

Master 301

Chapter 301 - 301. Anticipation

"The guild master's office is right this way." Clara knocked on the door before pushing it open. "These are the parents of the little girl Walker told us about. This is Ibis out esteemed guild master. I hope you can have a pleasant meeting." Clara left the three of them to enter the office.

"Hello there, I am glad to meet you. Walker has notified me that he was with your daughter when she unlocked her system. He asked me to look around for a proper teacher for her since it's a rather tricky system."

Ibis greeted them with all the professionalism required. When he was not with members of the guild he often acted like this. "Gale is the user of a storm wielder system. So far I know she has a skill that can create a very small tornado with some rain clouds. I believe that if she grows strong enough she will be able to change the weather in a larger area." Walker did not hold back with what he thought could happen if there was not a proper teacher.

"Yes, here at the guild we have a handful of adventures with dangerous abilities. For example, take mine. As you may know I have the control to summon light attribute elementals. One being an Ibis bird. It sounds like it could be cute, right?" Ibis smiled but then raised a hand. There was a flash of light that condensed itself in to the form of an Ibis. It perched itself on his arms. "Now she has restricted herself to a smaller size but normally she is the size of a small house. I had this spell at level five. The stronger I got the larger my friend here got. If I did not have a dedicated partner and a good teacher I could have become reckless. My friend here could have easily escaped my control and gone after the cattle in the farms." He released the summoning before looking at Gale's parents.

"Walker, can you please give us some privacy? We do trust you to care for Gale but as parents we would prefer to stand on our own two feet here." Gale's father asked him to leave. Walker was not unhappy with this at all, it was their family business and he knew that he had already given them the help he could. Leaving them he found that Clara had expected this and waited outside.

"Parents always get unsettled when talking about their child's future. Many who come looking for a teacher, as for private meetings like that. Don't let it put you off." She thought that walker would feel bad but after looking at him for a minute she realized that he was fine.

"So Su and I have some new gear to test out and hope to spar a little in the training fields here. Any idea on who may be around?" This was a little surprise to Clara who knew that they normally trained at the mansion.

"There are plenty of small parties that usually pair up with the higher tiered parties that stayed away from the danger of the horned rabbits. They have practically lived in the training field, by now I am sure they will be looking for someone new to try their luck with." Clara had broken up a few rivalries out on the training field sending some younger adventurers him with a threat of suspension. Things tended to get a little heated when they were not out taking quests or in their usual routines.

"Well Su has two shields that need to be field tested and I am trying to learn to use a hammer...so we will be taking all challengers." Hearing that Walker was not practicing was yet another surprise.

"I knew that you could use swords and a scythe if you wanted, but why did you think to try hammers?" Clara was trying to put the pieces together so she could understand his thinking.

"Well I can't use the fire I have focused on lately. On top of that I do not think that earth will be fast enough. More so I am limited to what weapons I am comfortable with, so I decided to try something a little different. The hammer I have should be able to channel the elemental mana I use too so it should be a very useful strategy to catch an opponent off guard. Plus I should in theory be able to take out a slime with a single swing when I go to the deep sun hollow forest." Walker's ideas were sound and even just talking about it was getting his blood pumping.

The two chatted more about the kinds of elements Walker had hope to use while he was sparing and which ones he had higher hopes for. Naturally earth would be a decent option since the hammer had a high earth resistance. Fire also would be as well. However the two elements could cause harm to how the forest grew and fire would even destroy the forest.

"Well I expect using water to make some ice could be better. It would melt and end up nourishing the forest. I would skip wind though. It could damage some of the more ancient trees there. They can heal to a degree but cutting off branches is unwise. If you wish to get on good terms with the elves you will cause as little harm as possible to the forest. They are known for even tossing ambassadors in the prison for a few weeks for cutting branches for their fires instead of picking them off the ground."

Walker thought that Clara was just trying to tease him a little with this. However he did agree that using a wind element was not a wise choice. He could cause a significant amount of damage to a tree and potentially kill it. His recent planting experiences had made him care more about plants.

"Well I am going over to find some sparring partners. Wish me luck." Walker ran over to Su and Gale when her and Clara returned to the bottom floor.

"Go easy on them!" She shouted after him knowing that she would most likely be called out for some trouble soon. It always seemed like Walker and his party were involved in some form of trouble.

"You two ready to go find some random sparring partners? I have been itching to try out my new hammer this whole time" Walker had chosen the hammer since it would be different than any other weapons he often saw. Yet now that he was about to use it for the first time he was way more excited than expected. The very fact that he could channel elemental mana through it was the most amazing addition from the wandering blacksmith.

"Leader, just promise to leave some for me. I need multiple opponents to test my shields out on. My dual wielding can definitely improve." Su looked like she was in the same state of mind as Walker. Having a break was always really nice, but now that they had been idle for a few days they wanted to get in to a real battle and test themselves.

When the three left through the back door and saw the sight of the training field they were not disappointed. There were small groups here and there, some challenging others or already in battle. Many looked their way as they showed up, they were being sized up. "Gale, want to yell out in challenge for us?" Walker thought that the little girl would enjoy being part of the fun too so he gave her a job.

Gale inhaled deeply and placed her hands around her mouth before letting out her mightiest yell. "Big brother and Big sister say they can beat you all up!!!!" This high pitched shout nearly echoed. Walker and Su had wildly underestimated the little girl's lung capacity. She could deafen someone if she was not careful.

The sounds of this challenge brought over two groups immediately. One was a group of five fighters that looked to have been training in hand to hand combat. The other three were a more basic party made up of a user holding a staff, and two swordsmen with short swords and small shields. "You can beat us up? Pfft those fancy shields must have been a gift from daddy, let me dent them for you." The best part about having Gale yell for the, was that their identities were not given away.

Walker had been sneaky and hid the medals and plaques they had just for this reason. He knew that when people saw their age and the silver tier adventurer plaque then they would be recognized. If they were they would have had zero chance of getting opponents. Even more so if Midnight had gone with them.

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Chapter 302 - 302. Smash

"You're looking for opponents right? Are you a attacker or front line attacker? I don't see much defensive gear so you can't be a defender." One of the swordsmen grabbed Walker's attention and wanted to figure out what they would be going against.

"Eh I can do whatever, but for this I want to learn with this." Walker pulled the domineering hammer from his storage space. The shine glinted in the sun and made his sparring partners envious.

"Pretty showy huh? That's fine, we will take the agility advantage." The other swordsman took it that the hammer would slow Walker down enough to have some easy wins. Unfortunately for the swordsman they did not know that it have been made specially to be lighter while retaining strength.

The two beckoned for Walker to move to an open space where they could take turns sparring. "Gale stay back at the stairs to the back door and do not move in to the field. It is dangerous." Walker was met with a lot of nodding and a thumbs up. He knew that she had a good sense of street smarts so she would not intentionally get in to trouble.

Su had moved off with the group of front line fighters and was already using her shields to block their punches. She was taking on all of them at one time and did not seem to be allowing any punches through. Strangely enough it seemed that she was not just kicking and deflecting but also doing it in the most efficient way. Her time training with the two shields was definitely showing.

"Do you have high enough defense to withstand some wind?" The user with the two swordsmen spoke up with a quiet voice. The girl was fairly shy looking but the small staff she held, there were small green elemental mana crystals embedded in it. They were definitely of a wind element that could increase her

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"I am pretty confident that I can deal with some wind. That staff looks pretty great for wind." Walker knew that the staff was very rare to have at a lower level as an adventurer. It could make all the difference in a battle.

