

Master 291

Chapter 291 - 291. Proper Rest

Walker easily caught up to Su. "I don't see why they had to keep us for so long. They knew we were tired and wanted to go home to rest." It was plain to see that she was trying to play it off like there was nothing that had been said between her and Henry.

"Well I am sure they were just excited to have the time to talk to another friend since the last two days have been rush rush rush." Walker played dumb and didn't bring up Henry. It was only fair since she had not teased him about Alice.

Midnight was leading the way with Onyx on her back. The two seemed to be in their own world only moving for when there was someone in their way. Su still was a little flushed but her better mood was easy to pick up on no matter how tired she had looked before. "I guess we will need to go back to the cathedral later. I will want to show off the new gear anyways." Walker tried to make it seem like he was the one who wanted to return and help first.

"Well we have to go back again before we head out to the deep sun hollow forest. I think they will need our help a few more times before the family's can move in to a new building." Su had immediately jumped on this chance. Feeling that he had given her the right chance Walker was secretly praising himself.

The tired feelings that had been building up since the start of the whole mess was starting to catch up to all of them. They may have rested but the lack of rest in a real bed was starting to get to them. Since they were both not up for a long conversation while they walked, Walker was looking at the system notifications only to find the new skill he had gained while passed out.

He had exhausted his mana another time while at the cathedral adding to the man times he had done so. Due to this he had unlocked a skill and learned it automatically which made him happy. He cringed however at the fact that it was so costly.

Spending four mana only to store one of them away sounded like a pretty big loss of he tried to store it while he was out on an adventure. But here in the kingdom he had a safer environment and could at least start. Since he was heading off to rest he decided to give it a try.

'4 mana consumed. 1 mana has been stored within the user's body.

Mana stored:1'

The system notified him of this but he was less concerned with the notification and more of the feeling he was having. He drew in a sharp breath as the feeling of heat spread in his veins. He was using his very body to store more mana than he normally could have. This means that parts of his body would be pushed past their limits due to this skill.

When he first read the skill he had been more excited and thought it would be so easy. However he was being proved wrong. He forgot that his body already normally has mana in it and he would be forcing a greater burden on top of it. This had been why the system warned him about storing too much in his body.

"What's wrong Walker?" The concern in Su's voice was plain to hear. She had dropped the normal leader from her expression for his actual name showing that she had been thrown off.

"I just tested out a new skill and it is going to be harder to use than I expected. I got too excited and rushed in to it." Su was looking even more worried since she could clearly see that his skin was flushed and he had started to sweat a little. To her eyes he was running a small fever because of whatever he had just done.

Walker on the other hand was breathing through the pain that came with storing one single mana and decided that there would be some restrictions placed on this skill. "I don't think I can really use this skill until I level up more..." He said this to calm Su down but also so that he could reinforce to himself that he needed to be careful.

The remainder of the walk to the mansion Su would glance at him constantly. She was only able to relax when the two reached the front door. The two had looked at the two opposite sides of the mansion. One was the forge which was billowing smoke as the wandering blacksmith made some new tools and adjustments. The next day they would be working to make some of the long awaited gear. Su was much more focused on it.

"We can ask to work on your shields first. I know you must feel naked without proper ones to carry around." It was only fair to feel unprotected without your main source of attack and defense. Walker would feel the same way without a staff or other weapon in his inventory.

Su responded with a nod that she would be waiting. The other side of the mansion where the alchemy lab was, was also billowing some yellowish smoke. The old master alchemist and Remey were hard at work. Her promise to improve and learn how to properly use her new system was being realized.

It was not a lie to say that she had all the information and the theory but none of the practice. She had been limited for so long by her system. She had the ability to help teach but never really know the true feelings behind the things she said. Walker couldn't help but think that she would work herself to exhaustion.

"He will make her rest at some point. You have seen how he treats her like his own family." Su knew Walker's thoughts at a glance and reassured him. Her words were very true. As much as the two of them had argued or bartered in front of him it was just too easy to see that the two of them have shared a bond stronger than just friends or mentor and student.

"Besides Remey we also have Gil out hunting with his father. He better not try to push it to the deep woods before us to scout. I swear if he does I am going to hit him myself." Walker was sure Gil would be wise enough not to risk such a thing but he also knew that He was excited. This made Walker consider using Remey's form of punishment if Gil were to act up in such a way.

The mansion was eerily quiet as they arrived but this was not worth focusing on. Midnight and Onyx had immediately made for the shortest route to their favorite napping place in the dining room. Not wanting to be left out Walker headed to his own room and found that Su was doing the same. They could find everyone later and hang out.

With their tiredness taking the lead they four went to sleep. They were too tired to realize they had not really eaten at all the past two days. This became evident to them when the stomach acted as their wake up call in the morning.

Walker could barely keep himself from rushing off to get food while he changed and got cleaned up after sleeping. The smell of some freshly made bacon and eggs had taken up the entirety of the mansion. With the scent on his mind and the only possible place for it to come from being the dining hall he broke off into his furious pursuit.

The one who was sitting at the table eating their fill was Su, she had woken up just early enough to start her own breakfast and had made much more than was needed. "I thought you and Midnight would be hungry too so I made extra." Su said this as soon as she finished a mouthful of fluffy scrambled eggs.

"You know I think you may be a saint." Walker said this remembering the conversation about the saint guardians.

"Speaking of saints, I would definitely like to meet one of the saint guardians when they are back at the cathedral." Su had the same thought as he had said his words. The two would definitely be able to learn a lot from a group that was dedicated to protecting others. While Walker was interested in a blocking skill that also healed the user Su was more interested in their strategies when it came to defending.

"If we are lucky they will be back after our journey to the deep sun hollow forest. But they are apparently protecting some small villages so who knows how long they will be." The duty the saint guardians had was one that did not sound easily left. With their meal finishing up and Midnight looking full of energy it was time to head to the forge to get a start on the gear.

...

... Chapter 292 - 292. Crafting A Shield

Su seemed more excited than Walker of Midnight, mostly because she was not about to exhaust herself using spells to add to the fire. However Walker didn't say this complaint out loud. He had committed to this and wanted to make sure that the entire party had the best possible gear.

Onyx chose to stay outside and bask in the sunlight, Midnight had shared some of the bacon with him adding yet another addict to the family. They would soon need to start a small farm to feed them all at this rate. They couldn't eat horned rabbit forever, eventually Hilda's would run out of recipes to test.

There were already plenty of sounds coming from the forge along with smoke from the fires. When the trio entered they found that the wandering blacksmith had been hard at work creating all the connecting pieces for the armors and weapons. The small clasps for Remey's gloves and light armor were in one pile while some adornments for Su's shield were in another. These pieces were specially made to hold everything together so that they would not crack or break under stress. The thought process of designing them was very intense.

They watched as the wandering blacksmith was finishing up a leather sheath for Gil's dagger. The dagger had yet to be forged but he already had all the materials divided out for everything that would be

crafted. Walker couldn't help but to wonder how he had cut the steel worm skin in to such perfect strips and pieces.

The wandering blacksmith immediately noticed them as they came in and started to prepare to craft the shields. They would be the largest project and he wanted Su to be there so he could compare size and weight as he crafted them. They were already drawn out on a piece of parchment with incredible detail. Su was entranced by it seeing her extremely minor design had come to life. The design of the back of the shield where she would hold it had many criss-crossed parts of metal that were supporting the shell-like shape giving her the impression that it would be much stronger than she had expected.

"Walker and Midnight reporting for fire support. Just point us in the direction you want us and we will get to work." Walker's introduction for the day made the wandering blacksmith smile and wave them to get near the fires. Before he grabbed the materials he would start to shape he took some measurements of Su's arms and cut some parts from the steel worm skin. These would be for the handle of the shield so the metal wouldn't cut in to her hands.

