that was a diamond in the rough?

"So if you use the growth boost to get a plant to grow faster than the overgrowth skill to get it to bare fruit earlier then could you have a second round of harvesting?"

"Exactly, some farmers will do this on their fields once every three or four years. Doing it too often will tire the soil too much. If the farmer has a lot of resources or money they may buy fertilizers so they can get even three or four harvests in a year. I have heard that the demi-human farmers can get up to six in a year." He had known that the demi-humans were known as amazing farmers because they naturally had stronger bodies which more easily worked the fields, but not knowing that it also came down to planning skill use in this way he had more respect for the kingdom and farmers alike.

"In theory we could do this with some medicinal herbs and start to sell them to the alchemist guild." This was a very good money making theory for all of them when the party was away.

"Don't go getting ahead of yourself, I am a farmer yes but not an alchemist. I need different skills to properly grow medicinal herbs. One or two is fine but some require a more delicate touch." This made Walker a bit disappointed but he understood.

"You have given me a lot to think about on my walk to the forge this morning. I can't wait to learn some of these skills miss!"

"Ugh none of that miss, I don't stand on ceremony. In the fields we just call each other by name. Call me Jane, just Jane." Walker gave her a nod but would definitely still add the miss in there. His mother had raised him to be respectful after all!

He headed out with the forge on his mind. He had fallen asleep thinking about what weapons he wanted to have made or purchase to learn some new skills. He planned to avoid the basics for now since he wanted to practice with the two swords he had been given by king Rorick. On top of this he also would just use for long range if he was in need. If anyone else need long range then he would have Gil take care of things.

Likewise practicing with a shield would be nice to have defensive skills covered but he did not feel like it was very necessary. After seeing Barry use his axes he had half a thought to try and learn some skills related to using them. However the thought of scaring his party every time he wielded them was not as attractive.

Once upon a time he had heard that some dwarves would use their hammers as weapons. This could be a very viable weapon to learn since it could also translate in to forging skills. He could wield two hammers if he ever needed or one large hammer. The more he thought on this the more tempting it was, after a short while longer, he had decided that learning to battle with a hammer was on the to do list.

Wracking his brain on what else he should use he found that he lacked knowledge on a wide array of weapons. If he chose to go with anything else more unique he would need more time to learn it, deciding that focusing on just the happier first may be his best move. He still wanted to focus on his elemental manipulations after all.

Realizing that he now stood in front of the forge, Walker had spent the entire walk c completely distracted, it was a wonder he had not bumped in to anything or anybody. Heading inside it was a bit crowded today since a few merchants had been trying to swing by before they needed to travel outside the kingdom to trade. Walker was a bit surprised to find Rodney working the front counter. " I thought you would be off crafting something now that you were able to?" Walker gave a short laugh as he got Rodney's attention.

"Mr. Walker, welcome! I have been crafting a lot but I find this is the best place to come looking for interesting orders that I can use to help me level up" This indeed was a good idea, Walker could clearly see that Rodney had gained a small amount of muscle. It also was clear that from working the counter longer he was gaining better and better customer service skills.

"Well you are in pretty good luck, I happen to need some help. Do you know of any really skilled blacksmiths that can make house calls? I have a forge at the mansion and need some unique metals

forged in to weapons." Rodney lit up at the words unique metals. Walker was of course referring to the orichalcum and the bronze dragon scales. These two materials were tougher to work with and would require a higher level blacksmith than he had met before.

"Well we do have some that tend to make house calls but they are usually the ones that are newer to the forge, they like to offer that service to get a jump start on their levels. The best skilled smiths here stay here and wait for jobs to come to them since they have gained reputation." Rodney had given Walker the answer he had expected. But since Walker had other plans to use a technique that not everyone at the forge could use along with very rare materials it was better off that it was not here at the forge.

"Are you sure there is nobody that would prefer to get out here for a change of pace? Maybe someone that just needs an excuse to try some new techniques?" trying to make it sound more enticing he had hope that his words may job Rodney's memories.

Seeming to work Rodney slowly showed that the gears were turning in his head. After such a short time he had become much more reserved, his energy had died down a bit showing that he took the thinking route more. "Oh! I know just the guy. We have a blacksmith that left for almost a year to go study a volcano! He said he hates being cramped up with all the fumes and prefers the open air near the magma. If you ask me though the fumes at a volcano sound way worse." Rodney had a sudden burst of energy from his realization which made Walker start to take back his silent compliments before. "He should be upstairs somewhere, he hates signing his name to any work because he says he doesn't forge for fame. He seemed really dramatic, like how else would you get customers?" This blacksmith was sounding better and better to Walker, if the man was not in it for fame then he would certainly be able to convince him to keep things more quiet on what materials were used.