The mage nodded. "I am testing this new weapon so just make sure you all are able to dodge well." Walker smiled as he raised the hammer and gave it a test swing. He needed to get used to the feel.

When he came down with it for the fifth time he tried to channel a single point of mana through it and found a similar feeling to his grand elemental manipulation skill. He could use his mana to influence the elemental mana to gather in the hammer. This was all he needed to prepare.

"Well then I will be first." The tallest swordsman drew his sword and fell in to his stance. He did not have his shield raised much and focused on his sword. Walker saw this as a flaw he could go after so he decided to raise the hammer and jump forward with a downward smash.

The speed he used was a surprise to the swordsman causing him to slash out and barely parry the hammer. However the hammer's weight was not easily pushed aside and still grazed him. When it hit the ground a small amount of flames sparked out.

Walker had only channeled the smallest possible amount of fire element in to the hammer wanting to make sure he did not go overboard. This little test showed him that the hammer could act as the catalyst for flames by making sparks when it made contact. Even more as he jumped back to gain distance he could already feel the water in the air being pulled to the hammer. He wanted to try the water element next.

Seeing the small amount of sparks the swordsman knew that if the hammer landed he could be burned. "Weapon huh? That's pretty valuable. Don't cry when I break it!" He dashed forward with his sword pointed like a spear. The blade was very straightforward just like the penguin attack from the plains; but they were faster. Walker easily turned to the side and started to bring the hammer down again, but the swordsman was wary of this and dodged himself.

Again the hammer slammed in to the ground causing a thud, this time it caused a small spot of icicles to burst up. When it came in to contact with the ground it had pulled more water elemental mana from the deeper part of the ground to produce this effect. Walker slightly shuddered at what this could do to an enemy and decided that he could hold off on it for training.

This put his sparring partner more on guard. Walker liked this and used it as his chance to advance. He swung the hammer forward allowing his body to flow with the momentum to get his steps farther. "Try this on for size!" Walker channeled the wind elemental mana in to the hammer with his swing. The sideways swing caused a rough and blunt burst of air that knocked the swordsman back.

With his opponent completely staggered Walker headed in with a downward swing on to the swordsman's shoulder. He held back enough so it would not cause any harm but the slight bit of darkness element he had begun to channel in to the hammer had a very interesting effect.

Walker had wanted to test out the use of darkness elemental mana and pushed a very small amount in to the hammer. The swordsman's shadow reacted to this reaching up and wrapping itself around the swordsman's legs. It was not a full proof trap, but it definitely caused the swordsman to stagger and fall. Walker held the hammer up , "My win."

This test of the hammer's ability to channel the elements had given a very good result. Not only was it basically an extension of his own body. It could also add more physical damage to his al attacks. Just like Gil Walker would be able to switch between these two forms of attack without fail. Not just that but he could put them together to deal a very surprising attack to an enemy.

"Alright, you gave my brother a pretty good run for his money. But I know how to use my shield so don't think that fancy hammer can do much against me." The slightly shorter but more muscle bound swordsman came over after helping his brother up. "I think I can put you off your feet." The smile he had was only for show, there was a serious glint in his eyes the other swordsman had lacked.

Walker was happy to hear this challenge because he wanted to use his high earth sculpting and his grand elemental manipulation in tandem with the hammer. He had an idea of how he would trap an opponent. There weren't more words as the two moved in to battle, they were just feeling each other out much slower than the previous sparring.

They quickly found that the other was able to keep up and that Walker was even a little faster, especially when it came to dodging. The strikes that this swordsman put out were much sharper, they had a lot more training behind them along with strength. Walker was sure to dodge them more than he needed with the dance of the wild rabbit. It was much tougher using the skill holding a hammer.

This was an small adjustment though since he had held more than a few weapons in his time and was used to the adjustment needed. After a minute of dodging the strikes he found a chance to swing down. However this was what the swordsman wanted and already had the shield moving upwards. However what they did not expect was that Walker had been channeling the light elemental mana in to the hammer from the sunlight.

There was a bright flash that completely blinded his opponent giving Walker the chance to use the opposite end of the hammer to knock away the swordsman. The shield had no chance to get in the path of the end of the hammer. This left his opponent wide open for the next attack.

Walker had seen Remey use her combos many times, he decided to follow what he had seen and add more swings to his attack. He started to mix the elements in to the swing as the swordsman tried to retreat. He did not use elemental man in each of his swings so that his opponent would have no chance to figure out which attacks were safer to block or not. As a result there was the one sided dodging battle happening now. This was what Walker was planning though, he had the earth elemental mana gathered in to the hammer along with a clear idea on what shape he wanted it to take.

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Chapter 303 - 303. Hammer Skills

He looked at his retreating opponent and stopped in his tracks. This was what the swordsman needed to retreat out of each of the hammer, however Walker had raised it above his head and started to slam down on to the ground with a heavy force.

There was a burst of earth elemental mana and the ground impacted where the hammer hit. His opponent had no idea why this attack was used if it was so deadly, all he could think was; Why hit the ground?

This was the intention he had missed though, the ground around him was being manipulated by Walker's skills and it was rising behind him. He noticed this too late and realized that he had no way to back up or dodge to either side. He was a rat in a cage!

Walker advanced before his opponent could get a bearing on where to go and was already in front of the swordsman with a softer swing to knock him down. "What the- where did that come from!?" The two swordsman brothers were understandably lost. They were not focused on but on close combat and only close combat, they had missed the fluctuations of mana that their mage partner had been feeling in both battles.

"That hammer is really too powerful, I'd like to see you try a fight without it." This was a little bit of jealousy talking but Walker did not mind. He had gained a skill he wanted and the system had notified him in this moment.

'The skill elemental smash has been taken from the arcane gladiator system. The user has met the requirements to learn the skill elemental smash.

Elemental smash- 1+ mana cost

Depending on the elemental mana manipulated by the user the blunt weapon used can influence and cause damage related to the chosen element. This can be made more powerful by gathering more or less elemental mana within the blunt weapon. The user must not exceed the weapons capacity or else the weapon could be extremely damaged.'

Walker was not worried about the damaging of the hammer since it was so tough, however he was worried that if he tried the skill with any other weapon the results could be poor. "Fine, then I will use another weapon for the next match. I am facing your wind mage friend there right?" He was smiling like this did not bother him at all.

The two brothers did not expect this because they had expected him to hold his hammer tighter and say that it was the only weapon he could use with his system. Normally this would be the case but since they did not know that Walker could wield any weapon that was not a specific mastery weapon.

"Use what ever weapon you want. I need to get better in combat." The mage's small voice reached Walker's ears and he nodded. He wanted to use the hammer more but decided to rise to the challenge and really show off.

"I will use two new hammers that I have no practice with." He said this as an honest gesture to the mage who believed him and smiled at the handicap. The two hammers showed up while the large one disappeared in to the inventory.

The three opponents were shocked with this demonstration of spatial and were now completely lost to what kind of system Walker had. They at first believe he had some form of close combat system that was able to use a more unique weapon like a hammer. Then they believed that the hammer could use elemental by design. They had not considered the was coming from him.

Walker held the balanced hammers in his hands. He turned them so the bladed side would be away from his opponent since the wind mage had armor that could be easily damaged by the blades. "Are you ready?"

The look of Walker adjusting to the weight and balance of the two hammers put them at ease since the two swordsman brothers were worried that their third member could get hurt. It was very normal for the mage or supporter of a party to have a weaker health or defense so that they could emphasize attack as a main damage dealer.

The wind began to stir sound the mage as she gathered the elemental mana to start off her own attack. For an inexperienced opponent the change in the wind would make getting up close and personal a little tougher. However Walker was used to using the wind as well and did not even flinch at this wind.