The wandering blacksmith had Walker and Midnight working soon after. The two were throwing black fireballs and breathing decaying flames respectively in to the fires constantly. Every once in a while the wandering blacksmith would add some coal but this was less so. The metals and other small materials were added in a certain order seemingly starting to fuse together as it turned red hot.

Su was staying far back out of the way but her eyes never left the wandering blacksmith's hands. She wanted to see her dreams become reality. The shape took form after only a few hammer falls which just went to show the skill and strength being used. Seeing the rounding of the shield and the supporting parts being added was a whole other process that neither of them had witnessed. Even Midnight was looking at the process with intention to learn. She was providing the fire after all and to her this was something she should know to be a better dragon.

Once the shield had fully taken its basic shape the wandering blacksmith sped up his work using a myriad of different tools on the front to add carvings and supports. The pointed bottom was made sharper so it could anchor in the ground while the top was rounded smooth so it could more easily be used as a support. In the back of the shield there was a carved indent with supports that was going to be for a mana storage gem.

Seeing that there would be one mana storage gem in each shield was a great thing. Su would be able to store a lot more mana for another time in her shields. This could be invaluable to her skills in blocking or deflecting. Not to mention there were sure to be new skills she learned from her upgraded system. Not a single one of them knew what would come of this but Walker was sure it would be amazing.

The first shield was quickly coming together and soon just needed its basic polishing and final touches for when it completely cooled. The wandering blacksmith had only accomplished this in three hours! After looking at Midnight and Walker he had decided that the two of them should be able to hold out to make the second shield right away. He did not hesitate to start his work. Su was still entranced and kept looking at the cooling shield that just needed details.

When the second was placed next to it she was nearly jumping around with excitement. She was seeing the same shields that were in her head in reality. If she was not in control of herself she would have reached out for them right there burning her hands. The wandering blacksmith gave her a few glances and took some more measurements before adorning his gloves again and starting to work out some final detail.

Walker and Midnight sat against the wall of the forge since they were not free to relax and regain their energy. Six straight hours of using their spells to make the fire burn properly had really put them through the ringer. However from what they saw it was more than worth it, the shields were cool looking but the happiness Su had in her face mattered more.

Remembering that the wandering blacksmith would need all the mana crystal shards he had he pulled the remainder from his inventory. He was going all in and wanted to make sure there were enough to make mana storage gems for every single piece of gear.

Watching the wandering blacksmith carve patterns into the shield he saw that they were infused with his mana. The mana would travel down the line back to where the gem would be set in the shield. It was the path that would allow the storage and use of the mana but also boost the effect of any skills that utilized mana in to the shield. It was a very wise decision and made the shield even more valuable for long term use.

Su was practically losing herself over this. She was already thinking of how she was going to use both shields in tandem and wanted to practice with them right that second. This however made her realize that she would need multiple sparring partners to develop her new strategy and practice and dual wielding shield skills. "Leader, I will need to head to the guild and ask for some training partners. I would ask you to use your flame doll spell to make me some enemies but I think battling against new opponents would be better."

"I agree, when I get my new weapons I will head to the guild training fields to practice. I am sure there are some adventurers there that have used blunt weapons that could teach me a thing or two." Walker's

thought process was the same and he planned to have Remey and Gil do the same. They may be developing new skills right now but they needed to combat experience with unknown opponents. Only then would they really start to learn.

After carving and polishing the first shield was finally finished. The black bronze color was from the addition of the two kinds of dragon scales which strengthened it to a major amount. The carved patterns gave the shield an artistic aura to it. There was a feeling that if someone were to try and hit this shield they instead would find themselves hurt and the shield without a scratch.

Su had a shine in her eyes and the wandering blacksmith gestures for her to pick it up from the table. He needed to see how it fit in her hands and if there needed to be any adjustments made. She grabbed the shield like she had just been handed a delicate flower. She gingerly turned it and fitted it on to her arm.

She only had one finished shield attached but it was plain to see how the size could perfectly block attacks on her entire front along with any one the was next to her. If she had two in her hands they would be able to fit together seamlessly clocking anyone behind her and on her sides. It was a perfect fit.

Su lifted it and stuck it to the ground. The soft hum of the metal spoke of strength and unyielding defenses. Su grinned like a kid in a candy shop. "This is the best shield I have ever held in my entire life."

...

Chapter 293 - 293. Twin Shields

The wandering blacksmith had already jumped in to the finish of the second shield before Su had even said her words. He had seen that it fit in her hand like an extension of her own being. This was perfect for his goal and now he just needed to match the second shield to it. He spent much more time carving and polishing the second since it needed to be an exact match for her opposite hand.

Su stood getting accustomed to the first shield. Every few minutes she would crouch or lift the shield to see how it moved in her arm. The flow of her movements was not interrupted at all. Since there was one shield already made Walker decided to use his all around appraisal skill to check it out.

' Blackened bronze dragon shield (right hand)

+15def, +15mdef

Strong fire resistance

Strong decay resistance

Increased deflection chance

Open slot for mana gem input'

The shield was astounding, there was a huge amount of defense and al defense added to Su just from the one shield. When the second was finished the defense and defense would be thirty each!

The resistances were a surprise, the decay resistance was most certainly from Midnight and Walkers addition of flames. However the fire resistance must have been from the bronze dragon scales they received from the tamer's guild master. Walker would be sending a letter of thanks as soon as he finished here.

Seeing that there was an increased chance to deflect things Walker knew that it would be perfect for Su to deal with ranged attacks. "Do you want to hear the stats or will it be too much to handle right now?" Walker's sly grin made Su afraid but very excited to ask. She had a feeling that they would exceed her expectations.

Su took a very deep breath then look Walker in the eyes. "I am ready. Tell me everything." She was trying her best to keep her heart from beating out of her chest in excitement.

"Fifteen defense and fifteen al defense." Su's jaw dropped hearing this. She had done the math and was sure that most attacks from weaker monsters would stand no chance of harming her or anyone behind her. "Decay resistant and fire resistance. Plus it has a higher chance of deflection." Walker was sure Su's jaw was going to hit the floor at this point. But there was still more. "Lastly there is one mana storage gem slot. The necklace from before that I decided to hold on to can store twenty mana. So I think you will be able to store forty mana with the two shields together."

The wandering blacksmith needed and gave a small grunt as he worked to support what Walker was saying. "This is too great...too perfect..." Su's voice was but a whisper now. She felt she had just been given an amazing treasure. If other defenders knew about this they would throw their lives in the floor for these shields. Not to mention these shields were most likely better than what the military used. Any one of their men would love to have them.

After a little more time the second part of the shield was completed and Su held both in her hands. She slammed both on to the ground making them come together in to the larger blocking shield seamlessly. She held the position the wandering blacksmith walked around looking for any errors or needed adjustments.

"Great" His single word was enough for all three of them to rejoice. The shields had come together perfectly in only nine hours of work. It was a huge blessing to have such a talented blacksmith and such amazing materials to work with. Before they got too far in to her celebration they could already hear the fire being stoked back up. The wandering blacksmith was going to make the mana storage gems so that the shields could be completely finished. He was not one to stop a job before it was done.

This attitude sparked something in Walker and pushed him to also join in to help again. Since he had seen the process once he was able to jump in to assist slightly where it was needed. He was able to hand off the right tool or add coal to the forge when needed.

The mold was quickly taken out of the heat and popped open by the wandering blacksmith. The process of cooling and making sure there were no impurities or damages was the same as the last time. Su was watching carefully along with Midnight who had also missed this process.