"Would you say this blacksmith is very skilled?" This was the important part, this smith would need to be higher level to craft with the tough rare materials Walker had and would possibly purchase at the VIP auction.

"Very skilled, he was forging using magma from a volcano! Have you ever heard someone doing something so crazy? He made a bunch of spears that he sold when he got here, about seventy five were what he called good quality. But to my eyes they were perfection, I couldn't even notice a crack in them. The others he said were not good he threw in to the magma to melt away and get reformed. He is a unique blacksmith." Walker could have been discouraged by this since there was the chance that this blacksmith may throw away any gear he made that did not lower his standards, But even more so that the gear and weapon he had made were considered perfect to another smith. The man had some high standards which was perfect for what Walker was after.

The party needed some better gear and weapons, he refused to let Su's shield break a second time. His instructions would include a lot of inquiry in to how to properly strengthen gear. Rodney was waiting for Walker to give a response to whether he would like to meet their strange blacksmith.

"Do you think your blacksmith has time to talk to a possible client?"

Chapter 229 - 229. Weird Smith

Rodney replied to Walker quickly, "Yes, of course he would." Rodney's supervisor had told him to make sure if anyone came asking for their wandering blacksmith to give them a warning about how he may throw away what he believes to be poor quality items. Seeing that Walker was not deterred by this he smiled happily to give a senior that was gossiped over such a potential job for a party that had helped him so much. Rodney told himself he would butter up his senior blacksmith as much as he could to try and get the opportunity to watch him work. It was not every day that someone could learn from a blacksmith that had forged in a volcano.

Rodney made sure to lead Walker up the back stairs reserved only for the members of the forge. This was another instruction that his supervisor had given him. Many of the more competitive blacksmiths would try and snag jobs from the others so that they could increase their own fame. This was not necessarily bad but when it came to those with higher class abilities or unique crafting methods it could end up stunting their growth.

There was plenty of black coal dust in the air as Rodney led him up the stairs, Walker made the mistake of grabbing the railing and now was looking at his dyed black hands. The next things he would know he would have coal dust all over himself like a miner. He brushed his hands on this cloths accepting the added chore of needing to clean his clothing when he got home, it would seem that this would become a common task for any time he visited the forge.

Finally reaching one of the high floors Walker looked about finding that the entire floor seemed to only be one large hallway around one large room.

The door to this room was simple but was flowing with carved runes. The carvings had been fitted with various metals which seemed to make it harder to focus on. "I would not re comment trying to decipher these runes They were made specifically to make spying on the contents of the room impossible. They just give you a headache at the end of the day." It was very good to hear how seriously the forge took their higher level crafting techniques. However Walker still did not want to have his party's gear crafted here.

Rodney touched the door in a few places changing the flow of in the runes. After another moment it ceased its al glow and the door swung open. This was a pretty cool which Walker thought may come in handy one day. He made a mental note to ask more about it later if he had a vault made in the mansion, who knows what he may want to store closer to home.

The room inside was filled with more tools than anything. Various hammers and shaping tools were hung upon the walls. There were many different sized anvils and stools. The amount of coal in one corner seemed enough to last for five smiths. There was even a smaller table filled with an array of files and sharpening tools. With all of these a blacksmith would be hard pressed to find a reason to leave. This was obviously a huge benefit for those with unique skills or high levels.

Walker seemed to be missing something, wasn't there supposed to be a blacksmith in here? Rodney had left Walker standing by the door observing while he approached the coal pile. With a quick grab Rodney had started shoveling aside the coal. Curious as to why Walker moved over to him.

One coal dust covered arm soon became unveiled, then another. Next a leg, then the second. Lastly a head without a single hair appeared, there was a man that had been sleeping in the coal pile! His body seemed very thin but still showed plenty of muscle enough to forge metals in to shape. The only other defining feature seemed to be a pair of round goggles that covered his eyes. Other than that he wore simple blacksmith gear, leather heat resistant apron and gloves along with thick pants and boots. If Walker were to try and guess what level he was he would say somewhat low, but since Rodney was so intent on waking this man up he must be incredible.

"Walker I would like to introduce you to our wandering blacksmith! Sir this is Walker he is looking for someone to co,e to their party's mansion to craft some things." Walker had thought the man to still be asleep but was proven wrong when he tilted his head a bit to get a look at him.

"It's nice to meet you, what Rodney has said is true. We require someone with your skills to forge some of our new gear, we have some unique materials that we can't manipulate at the moment." This seemed to have gotten the man's interests. With an outstretched hand he obviously wanted to see the materials.

Walker gave a look to Rodney who was too excited and hopeful to send away. "Rodney, this does not leave this room understood?"