He pushed towards her, making the mage a little nervous. There was a wall like gust of wind that pushed out from the mage as soon as she moved her staff. The elemental crystals glowed with a green light and put more force in to it. The wall of wind pushed Walker back a few feet keeping the distance while the mage gathered more for another spell. The ball of wind being formed was all too easy for Walker to sense.

He gained his footing and pushed forward again. He found that the smaller hammers did not have the same ability to channel mana that the large one did, but this was to be expected. The were tougher and definitely had decent weight to the, to deal harder physical attacks. Walker had a feeling that if he used the blade wheel skill or the cross slash skill he could easily win using the bloated side of the hammers. However he wanted to learn new skills and understand what was going on with the bunch weapons in his hands.

He got closer and the wind around the mage started to pick up. It was impressive how tough the air around her was to move in since he was so used to being within something similar. The ball of wind shot at him but he laid himself flat in the ground to dodge it. He had no problem with dodging but the wind that passed by him started to pull him with it. Walker was forced to spin one of the hammers and use the bladed side to anchor him while the ball of wind passed by.

The look of the mages face as he stood up and started to close the distance between them again was an unhappy one. " I didn't expect the attack to pull me with it even though I dodged. It's a very good lesson." Walker praised his opponent before breaking in to a run. He swung his hammers down in turn trying to hit the mage who used some wind to boost her speed.

This support was very useful to reduce air friction on the body and boost agility. It caught Walker off guard as he constantly sent the hammer strikes down in groups of two. The system was watching and notified him of his new skill while he pushed farther. Walker paid in to mind and kept up his onslaught.

The mage was burning through her mana much faster than expected by using all of the wind elemental mana in the area. Walker knew this and had been biding his time, now was the chance he had been waiting for.

Walker used his grand elemental manipulation to disrupt the wind causing the mage to become incredibly shocked. She had never felt someone stop her using the same element as her. It was an extremely rare occurrence that usually only came about when two people with the same or similar systems fought.

She could not gather the appropriate amount of wind element to push Walker back and was left to face the two oncoming hammers by herself. However just as Walker was about to swing them down the two swordsman brothers jumped in with their shields raised to block. "We think that is far enough."

Walker looked at the over protective brothers and nodded. "I rarely get to try out some new skills on people I don't know. I learned a lot just now." The group had spent almost a half hour battling to learn that they had barely scraped the surface of Walker's skills.

"How did you break my wind?" The mage had only one question. She had never encountered this and was understandably shaken by the experience. She never wanted to feel her element abandon her again.

"Oh I have a skill that lets me manipulate the element. So I just used it a little to cause the wind elemental mana to run wild." Walker placed the two hammers in to his inventory and then raised a hand making a small breeze flow toward the mage.

"So you're an elemental mage that can use weapons...Pretty rare." The younger brother was impressed to meet a unique system holder like this.

"Nope, I can do a lot more than that." Walker was feeling a little arrogant and pulled out his staff and then put it away. He then pulled out the twin blitz swords then put them away. "I have a few other random weapons but I can use them all."

"You're a weapons master! I thought there were only two in the entire kingdom?!" The older brother was immediately shocked by this. Being a weapons master was a very rare system that the military would give anything for.

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Chapter 304 - 304. Run From Yourself

Walker just smiled even wider while looking at the three who thought him to be the third unheard of weapons master. "Nope, wrong again. I am a master of none..." He felt like his joke was being missed since they did not know what his system was at all.

"Then what is it, man you are trying to give us a heart attack." The two swordsman brothers were unhappy hearing that their hopes of meeting a battle master had been dashed.

"Hero...he's the hero party leader." The small voice of the mage spoke up. This caused the two brothers to freeze.

"Ding ding, right you are. My name's Walker. Thanks for the match." He was smiling like a fool since he had just hidden his system for so long. He felt that as long as he did not show too many skills and wear the travel medals he could make himself seem like any other kid. Without Midnight with him he might be able to travel completely incognito about the kingdom at even the busiest time of day.

"No way, why are you here? Shouldn't you be off like saving someone or out in the plains with the other silver tier adventurers?" The awe that Walker thought the brothers would feel were replaced with a little anger. They were here because they were too weak yet someone who had been labeled as strong was still here too?

"It's not that we don't want to be but my party actually had a lot of difficulty with the massive hoards. Plus we have another quest that is much more important and we need to prepare for it or we could lose a lot." Walker used his most serious tone for this to show that he was not taking the situation in the plains lightly.

"But why train with us.." The mage spoke up again asking a question that the trio was thinking.

"Experience, I have only trained with my party or in battles with monsters. If I ever encounter something unexpected then I would be at a loss. The best place to get used to that feeling? Right here at the guild." His words were purely logical and there was no fault in them.

That is exactly what we were told by the party leader. If we wanted to join the party we needed to stay here and train until we could react to anything without fail." The older of the swordsman brothers said this still sounding a little disappointed.

"Well I can help with that if you want?" Walker was thinking about his flame doll skill and how he could make three of them to match the trio. If he put them against themselves then they could learn about their own weaknesses. It was not perfect but could really show them where their faults lie.

"We are definitely not sparring with you anymore. I heard you can use a ton of that could throw us out of the training fields."

"Yeah and what happens if your dragon friend shows up and decides to use our bones as toothpicks?"

"Are rumors like that really floating around? Huh..." Walker was surprised to hear this especially after the time spent healing at the cathedral. "Well anyways just bring over a ton of straw from that barn over there. I will pay for it later so don't worry. I will make something for you two to fight."

The two brothers were very confused but decided to oblige him anyways. The mage took this chance to take as much information from Walker as possible. It was rare to bump in to others with the same elemental affinity, let alone multiple. "Can you show me what you can do with wind? I have been stuck on that wall skill for a while. I can use it to push people back but it can't stop arrows or sharp projectiles."

This was not an uncommon problem from what Walker had read about. There was a lot of force needed to stop a blade in general and dispersing the force from a pointed object was tougher than a large object. "Well how much do you understand wind? Are you just trying to make a solid tough wall? Or you imagining the currents the wind moves in that would deflect the arrows? I don't think wind could just stop an arrow completely but I do know it could change its direction and send it back where it came from."

This little idea was enough for the mage. She had not spent a ton of time meditating on the movements of wind and instead just imagined what the wind would do. This had been the same premise with the ball of wind she had made. She wanted it to take that shape to use the wind ball skill and that was it nothing more.

"I see, so I need to not only shape it but think about what direction all the small bits of air elemental mana move in to make that shape." She was easily catching on since she had scratched the surface of this realization herself. The only reason she hadn't found it herself was that she had been too focused on leveling up lately to be strong enough to give good support.

"By the way, that skill you used to help you dodge me, what is it called? It seems very useful." Walker already had the rarely used multi buff skill but he thought that taking the time to learn a few more buff skills could be worthwhile in the long run.

"It's called lighten. It lets the air around you split away from your body and let you move more easily. It only boosts my agility by three points but it is really good for a mage. I can't handle attacks very well." This was a little more of a boost than Walker expected but it was really nice.

"That could definitely save you in a tense situation. I can't imagine how much tougher it would have been if you boosted your party members while we were sparing." The difficulty would have been upped a little helping Walker have a longer battle.

"They hate it when I boost them during training, they want to get stronger first then have boosts. They always say that they need to get there with their own power first." She said this with a bit of annoyance since it seemed like she really wanted to help them out.