When the wandering blacksmith began to fit it in to the first shield he refused to give it back to Su. Instead he made sure the two shields were next to each other and put together like they would be when Su used them. He started off the second gem and after some time created another flawless mana storage gem.

When the second gem was fitted in to the other shield there was a slight draw of mana that caused the patterns carved in to the shields to glow for a second which made the metal around the gems seem to shrink. He had been keeping them together so they would be in sync when they were used in tandem. Now that they were both done the Wandering blacksmith gave them over to Su and let her keep them.

He knew that Midnight and Walker were done for the day and started to instead craft the mana storage gems to prepare for the other items. Walker saw this as his chance to head out and let him work peacefully.

Su was already out in the front of the forge testing out some movements. She had an easy time adjusting to the weight. They were perfectly balanced for the grip she had on them but what would trouble her is keeping them both together. They may fit perfectly when placed but she would still need practice to execute the move.

While she practiced the black bronze shine attracted Walker's attention. This could be really good for when Su taunted enemies so that Midnight or Onyx could sneak up on them. Even more so was the fact that the shaping of the shields allowed for more twisting of the shield in Su's hands. She found that she was able to move them in to angles she had been unable to before.

"These are just too good." Su kept saying this between moves.

"Su, the sun is already setting. Let's go inside and eat. You can show off to everyone who is at dinner." Walker woke up Onyx who had fallen asleep bathing in the sun all day. Walker swore as he slithered on to his shoulders that Onyx was a few inches longer. He had most certainly entered in to the expected growth spurt.

The dinner was fairly quiet since Remey stayed focused on alchemy with the old alchemist and did not come out of the alchemy lab. Gil had yet to return meaning that his father was still away. Walker's father was still at work since the guards had mostly been sent to help in the building and patrolling of the streets. The fire had shaken the entire area not to mention the recent robbery from the stone gang added worry. To combat this there were more guard patrols and some guards were moving supplies to the builders.

With the smaller group at dinner Walker found himself enjoying tea with Su's parents, Gil's mother, His mother, and Maria. The only new additions were Gale and her parents who were rather silent and shy to join in on everything right away, no one was offended by this since the family had just been through so much. The positive though was that when Gale saw Walker she ran up to him and would latch on to his leg. Su had run away to polish up the shield since she was convinced that it had started to get dusty. She had talked about it the entire meal until she finished eating. Once he had chatted and had his tea he took an early night to get himself ready to wake up to work in the morning. Midnight had already beat him to it though.

The morning came closer than just as fast as normal but Walker found himself more and more excited for it. He felt that he would be able to get a lot done today since the two biggest pieces of gear were finished. Apparently Midnight had the same feelings since she was already awake and just about to push Walker's door open when he himself opened it to go looking for her.

...

Chapter 294 - 294. Flexible

"Morning Su, what are you up to?" Walker found Su downstairs with breakfast sandwiches already made staring at the two shields she had leaned up against the wall.

"Just trying to figure out how I can use my skills together. I think I will be starting out practicing by myself on some training dummies. My shield bash skill is one I have only ever used with one shield and not two. I also have no idea what skills may change or come from my new upgraded system. I just have a feeling I will need to learn more than I expect."

"I think that's the perfect plan, I know I will be in the forge the whole day. If everything goes well we should have Gil, and Remy's gear done then finish mine tomorrow. After that would just be some upkeep and little things. I plan to let our blacksmith friend decide if he wants to stay longer. I do have a feeling he may start to plan a trip to the mountains though."

Walker was recalling how much the wandering blacksmith had focused in the book about forging in the mountains and the fact that he had been pouring over some maps in the library. Maria had surprisingly started to grow closer to the silent calm man. Having someone else in the library to read that didn't make her fearful was a good way for her to adjust to other people.

Eating his sandwich fast Walker left Su to gaze at her shields longer. He thought she had developed an unhealthy love of them but he was thinking that he would be the same way when he got his new weapons too.

When he and Midnight walked in to the forge they found that there were mana gems added to every single pile of materials. There were also some plain swords, spears, shields, and other basic tools made from iron. It would appear that the wandering blacksmith had started to make basic items for Walker after he had finished the mana gems. However at this moment he was asleep with his head on the anvil. Walker decided to start to store away the basic weapons to clear up space for them to work.

By the time the wandering blacksmith started to stir Walker was sweeping away some ash from the dirt floor. This made the groggy blacksmith smile along with seeing the breakfast sandwich on the table that Walker had brought out for him. He himself had also not eaten the entire time he forged and it was going to catch up to him if he didn't eat now.

Once he was ready the blacksmith started up the forge and chose to start with the smallest piece first. Gil's dagger was an easy thing to make and would require the least mana. This meant that by the time he had the next set of materials heated Walker and Midnight should already be more or less at full mana.

The process went the same as before however the shaping in to a dagger was different. The small blade was made to fit the sheath that was made the day before. On top of this the Wandering blacksmith was adding strips of the steel worm skin to the handle while it was still hot. The slight hiss that this made was surprisingly satisfying, the skin almost melted and became one with the handle of the dagger giving it a perfect grip.

The temper on it was quick and it took less than an hour to complete and cool. Once done the wandering blacksmith got to sharpening and polishing the small dagger. Due to it's small size he did not add an inlay for a mana storage gem. He would also make the arrow heads later but would not require Walker or Midnight's help so it was being set aside for now.

The next on the list appeared to be Remey's gloves and Armor. The steel worm skin had been shaved in to thin straps that were wrapped around thick rods of metal alloy the wandering blacksmith had already made. He started to heat the entire pile at once. The black flames forced the steel worm skin to join with the metal.

When the wandering blacksmith pulled them from the flames, he did not use a hammer but instead twisted them together and seemed to use similar techniques to making thread. The work he did with the red hot and nearly molten metal was something that Walker had not even thought possible. By the time he had realized that this technique had been made a mix of cloth making and metal working Walker already could see the shape of one glove. The speed that the wandering blacksmith used made his hands almost a blur.

Soon there was a fully formed shoulder length glove held on to a mold as it cooled. Through the process the steel worm skin had kept the metal bendable making the hands and joints of the glove movable like the steel worm skin was. However it had the toughness of the bronze dragon scales and Orichalcum. In each of the forearms were three small holes that looked like they could be fitted with a small stone.

Walker looked at the table of materials and found that there were six small flat mana storage gems waiting to be used in them.

Much later when both gloves had set in to proper shape the Wandering blacksmith pushed the gems in to place and used small pieces of metal to attach them firmly. There ended up being patterns that looked to be sewn in to the gloves even though they had not been sewn at all. The technique was a mystery even though Walker had just witnessed it.

' Flexible dragon steel gloves

+4def, +4mdef, +6atk

Strong fire resistance

Strong earth resistance

Strong decay resistance

Mana storage 0/15'

This one glove had amazing stats too. Walker was thrown off by just how amazing all this gear was coming out. They should be insanely valuable gear used only for the strongest adventurers. He felt that he was not worthy enough to even be in the same room with it. However there way more to come as the same technique was being used to make the light body armor for Remey as well.

The time went faster with the body armor since it was a less complicated shape. When it was done it cooled on a mold of a female body that had been adjusted for someone Remey's size. It also had some extra parts added to be adjustable with growth which was a very considerate addition. The wandering blacksmith fitted one mana gem in to the chest area of the light armor which caused the patterns to sync with the gloves. They were a perfect set.

"Flexible dragon body armor

+6def, +6mdef

Strong fire resistance

Strong earth resistance

Strong decay resistance

Mana storage 0/20'

Walker had used his all around appraisal skill on all of these armors and was still surprised by how great they were. The earth resistance was obviously from the steel worm skin which would help if they ever came in to battle with someone or something using earth related. The decay and fire were the same as before. However the sheer amount of mana Remey would be able to store was greater than anyone in the party.