"Yes yes of course. The memories from this will be sealed, they'll never see the light of day again." Walker would have to remind him again to be safe later. He pulled one of the bronze dragon scales and

a single piece of the orichalcum ore from his inventory. The wandering blacksmith took both in to his hands and started examining them. The strange actions he took while looking at them ranged from tapping them, to shining it with his sleeve, and even biting it once or twice.

"Umm" Walker was about to ask why the wandering blacksmith was doing these things when he suddenly placed the two materials back in to Walker's hands. He quickly started to gather tools and place them in to a backpack that looked like it would topple him over if he put it on his shoulders. After taking over a dozen tools he pointed to Rodney and then the coal pile.

"Yes I will have that pile delivered to the mansion as well." The wandering blacksmith held up two fingers on one hand. "Two piles, understood. Walker, he has agreed to journey with you to your mansion. He will most likely stay as long as you need. I know you said you want to get more materials but he will need time to prepare the forge to his liking anyways so do not rush. I will personally come to make sure that things are delivered properly." Walker could not argue with this, it was naturally what he had wanted to accomplish, it just seemed too fast. That and he noticed that Rodney was definitely using this delivery as a way to snake away and watch those wandering blacksmith craft.

"Well sounds fine to me, just remember that this stays between us. May I ask your name?" The wandering blacksmith smiled showing that even his teeth were stained with coal dust from sleeping in the pile. He shook his head refusing to give up his name or even speak a word. How weird this guy was sleeping in coal and not even speaking. Should I use it all around appraisal skill? This question was stuck on Walker's mind, but he decided against it so he could respect the blacksmith's wishes.

"He is a very humble blacksmith, he never gives his name. This is another unique trait only he has," In a hushed tone, "just go with it." Rodney set top gathering the coal pile in to a proper shape to be transported while Walker was left to guide his new guest back to the mansion.

Walker stored away the materials he had taken out and headed down the same stairs he had come up. When he reached the bottom the wandering blacksmith pulled him down a different hallway to a rear door. This was the back exist that was only used for deliveries, it seemed that he did not want anyone interrupting them

"Well, we have an old forge that has not seen much use, we got most of the old rusted tools replaced but it's pretty sad. I do not have blacksmith skills yet so I can not really use it. I may try to learn some while you're around though as long as you do not mind." The wandering blacksmith shook his head showing that he did not mind at all. "We will need a decent amount of gears and weapons. The largest in size will be two shields that our defender has drawn up. Of course any plans we give you are open to

adjustment if you find them improper." The wandering blacksmith needed this but did not seem to be deterred in the least.

Walker felt strange having an entire conversation by himself but figured he would fill the silence by explaining more of what they needed.

Chapter 230 - 230. Materials

Through the entire walk Walker had explained every single piece of gear and weapon he was aiming to have made. He did not share his ideas to use Midnight's possible fire breath since Walker intended on trying to train with her tomorrow to figure things out. The wandering blacksmith seemed to look a bit happier knowing he had a large to do list in front of him. It even seemed that every time the forge at the mansion was mentioned he smiled a bit more. It would be an easily proven theory that he liked to go to new forges and that may be one reason he traveled around.

Having finished up their conversation and nearly reached the mansion Walker pointed out the growing building that would be his temporary home. "We have plenty of spare rooms so feel free to claim one while you are here. Also do not be a stranger and come eat with us. We have plenty of food every night." Walker stopped realizing there were a decent amount of crates waiting just inside the front gate. Su and Remey were shifting them around but stopped when they saw Walker.

"Leader! The guild just dropped off the horned rabbit meat and the materials from the greater ice imp. We have the high water mana crystal here." Su had a smaller crate that seemed very isolated and even had a thin layer of frost on it. The wandering blacksmith saw this and almost ran to where Su was, trying to get a look inside the crate.

"Su don't worry, that's the man that will be helping us in the forge. He is normally a wandering blacksmith and has some unique abilities according to Rodney." Su had tensed up suddenly but relaxed having heard of Walker's success in finding a blacksmith for them.

"It is nice to meet you sir. I am Su, I will trouble you for some shields." The wandering blacksmith was too focused on the crate and was already taking off the lid. The sudden burst of cool air as the lid came open made them all shiver. This did not deter the four of them from taking a closer look though.

The high water element mana crystal was easily triple the size of a normal water mana crystal. The mana coming from it causes the air to seem to be freezing around it. Not a single one of them felt that they should even dare to touch it, even the usually courageous Remey knew she would not risk a touch. Surprisingly the wandering blacksmith grabbed it with his gloves and was completely unaffected. He

turned it around and around in his hands to see the light shining through it before giving a slight nod and putting it back in the crate.