The two brother swordsmen came over with a pull cart full of straw. 'Alright so what are you going to make? A training dummy?' They had been talking about what Walker could possibly make with the straw and could only imagine that he was going to make some form of training dummy. This was more confusing since they could just use one that was already in the training field.

"You could say that." Walker lit a small pile of the straw on fire and began shaping the flames with his skills. The three watched a familiar shape was created in front of them. The flame doll skill had mimicked their mage, it lacked some details but it still looked rather perfect.

"You are to use the same techniques as this wind mage and try to show her her weak points. Try not to hurt her but don't go easy on her." Walker said this and the flame doll turned to the mage and started to move menacingly. "This is your training partner, just make sure you are away from it if you destroy it. It will go out with a bang." Walker gave this shout as the wind mage started to run away from her sudden opponent.

"Um...will we have to fight ourselves too..." The older brother looked at Walker a little afraid. They didn't want to tell the leader of the most popular party no, but they did not feel confident in training this way. Especially seeing their third member running away from her fire doll copy.

"Well of course, how else will you be able to find your own weaknesses?" The next flame doll started to take shape and quickly after that the third took shape as well. Now there were three flame dolls using the pile of straw as fuel while they battled the party Walker had just spared with.

Now that he had had a few matches and gained some new skills he had a base to practice on. This left Su who should still be fighting the group that she had seen in the beginning. When Walker found them on the large training fields Su was only battling against two who looked very tired. They were sweating profusely and had plenty of bruises already starting to show. It looked like Su's defenses had proven too much for them to break.

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Chapter 305 - 305. Break

Su used a double shield bash to knock the two standing fighters down. One had a dagger fall to the ground a few feet away and couldn't find the energy to pick it back up. While the other fighter tried to hop back up and deliver a kick but was met with Su's shield again.

"That's it! No more, we can't land a hit anywhere." The fighter who had tried to land a kick walked to the other close combat fighters who were pretty ragged looking. He grumbled the whole way about how she must be an invincible wall that was hiding her real level.

"Looks like you put them through the wringer." Walker got Su's attention and as she turned towards him he noticed that she had barely broken a sweat. This spoke volumes to how well her new duel welding strategy was going.

"Leader, I was able to try a lot of my moves just now. Things were rough to start since I couldn't balance against so many people. But now I can maneuver much better." This was good to hear, especially since she was still adjusting to her new passive skill; royal dragon eyes.

"I had some good progress too. I figured out a little about my new hammer. The elements I can channel through it helped me get the elemental smash skill. It will be perfect to get rid of slimes while avoiding damage to the forest." Walker was very proud of his success and wanted to brag a little too.

"Are those...flame dolls?" Su was looking across the field at a mage running from a flaming copy of herself. The random wind spells being thrown out at the copy haphazardly.

"Oh, Yes they needed a little help training and said that they didn't want to spar with me anymore. So I made them some flame dolls. With three of them running on that small pile of hay they should be done in a few more minutes." Walker spoke true and after another minute the three flame dolls flickered out of existence with a wisp of smoke. The three prior opponents were completely exhausted.

"I see." Su had no words to say about the flame dolls. The three definitely looked to have been having trouble against them. But if Walker said it was help for training then she would choose to believe him.

Before the two could say another word there was a little girl running toward them at full speed. "Shouldn't you be waiting over there by the building to watch?" Walker tried his best at a disapproving tone.

"They are too tired to move, it's safe." Gale pointed at all of the nearby adventurers who had been Walker and Su's sparring partners. None of them were even thinking about trying a skill. Instead they were sitting around drinking water in the shade. Some were even laying on their back seemingly asleep.

"You know, Su, we might have over did it on the training today..." Walker was catching on that even though their level was lower, that they may have been a little ahead of the adventurers at the similar level or age. However he did not have much time to think of this.

"Gale, come over here!" Gale's mother and father called out to her. They had just walked out on to the training field with Clara. "Oh there you are. How was the training?"

While Gale regaled her mother with the things she had seen her father approached Walker and Su. "We worked out a teacher for Gale. Apparently there is an old mage that retired to a small village near the plains. They are always looking for craftsmen to come and work so we will move there in a month. That should be enough time to finish the job with you. We will insist that we are paid at a very steep discount for the work we do. You are allowing us to live at your mansion and have even introduced us to the guild master. Thank you very much."

This thank you was completely unnecessary as far as Walker and Su were concerned. "We are just glad that you and your family are safe and healthy. You will need to send us letters on how you are all doing. Sadly we will be leaving for a quest before you leave." Su felt bad that she would not be able to see them off but it was part of the life they lived. Not everything would always happen when and where they wanted.

"Su is right. You don't need to worry about staying with us or anything at all. It is the right thing to do to lend help where we can." Walker fully supported Su with the same ideas.

"Well in that case we are going to take a trip to have a letter delivered, we will see you later at the mansion." Gale's father headed back to Gale and her mother to go hire someone to take a letter to the village near the plains.

Clara watched the family head off. "Well now that that is taken care of, you two must feel better." She seemed pretty happy that the two had helped out a family in need. Let alone brought someone with a powerful system to the guild.

'Heroic quest completed: Guide the young

Reward:

1 heroic point

10 exp multiplied to 100 exp'

The system confirmed that they had completed the quest which was a welcome sight. Getting the first heroic point took a little more time, however having the quest completed made Walker feel more full than usual.

"Well I guess you didn't cause too much trouble out here. It looks like you did quiet things down a lot." Clara was laughing at the exhausted young adventurers around. "Hiding your medal so they would spar with you. That is exactly what Barry used to do before he became the vice guild master."

At the very least the two took some pride in repeating the footsteps of one of the best adventurers in the guild. It was an honor to hear this. "We can't just sit around and wait to leave. We need to train against people we have never fought before so that we can gain more experience." Walker was in full training mode and wanted to keep improving. The new skills have lit a fire even stronger than before.

"While I do support you, I don't think making those flame dolls of yours is considered training when all you do is watch them run around." Clara became serious once again and gave Walker a hard stare.

After swallowing hard and taking a deep breath. "Well naturally I will pay the guild for the materials used. Also I have been meaning to go over and check up with my sparring partners to see if they found any of their flaws." With Walker running over to his previous sparring Partners, Clara and Su embed up chatting while they watched Walker help them out.

"I did manage to watch you use those two shields. I would say you look more natural with two instead of one large shield." Clara had seen the minute amount of damage that could be done to Su even against to mane opponents. To her it meant that Su was in the perfect position with the perfect weapon.

"There is a perfect balance between my new shields. I feel like I don't even need to worry about damage making it past them. I still have a tough time pushing through multiple opponents but it is getting easier. I need to strengthen my agility more." As she had trained she found that when she tried to push herself passed or in to opponents she was lagging behind. This would give her opponent too much opportunity attack.

"Then you will need to be out there working hard to level up. From the looking of it Gil is off hunting. He might have some extra experience already." Clara did not want to put Su down but she did hope to spark a little rivalry so the party would push harder. Since they were going to the deep sun hollow forest she had been doing some research and was fearful that they would have trouble with the stronger monsters.

"I know we asked you to be our manager and we have really benefited from the things you bring. But have faith that we can get the quest done. We have surprised you before right?" Su took a little line from something Walker would say to try and put Clara at ease, however, it seemed to have an opposite effect.

"Surprises are what i am worried for...I am a young person you know, way too young to have my heart stop every time you all do something crazy." Clara was slightly pale remembering the many explosive bursts of experience she had seen them game.

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Chapter 306 - 306. Gil Returns

"How did you sparring partners fair?" Su asked Walker as he met them at the back entrance to the guild.