Having this ability to store a massive amount of mana meant that as their front line attacker Remey could put out a significantly more deadly amount of damage now. She had pretty much become double as dangerous as she was.

Walker decided that while they rested he would check Gil's dagger as well.

' Black scale dagger

+5atk

Strong decay resistance

Strong fire resistance'

This was the most tame piece they had forged so far mostly because it was technically a backup weapon for when Gil somehow ended up in close range. The real bonus would be the arrows once they had been made. Gil would be able to adjust them to have poisons or mana gems in them giving them different attacks that would not require him to use skills that relied on his mana.

While he thought on this his eyes drifted to the pile of materials that was left. They were going to be his large hammer and two smaller hammers. There were more materials in the pile than he realized along with a small mold for the smaller hammers. They were looking to be flat on one side and spiked on the other. This would give them some penetrative power and bashing power. There was also the added benefit that they would be able to be used for forging, other crafting, and just general use.

Walker wanted to get right to work but when he saw how tired Midnight already was he knew that they would not be finishing everything today. Instead he decided to call it a day early and see how Su was doing with her training. The wandering blacksmith had already foreseen this and was instead starting work on the many arrow heads for Gil's arrows. Walker felt that he had lagged behind a little in this situation.

...

...

Chapter 295 - 295. Dual Wielding

Midnight had left the forge with Onyx on her back moving towards the house. Walker could swear that Onyx had grown again while they slept at night. "I really am going to have to make him slither everywhere himself." Walker talked out loud to himself lamenting his loss.

Su had set up five training dummies in the training field. Three were already broken beyond repair but the one she was facing was in line with a second. She had been practicing the shield bash skill using both shields on two separate targets.

Su pushed forwards with the pointed bottom of her shield and stabbed in to both of the training dummies together. The cracking and breaking sounds of straw and wood sounded loud and clear in tandem. She had landed her attack then pulled the shields back and put them together in to one. She then used another shield bash and charged them forcing the two dummies apart and knocking them on to the ground.

This strategy that she had been developing looked like it would be perfectly able to break groups up and also attack multiple opponents. "Yu must have been thinking about this a lot to get to this point." Walker was very impressed with the skill she had using both of the shields. He almost wished that they had thought of getting her two shields the entire time she had been a member of the party.

Su was slightly out of breath but still full of energy. "I thought that I would need to work on coordination more, but with this new vision skill I am able to see my mistakes better, I feel like I was lost when I started but I am getting comfortable now."

"I think your switch to the separate and combined shield will really put out opponents off guard." Su nodded along thinking the same thing. "Feel like having someone real to spar with? I want to work on getting more skills with the twin blitz swords." Walker had been itching to practice with them but in the chaos of the fire and the forging he had been too busy or tired.

Su raised her shields and readied herself without a word. She was already in the proper mindset to train and battle so it was Walker who was behind.

He pulled out the twin blitz swords and balanced them equally in each hand. "I can already use a cross slash but I need something to really lock down an opponent." Walker was not sure how to do this so he instead started making up swings from different angles.

The metallic vibration and things from his sword deflecting off the shields were the only things making sounds in the training field other than their grunts. Whenever Su saw a chance to use a shield bash she took it and pushed Walker to dodge or defend. This made him think more on his feet and adjust to really close combat. He had been way too focused on and was not at his best when in close combat battle, something that could be his downfall later on.

He started to fall in to a rhythm using his dance of the wild rabbit while slashing with the swords in turn. He had slowly picked up this strategy finding that Su had more trouble using the shield bash skill against him when he was doing this.

'The skill blade wheel has been taken from the sword saint system. The user has learned the skill blade wheel through consistent practice.

Blade wheel- 1 mana cost per swing

The user utilizes their agility and dodging skills to move in a spinning rhythm. They slash down using two swords one at a time in quick succession. The longer the skill is used the faster and sharper it will get. At the twentieth strike damage is doubled.'

Walker's sudden stop made Su look at him expectantly, she knew that he must have just gained a skill to stop so suddenly and look so pensive. She had already been able to memorize what the faces he made meant and to prepare herself to hear something that normally would be crazy for anyone else.

"Hehehe, do you want to really test your shield's new defenses?" Walker's evil expression made Su felt that this was no longer her own training session. Walker was definitely about to take over.

"Well I don't see why now." The second she said this she was greeted by the twitching in Walker's muscles as he raised one of the twin blitz swords to attack. The first attack was no trouble for her to deflect. Not a single bit of damage crept through. The speed that Walker used was slow enough giving her the impression that he had not actually gotten a new skill but just thought of a way to get one.

While she thought on this she saw that he was twisting and slashing with the other hand. This was still no threat and easily dealt with. However before she could think any more the other hand was coming around to slash again. She realized that she could not push forward since every time she tried to raise her foot the next slash was coming.

Walker was focusing on the blade wheel trying to build up the damage. He was not sure what would happen when he reached the double damage of the twentieth strike but by the time he reached the seventh he was already pushing Su to take steps back. The pace became more dramatic since she had to bring the two shields together to defend instead of deflect.

The one sided attacks continued, the fifteenth strike was enough to send Su stumbling back and completely break her stance. Walker rushed in with the sixteenth which Su narrowly blocked. The shield was definitely much stronger and really improving Su's defensive ability.

Walker readied the next strike but just as he brought down the slash he felt a weakness overcoming him. Su saw this too and dropped her shields to catch Walker as he stumbled, "Hahaha I ran myself out of mana. Only one left."

"Well while you rest you can tell me what that was. You seemed to get stronger every time you slashed at me. I couldn't even push forward with a shield bash." Su was impressed because she had never felt cornered so well and wanted to find a way to counter it.

"Blade wheel. I get stronger the more attacks in a row I do using the skill. It uses my agility so I combined it with the dance of the wild rabbit." Walker was breathing a little heavy and took a moment to catch his breath. "If I reached twenty consecutive strikes my damage would be doubled. I thought I could really give your shields a good test. Although I can't even see a scratch..." Su realized she had dropped them on the ground to help Walker sit himself down.

"Oh I'm sorry my partners. I will never throw you in the dirt like that again. Did Walker hurt you two.." Walker watched this scene and realized that Su needed to get out more. She was literally talking to the shields like they were real people.

While Walker recovered mana and rested, Su continued on practicing. She had learned that even with two shields she was still able to be backed in to a corner. This lit a fire in her that would not be extinguished easily. By the time she was down to the last of her mana Walker was there to help her stand just like she had with him earlier. "You know you should be saving some mana to store in to those shields now, right?"

The look of embarrassment washed over Su's face as she realized she had forgotten one of the biggest reasons they all had their own gear crafted. They had needed a way to combat their lack of mana. "I was just waiting until I went to bed to use the rest of my mana." Walker could only giggle at Su's stubborn replay. It would seem that hanging out with Remey so often had rubbed off in her just a little.

"Let's go eat dinner with everyone. I am sure that will work wonders for recovering a little mana." His words dripped with teasing but that was fine since Su didn't have the energy to retort.

"You're back!" The little voice of Gale sounded through the dining room as she sprinted and attached herself to Walker. "Show me more wind!"

Gale let mister Walker eat first. He has been hard at work all day. I am sure of you are patient he will show you something before bed." Gale's mother smiled apologetically but soon found that Walker didn't seem to mind at all.

"? You want to see some wind huh? Hmmm, I was thinking that I needed to practice my wind you know. Let me eat something and I will have just enough energy to practice with you once or twice." Gale released his leg at this response and went to find her own seat at the dining table.