He pointed at the crystal and at his hammer, "If you want to use it you can, I am not sure what you can do with it but we were just going to sell it." The blacksmith shook his head vigorously closing the lid to the crate and taking it in his hands. "Of course though since you want to use it we would not dare to sell it." This made him smile again while clutching the crate tighter.

Remey looked at the blacksmith and thought before she spoke, this man's actions reminded her of some of the younger boys when they were still learning to speak properly. "I will need you to make the light weight flexible armor for me and some gloves to protect my arms. I will leave the other things to your." Remey seemed in a pretty good mood today, she happened to have some of her ideas for designs already drawn out and handed him, a piece of paper from her pocket. The wandering blacksmith grabbed it with a hand while the other balanced the crate.

The blacksmith scanned it and nodded or shook his head a few times. Not a single one of them understood what he was reacting too but they could tell he was committing it all to memory. After just another moment he returned the paper to Remey and looked back to Walker. "Would you like to find a room?" The shaking of the wandering blacksmith's head proved that this was not what he was after. "Then you must want to see the forge?" The blacksmith smiled and waited for Walker to lead the way.

"Well I am going to show our guest the forge, I will come back to help with this soon." Walker headed toward the side of the mansion with the forge attached leaving Su and Remey to the crates. "That man was pretty odd, he needs a good bath." Su was curious how someone so covered in coal dust could deal with the feeling of being dirty.

"He reminds me of my younger brothers before they learned to speak well. I think he will surprise us." It was rare for Remey to say something like this which tripped Su up a bit. "Come on, if you don't put your back in to it I will have more brought inside to the kitchen than you!" Remey made it a little game for them to play, this made Su double her efforts and follow after her.

This is our little forge, I know it is not what you are used to but it is pretty amazing to us." The wandering blacksmith seemed to not hear a single word as he started to examine every nook and cranny. There was not a single corner that went without his touch. Every tool needed to be checked for quality and use. This thorough examination made Walker feel like this man was on a whole other level than any other professional blacksmith he had ever met before.

The crate had been set down on a work table quickly causing more frost to build up. "Now that we have gotten here and are away from prying eyes I would also like to add something that we plan to use in forging." Walker braced himself for the wandering blacksmith's possible fractions. "Our other party member is a younger dragon, she only had a single use fireball attack but we will be training all day tomorrow to try and unlock a fire breath skill. We plan to use her flames to a degree in the forging process." This stopped the wandering blacksmith in his tracks.

Stopping his examinations completely the wandering blacksmith moved directly to where he would be placing the metals to melt in the forge fires. He checked the thickness and size of the inside trying to judge just what kind of abuse it could take. Taking a much longer time to check it all than Walker had expected the wandering blacksmith came to stand in front of him. He grabbed Walker's hand and gave it a firm handshake, Walker had half a thought that he was about to lose the blacksmith he had just recruited.

His thoughts were proven false when the wandering blacksmith started to unload his tools in the next moment. It looked like Walker had just sealed the deal by telling him he would be crafting in dragon fire. For someone who had forged in literal magma he must have high tastes for what kind of forging he did with what kind of fuel. Walker left him to get settled, completely confused by how this strange blacksmith thought.

Walker made his way to the pile of crates only to find that the last two that were left contained the skin and bones from the greeted ice imp. Su and Remey had left these for him to bring to the forge for the wandering blacksmith. Using his own strength he took two trips to carry them over and place them on the work table. By the time Walker was back with the second crate full of the bones the wandering blacksmith had already pulled out the sin and was examining it for toughness. The portion he was testing seemed to easily resist his tools. Walker was willing to place a bet that these would somehow play in to Remey's armor and gloves.

He did not look at all interested in the bones even though Walker opened the box himself to show them off. "Should we sell these bones then?" The wandering blacksmith looked at him and gave a nod. This was all Walker needed to store them away for the VIP auction.

"Well this time I will actually leave you to it. Walker headed out seeing that the wandering blacksmith had gone back to setting up his tools. He felt a growing feeling of excitement knowing that he would have a bunch of new gear and possible skills in the future. Now all he had was hopes that him and Midnight could train well and figure it a good fire breath skill for her.

Later in the night Walker had noticed that the wandering blacksmith did not come inside for dinner. He brought a plate with a bunch of food on it to the forge only to find that the man had fallen asleep at the work table. The tools have been rearranged in to better efficient positions. The forge itself looked ready to be used at any moment. There were some tools left on the work table that seemed to be set aside for maintenance. Happy to see this Walker had a feeling he had lucked out on someone that really took their system skills with passion and dedication. Leaving the food on the table he decided to call it a night so he could wake up early and train with Midnight. Dreams of dragon fire danced through his mind while he slept.