"They seem...tired. Not sure why.." He was avoiding eye contact knowing full well that it was his fault for sending the fire dolls after them. He may have started with good intentions but now the young party would be slightly traumatized.

"Right. Tired is the word." Clara still shook her head at Walker knowing exactly why he was avoiding eye contact. "How much longer until you all decide to leave for the deep sun hollow forest? Will you take any of the quests I lined up for you before you leave?' Clara had been sorting through many quests and slowly but surely passing them on to the other guild staff. The change in guild criteria for testing were slowly taking effect.

"We should be leaving in a day or so. We need to get all of our gear finished. I am sure Gil will be hard at work making some new arrows since he finally has arrow heads for his withering wood arrow shafts. Remy in theory is already done learning how to make high potions so i will ask her to make antidotes for poison and rot. That should set us up well for the deep sun hollow forest. Other than that just basic stuff." Walker rattled the list off he had been building in his head.

Looking much happier about the party's position hearing that they were preparing diligently she decided to share some of the projects she had been working on. "That's good. I expect you will take some quests on the way there too. Speaking of quests, I have been using the change to heroic quests I gained from your party upgrades. The guild is planning to change the way we approve testing a little. The more heroic quests done the better the chance of approval for a tier advancement test. This is just between us for now though. It is better if it happens naturally."

She usually would not share such things with a party but since they were the specific cause of the change she decided that it was only right to share what she was doing with what they had given her. "That sounds like a great decision. So many more people can be helped." Su was ecstatic to hear this. She was thinking of all the people they had just helped at the fire and could be helped in the future if such quests became a common quest for adventurers. This could change the way the kingdom youth thought in the future. They could be a more caring and kind kingdom.

"Yes, I think so too. If it all goes well then the guild will be rising in fame as well. This could spur a whole new generation to come." Clara was standing high on this and could only think about how she wanted to get back to making this change. The real challenge would be to figure out how to decide which quotes were heroic or not if she was not the one viewing them. It would be impossible for her to sort every single quest at every single guild location in the world.

"Well I wish you luck Clara. If you need help let us know. Not that we can give out quests or sort them." Walker laughed a little while looking in the direction of the mansion.

"Yes yes, you go back and meet Gil. If my map says anything it shows he is back at the mansion now." Clara knew that was something Walker was worrying over and decided to reveal the spoiler."

"Perfect! Then we will see you the day we leave for the forest." The pair waved as they headed down the street.

"Well we will have our mansion furnished while we are away. Gale will have a teacher and an entire new village to explore. We have gotten some decent training in. And Gil should be finishing up his arrows. We only need to ask Remey for the antidote potions and we will be ready for our next adventure. We are a little early too." Walker was nearly bouncing while he recounted their current state.

"Have you looked in to the monsters that roam the deep sun hollow forest yet?" Su had not done any research yet but she knew that Walker would have definitely looked about for a few things in the library.

"So far i have only read about the basic monsters that live there. The goblins should be little problem as long as we avoid any caves we find. They are considered low level monsters and only pose problems in their dens. There are some plant based monsters but I had only seen some names with no descriptions so I guess they are too rare to worry over too much. What I am most concerned over is the monstrous mushroom species. They can have a bunch of different effects when they release spores. Some can paralyze, others poison, and some just do nothing."

"So we should be prepared to deal with them the most, any ideal way to fight them?" Su couldn't say that she was able to do anything with his information. She had no way to stop something so small like spores which were like pollen or dust in the air.

"Water or fight them in the rain. We could also use ranged attacks and just stay away from them when we defeat them. The thing is some of their bodies can be made in to valuable medicine or potions, so we will want to harvest them." Walker was still struggling with the idea and decided that he should try working with water. He wanted to use his new weapon but he would need to hold that for the purple slimes decaying the forest.

"So it sounds like you will be practicing a little when we get back." Su couldn't help but smile knowing that Walker would be a little upset that he couldn't keep swinging around his hammer. "It's funny that you always end up with even when you get other weapons. It's like you're fated."

"Oh, Ha ha. Make fun of the wannabe front line fighter that keeps falling for the temptation of ." Walker and Su went on like this for the remainder of the walk to the mansion. Before they even entered the gate they saw that Gil's mother was hared at work upkeep the plants. The weeping willow tree had really come in to its own after her mastery skill was used. She had been hard at work making sure it was stable and there were even buds forming for it to flower for the first time naturally.

"Finally back from your little trip hey? Well get over to that forge and tell Gil he needs to come help me out. He owes me for leaving without telling me again." She smiled sneakily, this was the price Gil must usually pay for rushing off to hunt with his father without telling her.

With a smile Walker did exactly as he was asked. He went right to the forge finding Gil to be playing with the arrow heads already. "Walker, you're just in time! I need some of the elemental crystals so I can use a new skill. The arcane marksman is more than just a marksman. I can fire elemental arrows using my mana yes but they are practically weak good for nothing. The real power is adding those elemental arrows to physical arrows. It's a fusion! If I can use the elemental crystals as a base then I can fuse the energy in to an arrow. The best part? I would be making tins of crystal shards for our friend here to play with."

The excitement made Gil spit all of this out at once making it hard to Understand. Naturally Su turned right around deciding to let Walker handle the mess of words that was just thrown out. There was an excited smile on the wandering blacksmith's face too, it would seem that Gil had already explained this new skill to him and he was eager to get his hands on more of the elemental crystal shards so he could use them to create mana storage gems for future gear.

"So wait, this skill would take the elemental mana from a crystal. Then it would fuse it in to a regular arrow. Then you would use your skill to fuse the two in to a powerful arrow that did physical and elemental damage?" Walker wanted to clear up the mess Gil had just explained.

"Yes! That's it. So I need every element possible of crystals so I can make a ton of different arrows. I need earth crystals if we can buy them. I have no idea what the light or the dark elemental crystals would add but I want to try them. I figure who cares about adding poison or anything to my arrows since the elemental mana will be better..." Gil was rambling on more and more.

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Chapter 307 - 307. Old Bones

"Gil! Listen, you definitely should make a ton of the elemental arrows and I will store them in my inventory. Then you can use whatever ones you want in a set. But I want you to use the horned rabbits paralyzing poison to make some paralyzing arrows too. I would prefer to have some arrows that won't kill an opponent. Some situations don't need us to kill things." Walker was dead set in this and Gil did not look like he would argue.

"Fine, but we need to get more crystals so i can use the my new arrow crafting skill." Gil practically bounced in place. He had lost a lot of his normal coolness after figuring this out. However the more walker looked at him the more he realized something. Gil's eyes were sunken in and he had dark circles under them. His body had plenty of scratches from traveling through the brush in the woods in search of prey.

"Actually first you need to go help your mother since she said to have you go meet her in the garden. Then you need to rest since it looks like you haven't slept since you left." This was final, Walker would not let up on this for any reason. If Gil was going to rush off to train it was fine, but there was no way Walker would let him train to death.

"But I need to test this dagger and make-"

"Nope, your mother. Then go rest. Then you can play with the arrows and the dagger. I will even get the crystals all set up for you while you sleep." Walker gave a little but still refused to let Gil get away without resting. "And here I thought Remey would be the one that I would have to yell at about rest. Did you notice that the alchemy lab wasn't putting out smoke when you got back? That's because she realized she needed rest." Walker used his trump card. If Gil knew that he was lagging behind everyone including Remey who was more stubborn he would have to go rest.

Gil stood up and left the forge grumbling about wanting to try out his new dagger. Bur Walker paid him no mind since he knew his party would have made him rest too. It was all a part of being a family. They needed to look out for each other even when one of them was being way too stubborn for their own good.