...

...

Chapter 296 - 296. Mushroom Worries

"Walker, why is your cloak so ragged? You need to take better care of it." Lisa saw the coal dust covered state Walker was in and found it very unsettling since she was the one who had made that cloak.

Feeling he had made a mistake by not cleaning up first and making sure the cloak was washer, Walker knew that he needed to use his trump card to make Lisa happy. It was time to compliment her, a lot.

"Well I know that I have a very talented and beautiful younger sister who could repair any damage that could ever come to any piece of clothing I have." His words were sweet enough to give someone a stomach ache.

"I know better than to listen to you when you are trying to distract me from being angry." Lisa crossed her arms pretending to be really mad. However the smirk on her face gave away her true feelings, that she was actually really happy to hear the compliments from her older brother.

"Yes, big sis Lisa is the best! She even fixed the hold in my shirt!" Gale joined in not realizing fully what was going on but showing an almost perfectly patched shirt. "She even had purple to fix it!" The purple thread stood out against the grey shirt but it was Gale's favorite color so no one had argued it.

"Hear that Walker, I have another sister to worry about now." Lisa stuck her tongue out at him before ignoring him to give Gale more attention. Between Gale and Midnight giving Lisa more attention than Walker throughout the entire sinner he had begun to feel a little forgotten.

He went off to the library to get away from everyone after he had cleaned up and found that Maria was leaning against the second floor book shelf reading about poison toads. "Why choose to switch your

reading topic to poison today? Weren't you reading about history last time I saw you?" His question startled her from her own little world.

"Mhm, but I was told you were going somewhere that might have something poisonous..." She had been secretly reading everything about poisonous monsters and plants since the day before.

"Well I will need an expert to give me the details before I leave and rush in to a new environment. But we are going to the deeper sun hollow forest. Not to the swamps. I think plants and animals that live in the forests are a little more important." With his input, Maria placed the book down and started to filter through the books on a taller shelf.

"That one." She tried to reach for one that was just a little too high, seeing this Walker grabbed it. "I read that one already but it's about bad mushrooms." Walker wondered how she had reached and read this book but just figured that she had asked either Su's mother or the wandering blacksmith for help.

Taking the book Walker took up a space next to her and started to read. She seemed happy to have company and started back in to her book on poison toads. The peaceful environment in the library coupled with the smell of books helped all the stress from the day to melt away. Walker soon was absorbed in the book, memorizing as much as he could before he went off to sleep.

The book was about the various species of monstrous mushrooms. Most mushrooms in the deep sun hollow forest were edible and a source of food for the elven kingdom. Yet there were the rarer poisonous ones that were to be avoided due to the fact that even a touch could kill a full grown man.

The monstrous mushrooms were a mutated species that had grown large and gained the ability to move around and consume living creatures. They were often easy to defeat and kill so they posed no threat. The trouble was that their spores were able to cause a massive variety of different ailments, some of which could paralyze or poison. Both conditions could end someone's life while they are in the forest.

The weaker ones did not even develop spores meaning that they could be killed and even eaten. The ones that started to grow too large though soon had the caps on the top of them change colors. This was the sign that they had developed spores and would release a cloud of them upon death to try and kill what attacked them and use it as nutrition for its soon to grow young.

The best ways to defeat them were to use ranged attacks that did not stir the air or to be fast enough to attack and retreat within an instant. The other recommendation was to have gear that resisted the possible effects of the spores, but this was harder due to their multiple effects.

Walker thought this was one of the best things to know since they were said to be one of the hardest opponents for close combat fighters. Since Remey and Midnight were their two main close combat fighters being able to warn them was the best possibility. Seeing that Su would also possibly be close to them she would need to avoid using her shield bash skill on them. The real question would be if she could safely block them after taunting them.

Seeing that the spores would be airborne Walker realized that he should use some form of water . This could deal with the spores in the air and also potentially do some damage if the skill is powerful enough. It was the start of a safer strategy.

With so much to think about Walker decided it was best to get some real rest. The moon had climbed high in the sky and even Maria had fallen asleep reading. Raking the little demon girl to her own room Walker left her tucked in with the book by her pillow. He found that he slept much better than normal once he had woken up.

The morning was crisp and the sun was even brighter than the day before. The thought of Walker having his new weapons by the end of today made him much more energetic. It was like he had been given a massive boost in agility out of nowhere. Su was already out in the training field laying down some hurt on the training dummies.

Walker gave her a wave as he headed out the back door on his way to the forge. Su was practicing twisting to black and using her shields at different times. She had taken inspiration from Walker's blade wheel skill and wanted to be able to twist and block in an instant. His actions were stiff but definitely improving the more she tried them, all she needed was to find the flow in which she could move the best. After she did that she would be able to clock anything without even thinking.

Distancing himself he headed to the forge finding that Onyx was resting nearby watching Su from a distance. He had found a great spot where the morning sun hit and most likely would stay there until the sun passed it's highest point. Midnight had definitely rubbed off on him.

When Walker entered the forge the Wandering blacksmith was already hard at work. He was finishing another stack of arrow heads for Gil which looked to have killed plenty of time in his early morning.

There was an empty plate showing that he had eaten something which made Walker much happier since it always seemed that the wandering blacksmith would not leave the forge at all.

Midnight wandered in right behind Walker, the shadow wrapping wearing off as she released it. "Getting a little sneaky practice in first thing in the morning huh?" Walker had not noticed her at all which was quite the feat since he had improved senses and could often sense mana now.

She raised her head pretty tall and spread her wings to give them a flap. She showed off her sneaking and how she wanted to share her progress with wing strength. The flapping she did to show off stoked the fire a little in the forge making the wandering blacksmith smile and clap. It seemed he was rather enjoying the display of strength that could be used in the forge.

Without wasting time they three decided to get to work. The techniques were different since the small hampers would be molded. However, the large hammer was going to be heavily tempered and made with a mana storage inlay. The drawing on the parchments on the table showed the thinking that went in to it. The design showed a twisted easy to grip handle with a large rectangular head. The back was a large spike that could use the weight and sharpness to cut through armor.

There were even ratios to the amount of each metal and material used. This was the most in depth that any of the gear that had been designed previously had. It looked like the wandering blacksmith had plenty of ideas in the works for this. Walker's excitement was building.

...

...

Chapter 297 - 297. Finishing Up

Midnight and the wandering blacksmith were already on the move. The heat was rising and the materials were being heated to begin the shaping process. Walker joined in and the metal was ready faster than they realized.

The wandering blacksmith used yet another technique to shape the metal, instead of hammering it to shape it he had begun to use some tools to pull and twist the metal together. The handle gradually started to take shape but with this technique the wandering blacksmith had to constantly take it in and out of the heat from the forge. It was a lot more lifting than any of the other techniques which made things seem slower.

Midnight was getting much more used to her decaying breath attack and had started to focus it more so that it yielded more heat. This had been the perfect practice over the last few days for her to properly master using the skill at the drop of a hat. Not to mention she was getting used to following hand signals instead of verbally or mentally sent words. This meant that if the party was ever in a situation where Walker couldn't speak out loud or have Onyx do so, then Midnight would still be able to properly understand the meanings of "let's go" or "Wait here".

Their teamwork had improved greatly and the bond between them was strengthened with every move made by the wandering blacksmith. He had already made a handle out of the red hot metal that looked much better than any of the other weapons or gear he had made. This was truly a master blacksmith at work.

The time came for them to stop heating the metal and the wandering blacksmith paced the head of the hammer in to a mold. He did not put the entire hammer head in the mold, which made Walker curious to why. Within the next moment the wandering blacksmith was bringing his own hammer down forcing the red hot metal in to the world. This was how the spoke on the other side was being created.