Walker left the wandering blacksmith who was still tinkering with a few small things left over from the materials he had been given. It was clear that he refused to waste a single bit of material. The odds and ends had become household tools like knives, rakes, and there was even the start of a wood cutting ax. Walker couldn't help but wonder how many people had kitchen knives made of dragon scales.

When Walker came to the front garden again to see how Gil was doing he found that Remey and Su were standing next to Gil and his mother looking at the ground. Midnight had even made her way outside and was growling at a small mound of dirt that seemed to be rising up higher by the second.

' Long term quest: Return of life has been completed.

Requirement:

Bring back four species of extinct plants.

Reward:

1000 exp multiplied to 10000 exp

A visit'

Walker and the party had completely forgotten this quest that had shown up when the immortal king had given walker the seeds from his city before it fell to ruin. "Guys get away from that! This has to be that ancient Lich!"

The rest of the party heard him and jumped back away from the rising mound of dirt. Gil's mother had no idea what was going on but hearing that there could be danger she followed the others and stood behind them. Midnight was still growling louder and louder as the mound of dirt grew.

Soon brown pieces of rotted wood started to show. The mound was falling away revealing a large decrepit coffin. There were roots and small insects crawling from it. The aura of death and smell of rot was strong. "Ahhh, I only have five of these coffins left. It takes a few years worth of energy to use them and project my consciousness. But I did leave you with a task. You humans completed it a little faster than i expected." The familiar voice of Immortal King caused them all to freeze.

"Hmm no greeting, and here I thought you would all be happy to hear my voice." The malice dripped from each word as the rotten brown coffin started to fall to pieces revealing a barley help together

skeleton. There were bits of cloth that hung to the bones along with various black lines on the bones. It looked like it had been infected. "I use one of my most valuable s to see the results of your work and nothing. Well at least I am present to see the blooming of the weeping willow. However I seem to be too early, a shame." The voice was strangely sad but Walker could see bits of bones falling off.

"We were just surprised that you actually came to visit so soon, Welcome to our home." Walker was afraid that the Immortal King could do something terrible. He had no idea that he could escape the ancient ruins.

"I will only be able to project myself for a little while longer, I have not escaped the accursed ruins of my home. But I am glad to have used this now. You all look a little different." The skeleton's jaw clacked together as if it was laughing at them. "You in particular look the most different, a true hero title? That worthless Cosmos would loathe to have you in his sights." The clacking of the skeleton's jaws increased as more of the bones lost pieces.

"Oh little dragon, how did you like the condensed understanding I gifted you. Very valuable right?" Midnight shrunk away while still growling. However she did not look to be running. It looked like she was instead waiting for a chance to attack. "Don't go doing something you will regret. I may not have any power using these old bones, but if you anger me I will release the largest swarm of undead in your direction possible. You have no idea the true depth of our catacombs." The threat made every single one of them retreat backwards yet again.

The skeleton ignored the party and touched upon the oozing vines. It looked to be remembering something fondly and did not speak. The blood fruit bushes were small but had sprouted large enough to show off sprouts of small green leaves. "These are doing well...You human farmers have advanced much better over the last decades..."

Walker looked at the others. They didn't look like they wanted to even speak on the compliment that was just given to them. "Even more surprising is this weeping willow. We had little saplings like this one lining out streets." The skeleton had approached and reached out to touch the unbloomed buds of the weeping willow.

Walker couldn't help but wonder how large the weeping willow was supposed to get if Immortal King considered the large tree to be a sapling still. "We thank you for the compliments. We took your words to heart and tried our best to grow the seeds you left in our care. We even asked for a farmer with a mastery skill to help us out. That is how the weeping willow is grown so tall already."

Walker had hope that his polite response would keep the Lich in a pleasant mood. "Where is the spirit lily? You could not have started to grow it already, or have you?" The skeleton looked about and waited for a response. The empty eye sockets of the skeleton were degrading fairly fast but not fast enough. They still held a sense of impending doom.

"It is in the back training pond, it needs to be left untouched or else it will die and we will be unable to replant again." Gil's mother spoke up. The shaky voice she used was showing her fear for the craziness that was happening. This was something that she could never have imagined happening in her lifetime.

"You must be the farmer...interesting. Then show me the spirit lily, I may lack power but I should be able to feed it before I leave. I want those to exist again most of all." It looked like the desire to see some of his city to return was more powerful than wasting time on other things. Walker could not even start to understand how this would feel.

With a deep breath and some shaky first steps, Gil's mother started to walk around the mansion to the pond in the training field. The skeleton that was being used by Immortal King was right behind her. Not a word was being spoken as they walked.

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Chapter 308 - 308. Safe

The second the translucent leaves and stems were seen softly swaying in the water Undead King stopped. It was clear that it was lost in thought. "You must spread these seeds as far as possible. Bring them back to the world. If you can manage this I will promise to spare your kingdom when I inevitably escape our self made prison. We will bring the undead swarm and consume that worthless experiment. Our new city shall rise." The lines on the skeleton that had been wrapped around it started to fade and the skeleton's decomposition accelerated.

"You have impressed us, such young beings have done something we were unable to do in our dead land. Do not disappoint me." The skeleton turned to dust fully and drifted to the spirit lily in the pond. The dust dissolved in to the water and the lily seemed to glow with a spiritual light. There was a profound aura coming from it.

Once the light faded the spirit lily looked much more sure in it's foundation. There was a feeling that it could burst in to growth at any moment. The party all released a breath at the same time. The nerves they had felt were intense. "I forgot about that quest...It feels like it has been years.." Remey was pale and had small beads of sweat on her forehead.

"So did I, who thought that it would come here..." Su was equally pale after the visit; that was a reward for the quest they had received when Walker obtained the seeds from Immortal King.

"You five are going to take some time to explain why a coffin just popped out of the garden and opened up to a skeleton that said it would send a swarm of undead here if it was unhappy; right?" Gil's mother had regained her voice and was understandably shaken.

"Well apparently the lich that lived in the ancient ruins can send its consciousness outside for a short time...It is news to us as well. We even forgot the quest showed up after it gave us these seeds." Walker tried to be a little positive but the entire situation was unprecedented.

"Guys...do we need to report this?" Gil spoke up finally, the tiredness in his voice seeping out. This encounter had been enough to push him to his limit and he was ready to sleep in the lawn if he needed to.

"I don't think any good will come from telling anyone that an ancient lich just showed up to visit our garden. Plus...it said it had no power in that form." Walker could only see the chaos that would come from telling someone about what had just happened.

Midnight had finally relaxed and stopped her growling, but she was still very unsettled. It would take all day for her to come out of her stressed situation. From her shadow a familiar serpent started to slither, Onyx had refused to budge an inch when the presence of Immortal King had shown itself. "Brother, I hope that you never invite this guest again. I could barely move through the shadows." Onyx had felt trapped the second the aura hit him. His ability to move was suffocated.

"If he comes again I don't think we could say no..." Walker looked at everyone to see that they had no arguments. The general consensus was not to let anyone else know of this. "I think this is a good enough time to end the day...We can start in on some things tomorrow." There were nods and yeses from everyone as they headed inside to wait for dinner and get some sleep to reset after the strange visit from Immortal King.

Not a single member of the party escaped the troubled dreams of the catacombs while they slept. Even Gil's mother had strange dreams of skeletal flours popping out of her garden in place of everything she tried to grow. Having the sunlight come in to their rooms to wake them was a breath of fresh air for sure.