Walker would have never imagined this was how the hammer would be shaped. It was a very amazing technique that must have been discovered over many years of attempts and failures. Once the red hot metal had been shaped more tools were used to flatten and even the bashing part of the hammer. The shape was then changed again with yet another tool adding heavy lines in to it. These looked to be markings that could channel mana just like the small carvings on Su's shields.

The only question was, why were these carvings different? Walker wanted to ask but as the hammer started to cool down the wandering blacksmith started to carve the more fine lines. The hammer was still hot but it looked like this was the intention because the wandering blacksmith only seemed to be speeding up as it cooled. The skill that he demonstrated was always a wondrous thing to watch.

When the hammer had cooled enough the polishing process began which had even more carving involved. By the time the wandering blacksmith was polishing the last part the single weapon had taken half the day. "Walker took the chance to evaluate the hammer with his all around appraisal skill.

'Draconic crusher

+8atk, +2 def

Strong fire resistance

Strong decay resistance

Strong earth resistance

Specially made by a master blacksmith to retain its strength and hold less weight.

Able to infuse elemental mana within the hammer's head to cause elemental damage.

Mana storage 0/25'

Walker saw this appraisal and knew that the quality of this weapon was above and beyond what he had ever seen in his life. The mana storage would allow for five more than one of Su's shields. The attack was a great boost and it even came with three resistances. The clincher was that the wandering blacksmith was most certainly considered a master, it was shown in the appraisal as proof. He had made this hammer so that it was just as strong but lighter. This could mean the difference in any battle.

Walker took it in his hands after the mana storage gem was inlaid within it. The gem was in the top of the hammer where it could rest without fear of being burned. The spiked side was deadly looking and even had its own carvings. Those carvings were definitely what was giving him the ability to infuse mana in to the hammer.

He was surprised by its weight, he could lift it without too much trouble. However this did not mean that he could easily swing it. He was realizing that with his effort in holding it he lacked the skill to stop the momentum in an instant. For lack of better excuses it was just because he did not have enough muscle built up. This made him want to go and train immediately but he had no choice but to stay.

The heating process was already starting for the two smaller hammers. The materials were heated and ready for mold when Walker realized that the molds showed a blade on the back of the hammers almost like axes. This did make sense since he could use an ax to have while out in the forest. The problem was that he had not expected this, he needed to make sure that he took longer to learn how to use a bladed hammer than a regular one.

The process was almost half the time it took for the large hammer. The two smaller hammers were done in a blink of an eye and cooled just as fast. When Walker first picked one up he realized that there were no mana storage gem's within them and also that they were much easier to hold and handle. The difference was staggering but made a lot more sense. These smaller hammers were more for backup or utility than the larger one which was meant for real combat.

Having the two in his hands made Walker feel like a balanced fighter. The domineering aura he had made Midnight give him a soft growl. She could feel that Walker was itching for a fight and she wanted to run off to fight as well. However when the wandering blacksmith gave a gesture for them to heat up the fire more they were brought back to the task at hand. The final items needed to be made before anything else could be done.

Walker was sure that they had made just about everything he had asked for but was seeing the wandering blacksmith starting to create more and asking for the flames. The two watched as he started to craft more armor, this time it looked to fit Walker. This was something extra that the wandering blacksmith had decided to make himself.

They were just basic armor without any special effects but they would improve his defense and defense without a problem. They were also made of the steel worm skin making them easy to wear. Walker continued to help even when the wandering blacksmith returned to Gil's arrow heads. He was invested to see the end of this job and also wanted to make sure that the wandering blacksmith had an idea of what he would do after their order was completed.

They stretched themselves to the very end of their mana and energy. Daylight had long faded by the time they finished. Walker was looking at the pile of extra gear and weapons they had made. The only pieces that stood out were Gil and Remey's item. They needed to try these things on in case any adjustments needed to be made. Walker would have to drag Remey from alchemy and Gil from hunting. Both were practically impossible.

Before he went off to rest and wake up the next morning to try the impossible, Walker decided he should see what the wandering blacksmiths plans were. "Now that that the order is complete, do you have any plans on what to do next?" The smile on the wandering blacksmith's face was plain as day saying that he had one.

"Time to plan" This was the longest sentence he had said in front of Walker. The fact that he had directly spoken so quickly was a major surprise.

Walker was unsure of what the wandering blacksmith was planning but decided that he would just let it be. Yet as he tried to turn the wandering blacksmith had already pulled a map out from under the table. He tapped down on it showing that he was aiming for the mountains. Walker realized that it was a guild request form with the omnipotent party being requested.

"Wait, don't tell me you want us to escort you to the mountains so you can try to craft while on top of them?" This was exactly what the wandering blacksmith wanted. This had been his plan for a while now.

Walker was happy for this but also unhappy since they would end up leaving home again for a long amount of time. The journey through the mountains was usually done by courageous travelers and merchants. Bringing a guest along with them sounded much harder than the other guild quests they had taken on before. He had no idea what to say to the wandering blacksmith.

...

...

Chapter 298 - 298. Alchemy Genius

While it was an honor to be thought of when it came to such a matter as escorting a master blacksmith, it was also a very dangerous request that the party had never tried before. The real problem was that they were already preparing to leave for the deep sun hollow forest and would be gone for an unknown amount of time to gather information on the purple slime's plaguing the area.

"I would love to accept it, however, my party is not experienced in escort quests. We will also be away for some while; in the forest so we will not be able to accept other quests any time soon." The wandering blacksmith shook his head.

He poked Walker in his chest, "get stronger." This was not much to go on but it was enough to know that the wandering blacksmith wanted their party to get stronger before accepting this quest.

"Then please wait for us to get a little stronger, then we will return and go on an adventure with you." This brought a smile to the wandering blacksmith's face. He looked like he was already starting to plan routes and ideal locations on the map.

With the request put on the back burner Walker had no choice but to go hunt down Remey. Her gear had been finished and she needed to try it on for a final confirmation that everything was perfectly done. Walker had no doubts that it was fine but at the same time it was better to check for anything before they went out and used them fully.

The alchemist lab looked like it had been running smoke for days now, Walker had no idea how the two of them had the stomach to stay inside for so long without rest or food. When he approached the door he was able to hear the bickering coming from inside. "I swear if you burn this one again I will make you scrub that cauldron a hundred time!"

"If you didn't try and change what I was doing halfway through the extraction process then I would have completed it perfectly!"

"Oh yes it would have been perfect... Perfectly average!"

Walker took a deep breath not knowing what he was walking in to. They were obviously at odds with each other while they were training. He pushed the door open and revealed that the two were covered in bits of ash and small amounts of dried herbs from sitting over the fire and the cauldrons.

"Remey, I need you to come try on your gear. It's the final check for any further modifications." Walker said what he needed to say and expected Remey to be angry she had been interrupted but instead he was surprised to see her beaming smile.

"You're just in time to see more of my genius! I have already made mid Tier health and mana potions and now I am working on high tier!" Her face was getting even brighter as she said this.

"No you are failing to make a high mana potion. If you would just listen to me then you would have succeeded." The old man was not the happiest but Walker could see that there was a row of potions on the shelf that were all marked with an R and a number. They were the order Remey had made her potions.

In total the shelf held about thirty potions. The quality seemed to increase every five potions. The crazy part was that they had been working continuously. This meant that Remey had taken the years of knowledge and started to apply them succeeding in creating the tiered potions almost all the time. In

other words Remey may actually be considered a genius, her years of watching in awe and learning while she spent time with the old master alchemist were paying off.