Walker hopped out of bed pushing the dreams to the back of his mind and decided that he would head out early to grab some of the elemental crystals Gil would like to use for his arrows. It was interesting to think on what the effects of the different crystals could be. Between water and fire all Walker could imagine were bursts of each element. The earth elemental crystals he would be looking for would be the first time he would have them. They would be new to him along with any air elemental crystals.

The thing about the air elemental crystals were that they were the same element that Gil's bow could naturally make arrows out of. So would they become stronger or would they be useless because they would have the same result? While he pondered these things the streets and buildings passed him by, he was soon standing in front of the forge which seemed to be more or less silent in the early hours.

He was not surprised to see a familiar face drowsing at the counter. "Good morning Rodney. Looking busy as always." The boy jumped a little at the sudden voice he had not expected to show up.

"Walker, welcome. It is just opening now. We haven't really started any work since we try to keep certain hours quiet for the surrounding neighbors." This was a long known agreement with the forge due to the sleepless nights that the neighbors always experienced during the busiest of merchant seasons.

"Well I am not here to cause any noise, just wondering what you have for elemental mana crystals today. I am mainly looking for earth and wind elements. I will also take more light and dark. Water and fire can wait if you do not have many."

"You are lucky indeed. We have a large shipment of many crystals from the mines up north just last night. They brought a lot of different crystals that we are still separating in the back. We can do a packaged deal if you want a hundred of every single type?" Rodney had been really coming in to his own. The time at the counter dealing with customers was turning him in to a faux merchant. This deal was large but since Walker definitely had the money Rodney offered it to him.

Walker could not help but rebuttal since Rodney seemed so optimistic in his role after being found nearly Asleep at the desk. "Make it one hundred and fifty of each crystal and I will spare you the task of delivery." He smiled knowing that this was something that could save them a lot of time. Delivery was usually the most tiresome part of the forging process because sometimes the crafted items were too unwieldy to just carry home, especially if they were a gift or new sets of armor. Therefore the forge would hire an adventure to deliver them or personally need to deliver them.

"You got it." Rodney ducked behind the counter and in to a back room where a lot of shuffling and voices could be heard. The order took a decent amount of time to be put together since the shipment had just come in but Walker did not mind. He had been thinking about what he would do when he returned. He couldn't say he was interested in what Gil's new skill looked like but if he got too caught up in it he would end up learning how to make arrows infused with elements. This was not a skill he was in dire need for. Instead he was much more in need of the water which could deal with the more dangerous monsters in the deep sun hollow forest.

A few buff men came out from the back and placed crates down containing all the elemental mana crystals that Rodney had just asked for. They recognized Walker from his visits prior and also from him running around the lower tier before he got his system. They were pretty excited to see him store away the crystals and pay for them since it was all the more motivation to work harder. They were seeing someone who had lived in the same place as them rise up to the higher tier with the nobles. He even lived in a mansion now.

"Come visit again!" Rodney yelled after him as Walker headed out the door. The only thing now on his mind was what water he should try and learn. As he wandered home while his thoughts continuously fell on to some form of Ice. This was mainly because he could use it to restrain a target. On top of that it would hit hard physically. The only problem was that ice could take him time to form due to the changing season. He would be better off learning to make some form of easily maneuverable spell with water alone.

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Chapter 309 - 309. Smooth Moves

With his crystal in the inventory and a slow walking pace Walker enjoyed the peaceful morning. He liked wandering the lower tier and waving to the guards he knew. Seeing the workers and merchants setting up was a calming experience for him since he knew just how important they were to the city as a whole. These people were the ones that sold and traded food and other important goods. When even one didn't show up or had a rough time the entire chain was affected.

After the surprise visit the other day he needed this time to himself to really unwind and get himself ready to go on another adventure. Before he had gone to bed he scoured the library so he could find a few books on the elements and how they worked together. He had placed four of them that spoke of the light element and its influence on the other elements. He was planning on stopping by the cathedral on his walk home so that he could give them to Alice. He wanted to make sure that he said his goodbyes before he was gone for who knew how long investigating the purple slimes.

When the cathedral came in to view he saw that there were still a decent amount of tents in front and taking up space in the square. However on his way passed the previously burned down carpenter's quarters which already had an entire floor of structure built. There were many people moving around preparing pieces for the day's building. Therefore looking at the tents still at the cathedral Walker rested easy knowing that their homes were soon to return.

The steps had a few people sitting on it and enjoying the sunny morning. They waved and greeted Walker, easily remembering his face from his assistance in the healing of many of them. "Back again so soon? Should I try to recruit you as a member of the church at this rate?" The high priest was resting on a chair by the entrance. He seemed to be greeting those coming in first thing in the morning.

"Well, I would like to say yes to that. But I am actually about to leave again for some time. I found a few books Alice may like and wanted to top by and drop them off." He seemed a little embarrassed saying it now but the high priest seemed pretty happy to hear this.

"She just got up and is in the garden reading. You will be a pleasant surprise with the new books. She already read three of the five she selected before. I feel like there is never enough to keep her occupied these days." The high priest shook his head in defeat. He had scoured all the nearby book stores for some other books on the light element but all there were copies of ones they already had. The ones that seemed to be there that she had not read were ones that were not applicable to what she wanted to learn.

Walker remembered the way and headed off. He found the back garden and the gazebo Alice was lazily reading in. She was wearing a completely white sun dress that swayed in the breeze. Walker stood stunned for a few minutes before he was able to gather himself and head to the gazebo himself.

Before Alice even realized it was him he had pulled out the books he had brought and sat down. "So I thought you would want to read these too." How smile and casual tone was his attempt to act cool, however, his entire persona was dispelled when Alice looked at him with a surprised smile. He was lost yet again looking at her.

Before he could say another word she had slid over to sit next to him and stole the books from his grasp. She started to look through them while leaning on him. Any other person it would be rude but since the two had grown closer and closer at every meeting Walker could only be happy that she was next to him.

"I also wanted to let you know that I should be heading to the deep sun hollow forest in a day or two. Of course you are welcome to go and browse the library while we are gone but sadly I won't be there to help you out finding anything."

Walker knew that she would not need his help but offering it was the point. Plus just keeping each other company was the main reason to read in the library there instead of just staying home alone.

He knew that he had just dashed her joy at having some new reading material since her eyes looked much more sad. But she did not fall completely because she knew that he would be returning full of stories to tell her. She had latched on to one of his sleeves holding him to the bench of the gazebo while opening the page of the book she was reading. "Well, I am not leaving right away. I planned to spend some time here anyways. If you really want I can even stay and practice some water here instead of home." His offer was more because he couldn't use the training pond. If he disturbed the spirit lily it could die, so he would need to practice elsewhere anyways.

Hearing that he would stay and even train there Alice marked her page and stood up. Walker had no idea where she was going but when he stood up she raised a hand and waved at him to stop. Sitting there he waited while listening to the birds tweeting and flapping around in the bushes. Before he knew it Alice had returned carrying a large basin of water in her hands. The slow steady steps and the slight droplets on her dress.

Walker jumped up and grabbed the basin from her. "I know that I said I would stay and try to practice water but you didn't need to run and get a bunch for me." Walker was embarrassed that she would run off to do something like this for him so suddenly.

"I can help." Her melodic voice made the sunlight shift slightly and completely stopped Walker in his tracks. He was still surprised any time she used the mana she had to speak.

"You know if I could hear your voice every day of my life I think I would be living a dream." Yet another slick phrase he had heard from the guards growing up just popped in to his head and fell out his mouth before he could realize it.