"Umm, just to be clear. How long does it usually take for a new alchemist to learn how to make a high potion of any kind?" Walker had no baseline for these things and wanted to see what the real speed of Remey's growth had been.

"Well one of my best apprentices took about a year and a half before he could make a high tier potion for the first time. But what can you do when a noble sends a child...They have no work ethic. If I had any apprentices that put the same amount of work and study in that Remey has all these years then I would have become the sole producer of the potions on the continent."

The old man was not speaking lightly in the least. He was very blunt with the fact that most of the apprentices did not live up to their potential since they were discovered to have the system then sent by family to learn and make easy money as an alchemist. People like Remey were rare in the world and here even more so.

"Like I said I am a genius. Now sit and watch me finish this high health potions then we can go give my gloves a test run." Remey had not moved from next to the cauldron at all, the bubbling was at a peak and she had to make sure that the extraction process was running properly. The old master alchemist was very impressed by her multitasking because he could remember that even when he was at this age he had to completely focus on the production. He had no ability at that time to even listen let alone speak and look at someone else.

Walker sat down on a stool and watched as Remey used her mana to keep the potion progressing. Here and there the old man would move her hand or say something about temperature. To the untrained eye it was just a normal master teaching an apprentice. However since Walker knew that there was more to it he could see the tricks that Remey was using, having picked them up over the years that she watched him work.

The potion started to rapidly reduce causing Remey to move in to quick motion lowering temperature and putting the lid on the cauldron. "Next time you need to feel it happening before it reaches that point. The mana in the herbs will tell you they are about to release their own elemental mana." This was a trick that would take many attempts to learn but once learned could never be forgotten.

The amount of alchemical skills Remey was using already was astounding. She had dedicated herself so astutely that the old man was pushing her towards every required and even specific skill she could. He

may have passed on a huge amount of knowledge to the average apprentice, but to Remey he was not going to leave even the smallest detail unsaid. " Start on getting your vials ready now, and add some of that spring salt so that they hold a longer shelf life."

There were many more ingredients than Walker remembered when he was last in the alchemy lab. "I take it you guys had some ingredients brought over while I was working in the forge?" The look of their faces spoke volumes to how dumb they thought the question was.

"If you knew that then why ask? We needed a lot of things to get to work." Remey and the old man replied almost together while they prepared the vials. Walker decided that this slightly busy moment may not have been the best time for him to ask a question. There was also the fact that by the looks of the two, they had not rested in the least. They needed some good sleep so that they could be a little more welcoming in their attitude.

Without hesitation Remey started to use the same cooling skill that the old master alchemist had before. The room became chilly but suddenly the cooling stopped. "Ugh I am out of mana again." Remey swayed on her feet but the old man was there with a low tier mana potion. The potion took effect quickly and the cooling continued. It was clear that Remey was very limited by her level and the amount of mana she had. All the more reason for her to get her gloves and start to store mana in to them for these moments. It would be invaluable.

They two were still working hard to now pour the potion in to the vials which looked like a pristine red color. The spring salt dissolved and made them a slightly darker shade of red. The effect was very clear and Walker made sure he would remember the qualities. "So did I pass?" Remey was looking at the old man with an eager expression.

He held up the vial to the light and swirled it around. He then tasted a little and thought for a few moments. He started to open his mouth to speak before that he gave the potion a sniff and another swirl. "High health potion creation was a success. You lost two vials worth to the evaporation but that will come in time. You are improving greatly. Now go get your butt to that forge and get that gear that will let you store up your mana. I don't like using mana potions so often."

.....

.....

Chapter 299 - 299. The Gloves Are...On?

Remey was so happy that she nearly tackled the old man in a bear hug. Walker was sitting there with his jaw dropped wondering where all this emotion had come from. Remey was so happy and loving in this moment. He could barely tell she was the same person. "Don't think you will be resting long old man. I am going to learn everything you have discovered in your entire life." Remey issued her statement as a promise to him before grabbing Walker's arm and dragging him outside.

Remey stopped and felt the heat of the now setting sun. Walker had spent most of the day in the forge and Remey had been more or less locked up in the alchemy lab. Both had been missing out of the important light they needed. "Is Gil back yet?"

Walker was a little surprised she was asking about Gil but since they were the only two that had not been near the forge for their gear it made sense. "No not yet. I figure I am going to contact him with the party chat skill soon. He needs to come and work on his arrows before we head out." Remey gave Walker a nod.

The ash and bits of dried herbs that were coming from her clothes made it look like she was about to blow away in the slight breeze with them. "You know I think I got really lucky going to the adventurer's guild. Lin told me not to under any cost but with my system there was not much else to do. We could not afford the tuition to the military academy so I would have had to work as a mercenary or a guard." Remey had not spoken about the other possible careers she had considered before.

"Being a guard would not have been that bad. Look at my father."

"That's not what I mean, I just couldn't have found passion in it. Right now I can't wait to train more and to learn something new. I have never felt this in my life. I really am lucky, so many of the alchemists have this dead look in their eyes because when they gained their system tier families just sent them off and ruined their passion. I will fix that, the alchemy building needs to become a guild with tests and recruitment."

"Do you really think you can manage that? They seem pretty set in their ways to make a lot of money and stay as an independent building." Walker had not thought that Remey would have such a desire, but seeing that she had become so invested he knew that she had not thought about this in a fleeting moment. She must have been thinking this for some time but finally found a way to act on it now.

"Yes, I will use the hero title to its advantage and I will make whatever connections I need. When we are strong enough I will make that change and make alchemy a better profession. No more noble families sending off their emotionally dead children to suffer and make money for them. You should know what I

feel, would you have been just as happy if your parents forced you to stay inside the city and just learn trade skills?"

Walker had not really thought of this, his parents had been supportive of his desires and only even voiced worry. For the most part they had always made sure that he had the choice in life over his own fate. " I see what you are saying. It would mean some loss of gold for the alchemists but in the end they would have better budding talent. Even looking at the demi-human kingdom incident with the potions that made people sick; it could solve that problem. A guild has the power to hire people to check quality and constantly make sure that things are safe. The possibility of someone being harmed through potions would become incredibly minute."

This was another thing that could change, there would no longer be so many alchemists or fake alchemists selling off experimental potions. This meant that the overall quality would start to increase. Even more so if the alchemists followed the lead of the tamers then they could spread to many kingdoms and carve out a place in history right next to the other guilds,

"When you decide to act just let me know. I will be behind you to make sure that they listen to every word. " Walker made this promise feeling that this was the best move to make the most people happier in the long run. This would be a massive positive change.

"I will be counting on you then." Remey gave him a genuine smile and pushed open the door to the forge. "I hear you have something amazing to show me?"

The wandering blacksmith was a little startled but he did not show it long. Instead he went to the mannequin that he had used to hold her armor in shape. He soon had the gloves and armor in his hands; passing them to Remey. Her eyes were alight with the desire to break them in so she rushed to the side of the forge and locked herself in the storage area to change.

When she burst out of the door she was already making fake punches and jabs. Remey was effectively shadow boxing while she tried to see if the gloves were flexible enough. Even though her armor and gloves were tight, it was clear that she had no problem bending, twisting, and releasing her moves.

When Remey removed her knuckles from her pockets where she always had them clipped for quick use her face made a devious grin. They fit perfectly over the fingers of the gloves and stayed in place perfectly. "I have no problems, these are perfect." Remey looked at her arms and was in awe at the patterns seemingly sewn into the gloves and armor that were slowly absorbing a little of her mana. The

best part was that she could see that the mana storage gems were also receiving the mana. "These should be safe to use while I make potions too right?"

The wandering blacksmith nodded happily that his creation was perfect and did not require an adjustment. He also foresaw this question since he had been keeping an ear out for what the party members were doing. Hearing that Remey had started to work in the alchemist lab he made sure to use the weaving like technique to make the gloves. This led to them having a more water proof effect.

"They should also help resist the decay from the slime when we are fighting them. This means you can lay down some damage much more safely." Walker's worries had been appeased by this gear but Remey didn't seem to be able to focus on that fact. Instead she was still admiring the way the armor and gloves seamlessly fit together at her shoulders.

"These are going to get broken in right now!" Remey flexed and started out the door. She looked to be headed back to the alchemist lab to get back to work. She wanted to have a successful high mana potion made next. After that she would start to make potions for their trip to the sun hollow forest, they would be useful for the party. Worst case they could sell them to anyone they passed as they traveled. "Oh by the way I will call Gil for you."

Remey said this as she walked away and Walker could swear she heard her yelling at Gil to get his butt back to the mansion or she would come hunting for him.

With the amazing progress Remey had made and the fact that Gil was on his way back Walker was left with low mana and a sense of tiredness. He had spent just about an entire day in the forge again, however tomorrow he would be free to try out his new weapons. He wanted to head to the guild and challenge some other opponents in the training field.

Sparring with others would help him adapt to those he did not know along with surprises in battle. Not to mention he was still technically a newbie in combat. Even though his party had done a lot so far, they rarely got up close and personal with enemies. So far they had done a lot of long range combat and not truly been in the heat of a battle.

This fact alone was a good reason to train more, on top of that showing face at the guild would bring out those who doubted their skills making their name as heroes even more viable. Walker didn't really like the gossip that never seemed to end but it was better to have positive gossip than negative gossip. He was also worried that he would lack the proper connections with other parties if it ever came time for him to need another party's help.

....

Chapter 300 - 300. Parental Meeting

The wandering blacksmith joined everyone for dinner that night. Walker saw that Maria was sitting right next to him and even had brought a book on forging she found interesting to show him. They were a strange mix of friends but knowing that Maria, a demon, could make friends with others like the wandering blacksmith who was much older really put Walker at ease.

Gale was with Lisa almost the entire night. She had started to idolize Lisa since there were many things Lisa had started to make for the family. They had lost most of their clothing to the fire and lacked a variety. This worked out well for Lisa since she needed the practice. She also could not turn down the chance to let her imagination run wild.

She created some new work clothes that seemed to resist the blade tools they used which was a pretty amazing feat within itself. Many carpenters had cuts and scars from the tools as they worked over the years, being ankle to avoid these small injuries meant a safer work environment and also a better mood. Both already showed on Gale's parents' faces.

Walker had also begun to notice small end tables and even a dresser in the hallway as he wandered around after dinner. They seemed to be hard at work starting with the smaller furniture in the house. He trusted that they were doing their best and from the quality he saw in these small pieces he knew that even if they did not need a new place to say that choosing them to do this work was a great choice.

Walker still had the heroic quest in mind and decided it might be best to bring Gale with him to the adventurers guild while he trained. Her parents could have a meeting and talk about Gale's future while she was watching Su and Walker train. This would be a welcome experience for everyone involved along with a good growing point.

Walker had no doubt that seeing how the adventurers worked to improve, that Gale and her parents would want to choose the adventurer's guild. Gale may be too young to decide fully to become a member but she would just be looking for a teacher, which wouldn't require membership. Overall it was still a decent plan.

He sent Clara a message to confirm that it would be alright for him to bring the family along tomorrow and almost immediately received a reply. She was business like as usual telling him that there would be

available time to meet with the guild master. With their plans in place he let Gale's parents know before he went off from the dining hall.

Before he knew it the morning had rushed in to his room and he was getting ready yet again for another day. They had been lucky to have amazing weather the past few days and Walker had been lamenting the fact that he had been inside the forge missing out on it. Today was going to be different though, he was going to be out and taking advantage of the guild's training fields. He was going to use the day to its fullest.

"Good morning Su" Walker found that Su was by the front of the door with a familiar face attached to her leg.

"Good morning, look who I found waiting for us here this morning. She was here even before her parents woke up." Su ruffled Gale's hair which caused the little girl to giggle.

"I take it you're pretty excited to see what the adventurers guild is like then? There should be a lot of people there so make sure you stick close to us. I will make sure you get a good show while we train. I have a few new things I plan to try out." Walker had spent his time brainstorming while he waited for sleep to take him. He had a few elements he wanted to use in tandem with the large hammer.

"Will I get to use my skills too?" Gale didn't let herself become distracted. She had been wanting to practice and learn about her system for some time now but always told not to or to wait. It was only fair that she now wanted to start to experiment with the opportunity in sight.

"You will need to wait until we have a conversation with someone at the guild. But if everything goes well then yes, you will get to play with your skills." Gale's mother came down the stairs and joined the conversation. Her husband was right behind her nodding along. He looked very serious and was ready to make the best deal possible for his daughter's future.

"Well since we are all here let's get on our way." The group headed out and started to move towards the adventurers guild. Gale ran around them and bounced from person to person, the excitement was tangible. She was going to be able to use her skills and Walker knew that if the little girl did not get the chance to do something today she would definitely get herself in to some trouble.

As they passed through the streets there were a few vendors starting to set up shop. It was still pretty early but just late enough to grab a snack from one vendor. The stall had just started making some breakfast pancakes which were very easy to hold and eat on the move. There were even some with fruits cooked in so they were more nutritious.

Su seemed to jump at these and had gotten the most out of any of them. Walker made sure that if she was ever in a bad mood that these would be nice things he could find to cheer her up. Luckily for everyone's sanity the food was able to calm Gale but a small margin. This helped with her parents' nerves since they were about to talk to a very important person in the kingdom.

The gravity of who they were working for and living with had not really set in. However as they had talked the word hero and guild master seemed to hold more and more weight. Their shoulders had started to get stiff and they almost had decided to leave and go elsewhere for a while. Who could have easily handled the difference in status.

What really kept them there was the positive attitude that the rest of the family had. They Were more like the average family and made them feel very at home. The kids may have been the wild cards that somehow got the hero title but they were still young. After realizing these things Gale's parents had reaffirmed their attitudes and made sure they would procure the best for their daughter. They may only be simple carpenters but their daughter was going to be the best made their kingdom had ever heard of.

Gale could feel the confidence start to brim from her parents. Her mood skyrocketed even more, so much so that she was soon holding both her parents hands and swinging between them. They looked like a perfect family out for a morning walk, definitely not heading to the guild to talk to the guild master of the adventurers guild.

When the group arrived it was rather quiet. There were a few party's here and there who were either returning with horned rabbit bodies or leaving to go patrol for some to hunt. The others that were around were not accepting the quest or just not strong enough yet to do so. Walker worried that this would mean the training fields were barren.

"That is our guild manager Clara. I will go see her to see what we should do. " Walker left the others at the entrance and met Clara at the counter.

"You're earlier than I expected. But that works out well. Since we are in a lull now. The adventurers that took the quest to hunt the horned rabbits have started to need to go farther and farther to find them. I

believe it will have passed in another day or two." This was very good news for any merchants trying to hear that way. There would be no problem for them to travel as long as they had an escort.

The positive was also that there would be more adventurers returning to their normal escort jobs with merchants that contracted them. The daily life of the guild would return slightly but there would also be an influx of those looking to go off and get tested due to their gain of experience from fighting the horned rabbit hordes.

Walker gave a wave to Gale's parents who left Gale with Su. "Let's head up with Clara to meet the guild master." Walker looked to Clara who led the way. She was going to be as professional as possible in front of these parents since their daughter could end up as a new adventurer. It was only proper.

.....