Alice's reaction was the immediate flush of red and tuning away from Walker while he was embarrassed in his own right. The water basin slipped from his hands and splashed him slightly on the face dragging him back to reality and away from Alice. The sudden splash made her laugh which in turn made the sunlight shift in to a few additional colors again.

"I might not be able to focus here if I try to learn something..." He mumbled this barely loud enough for Alice to hear. He was more talking to himself but out of worry she grabbed his sleeve again and decided that while Walker sat down to focus on learning something about water, that his back would be her own backrest for reading.

While the two now sat back to back Alice continued her books and Walker start to meditate and sense the water mana within the water basin. He tried to fall in to the meditative state faster but he was too focused on the person leaning on his back. It took him nearly triple the time to calm himself and actually start to properly focus on how the water was rippling with every single little breeze in the back garden of the cathedral.

He was using the grand elemental manipulation to make the water rotate in a whirlpool. The flow of the water was much stronger than manipulating the air. The water had more weight behind it and could drag along stronger things. The wind would naturally be easier to resist but would be faster overall.

Seeing the difference in the two difference elements were the start of how he would go about influencing this element. They could both move in similar fashion and Walker even knew that Air could carry small amounts of evaporated water. This was proven by rain clouds and snowstorms. The question was how could he use that to make an attack?

Realizing he had gotten ahead of himself and was about to try and fuse two elements before he even learned how to manipulate the single one and have skills he could use for it, Walker re-focused himself on the water alone. The little whirlpool he made was easy to start but much tougher to stop or even reverse.

Since the water was held down by its own weight, getting it to rise up was more of a challenge, however he started to notice that the water did not like to be separated into pieces but preferred to stay together. He decided that he should build on this fact and moved in to a new technique.

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Chapter 310 - 310. Chilly Skills

The water could stay together and easily twist and change shape. If he couldn't force it to go back and stop the started motion then he could just use the motion he started to reach an opponent. Within his mind he imagined that the water was being shaped in to a form of rope. If he could make the water act this way he could use it to stop an opponent from moving and even freeze the water rope in to ice to

make it stronger. Both ideas were sound. However he found that this water rope he was creating was reacting strangely.

When he would influence one side the rope would reverberate all the way to the opposite end, somehow with a stronger force. This was just like when he made the whirlpool. The spinning seemed to gain more and more force as the water pushed itself. The slight pop he heard for the water rope was even more of a surprise since he could feel the very end of the water rope splitting off some very fast moving droplets.

The first idea that entered his mind was that he should freeze these droplets if they will fly off the end anyways. With this idea in mind he focused his mana on creating the rope and holding its shape so that it could fit in to his hand and easily stretch to meet an opponent.

He formed it seven times before he found a way to make it stay in shape when he toughed it. The amount of water that he had pulled out if the basin was nearly half and the amount of mana he had used was just about a third. The rope hitting his hand and not breaking was a joyful moment since Walker could feel how unstable this was.

Before he tried to do anything to cause force to travel through the water rope or freeze any of it, Walker decided to try and understand how to stabilize it. The slow rotation of the water coming from the part in his hand and flowing down in a soft pointed end of the rope made him wonder why it might fall apart. His answer came when he shifted his hand and felt that the calm flow became more erratic.

Walker realized that the flow was disrupted by his own shifting and that he would need to manipulate the elemental mana so that it would speed up or slow down accordingly. This started to take a toll on him because he needed to factor in even the smallest twitches he made as he moved the water rope up and down, let alone in big motions.

He spent some time on this but after a few movements he felt that he had started to fully understand the way he needed to change the flow of water elemental mana when he moved. The challenge came with feeling the water elemental mana at the end of the water rope but through practice he would be able to fully master this technique.

When Walker finally felt comfortable with the mana flowing in the rope in his hand he decided to send a few pulses of energy through it. The resounding effect was a huge increase of chaotic flow in the water pushing against itself, the resulting crack at the end of the rope shot off a few drops. The drops landed softly on the tree nearby and didn't seem to do much.

With this feeling locked in to his brain Walker focused on trying to make the tip of the water rope freeze while staying attached to the liquid mana rope. The result was a frozen point forming at the end that transitions in to a slushy end to the mana rope. It eventually moved back in to the liquid state in his hand.

Feeling that the change had been made and was still holding stable he sent another pulse of mana through the water rope. Its reaction was much stronger and the crack at the end was similar to shattering ice. Three small thunks resounded through the garden as Walker saw that three small ice needles had lodged in to the tree and frozen the surface.

'The user has learned the skill frost whip. The skill has been taken from the snow queen system.

Frost whip- 2+ mana cost

The user creates a whip of water. The water can change from solid to liquid form to release a ice needles from the end. The ice needles carry condense water mana that can cause freezing upon contact. The entire whip can be frozen and changed back to liquid state by the user as they desire.'

Walker smiled and looked at the frosty whip in his hands. The water was mostly liquid in his hands by the end and was nearly totally frozen. There was a soft blue light when the sun shone throughout and reflected on the frosty ice crystals within the water.

"Hahahah I did it. I can use this in the forest no problem." He was ecstatic about the new weapon he could create out of water, in the forest he could rely on this for some range combat, to subdue an opponent, and even freeze in to multiple shapes to support or hold things.

Walker looked around and found that Alice was not resting on his back but watching him manipulate the frost whip he had just finished up. He realized that his crossed legs were insanely stiff and that the sun had started to sink down. He had practiced well past lunch and in to the evening. "Oh, it's been hours hasn't it?..." Alice nodded but did not take her eyes off of the frost whip in his hands. "Want me to show off with a little bit more mana before I leave?"

The nodding of Alice's head made him wonder if she could control herself. With his target locked on to one of the stones in the garden Walker stood up and waved his hand, sending the whip in to motion. The flow he made caused a large arch to be made and another ice shattering crack.

The three ice needles that flew off of the frost whip made contact with the stone and quickly covered it in a thin layer of ice. The surprising part was that the ice needles actually stuck in to the surface creating three small holes in the stone.

These three holes may have been small but they were enough to show that there was more power in the whip that he expected. Not letting up, Walker made the whip extend and latch on to the rock then freeze in place. He broke off the end of the whip and then turned it back to water, Unfortunately because the frozen part was not attached it stayed as ice. "Looks like I have to keep this in contact if I want to turn it back and forth.

When he attached the liquid part to the frozen part it was able to be manipulated again. Walker felt that he had a good starting idea of where the flaws would lie in this skill. If he lacked water to start up the skill it would take a lot of time to make a whip out of natural moisture in the air. If he lost part of the whip he would either need to come in to contact with it again or he would need to make another.

Doing this in battle would be tough but that was why he had party members with him, he would be able to stop an opponent and they could go in for the attack. If they battled the monstrous mushroom species then he would be able to turn the mana in to water to soak the mushroom and prevent the spores. This was his best idea to prevent the possible risks they would face. Coupled with Remey, who would be making the antidote potions, the party would be much safer when facing these monsters.

Feeling his mana getting low Walker let the frost whip melt in to liquid form and fall to the ground. Alice had watched his little show and wished she would watch more. She was only able to control one element and anytime she saw Walker use another it was an amazing thing in her eyes.

"I really hate to say this, but I should go. I need to prepare to leave in a day. I am glad we could spend time together. I know I was practicing and you were reading but it's nice just spending the time." Walker talked himself in circles not full wanting to go. Alice felt the same but eventually they needed to part.

Alice gave him a tight hug and whispered in his ear before he left, "Come back safe." Walker had heard her speak more than usual today and was over the moon hearing these words.

"I will bring you a good story!" He gave a wave as he headed toward the mansion.

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