

Master 311

Chapter 311 - 311. Arcane Arrows

The second that Walker came in to view Gil spotted him from the garden. He had been pulling weeds since he didn't have the materials to start work on his arrows like he had wanted. "Where have you been? You were gone almost all day!"

Walker wanting to show off a little gave him a small smirk, "You want to see what I have been doing all day?" He went over to the pump for water and pulled up some in to a barrel. Walker used his new skill pulling the water out of the barrel and creating the frost whip. "I have just been working on this little trick."

Walker swung the whip sending the pulse through it and causing a loud crack of breaking ice. The ice needles landed in the ground causing a small sheen of frost to form over the weeds Gil had been plucking. "Ah! Really? That's how you wanted to show me? By scaring me half to death?"

While Gil yelled back at Walker in annoyance, Walker was doubled over laughing. Once he had finally started to breathe calmly and Gil had stopped ranting the two could finally speak normally. "I was thinking that skill could be useful when we leave. I just got caught up learning it and by the time I realized it was already well past noon, sorry..."

"Ehh, it's fine. I needed to help out with the weeds in the strawberry rows anyways. I guess mom and miss. Hilda are planning on making strawberry jam to save for when we get back, so I need to put the work in now." Gil brushed the dirt from his pants and hands. "Want to drop the crystals off at the forge so we can get started."

The two chatted about their morning and what Walker's new frost whip skill could do. Gil was very happy to hear that his archery would be a huge advantage when fighting the monstrous mushroom species. He had been practicing adding the elemental mana in to arrows and he had some tricks he wanted to show off.

"So you showed Midnight your new favorite sun bathing spot?" Walker spotted Onyx and Midnight the second the rounded the corner.

"You're back brother. We knew you would come here so we waited for you. Sister said she was hungrier than usual and wanted to ask you if you had any good food." Walker was surprised, however he had

expected that she would be going through a growth spurt with her system and bloodline changing. Having such a powerful dragon champion bloodline awaken must take a lot more nutrients than the mixed bloodline that was previously dominant.

"I managed to find a bunch of crystals when I went out shopping. You can take some of the light crystals too. Whatever you don't eat and Gil doesn't use for his arrows will be stock for the forge. It's a long term investment." Since he had spent way too much gold on so many crystals Walker knew that he would have to justify it.

Gil was completely unfocused when it came to the price, he knew that the party had more gold than they had plans for so he just went right in to the forge and started getting prepared. The wandering blacksmith was tinkering with a set of kitchen knives and saw them enter. He kept an eye on them curious on what they would be doing while he tinkered away.

"Alright, so here are the light crystals, and here are the darkness crystals." Walker opened the smaller crates for Onyx and Midnight to get at while he pulled the others out of his inventory. "Fire, water, earth, and last but not least air. There we go. What are you going to start on first?"

Walker was looking at Gil wanting to see what his sill was all about. "Not sure I will be starting all the way, it looks like Midnight it getting started first." Gil pointed at Midnight who had taken a mouthful of each crystal and piled them up in front of her.

"Umm, what are you trying to do-" Walker was going to ask when she started chomping down on all of them. Instead of just eating the darkness crystals she was eating some of each element.

"Sister said they all smell good." Onyx's explanations from Midnight was short but just like her.

"So, I guess she can and will eat every elemental crystal now..." Gil was just looking at the scene in awe.

"I guess so...must be the change in her bloodline. A dragon champion couldn't be limited by one element if they are a champion among dragons." Walker found this conclusion simple. A dragon champion would need scales toughened by every element to withstand attacks from different elemental dragon attacks.

Midnight didn't even pay them a single look, instead, she just made a low growl to show that she heard them then returned to snacking. Meanwhile, Onyx found a small pile of light elemental crystals for himself and wrapped around it. He looked like he was sleeping as the light element danced around his scales.

"Well Want to see a mana crystal break faster than you have ever seen before?" Gil said this but was interrupted by a clear cracking sound. "Exactly, as fast as that." He tried to keep a straight face as he acted high and mighty but the fact that Onyx was already absorbing the light elemental mana faster than he could create an arrow was all too clear.

"You said we would need water right?" Gil grabbed a few water elemental mana crystals and sat down at the work table. He had placed five arrows on it and was examining the arrowheads looking to start infusing the elemental mana in to them. "The trick is to get the mana to get from here to here. If i can do that without breaking either of these then we are golden."

Walker wanted to ask some questions but Gil had already gotten in to motion. He held the arrow head to the water elemental mana crystal and started to use his skill to manipulate the mana to push in to the arrow head. Since the spikes were hollow to begin with there was a hollow point left in the arrow head. This only helped give the mana a place to go.

He could see that the mana crystal was starting to crack slightly as the elemental mana was being pulled out of it. Gil was exerting a lot of effort to make this happen and his scrunched up face showed exactly that. Walker could feel how the mana was trying to force its way out in to the open air but Gil was using his own mana to force it to move in to the arrow head.

This entire process had taken nearly five minutes but with the dim blue light the water elemental mana crystal had disappeared and the crystal shattered in his hand. The shards dropped on to the table out of his hand and the arrow head had gained a blue tint.

"That is how you make a water elemental mana infused arrow." Gil looked at Walker with a fool's smile. The sweat that dripped down his face made him look a lot less cool than he believed himself to be.

Walker did not miss this chance to use his all around appraisal skill to check the arrow out. He was more and more thankful for this skill every day.

' Wither spike arrow (water element): Activation 3 mana cost

This arrow has been made from a rare wither wood tree and a spiked shell bug. The unique blend of materials created the perfect vessel for elemental mana and poison. Depending on the mana infused in to this physical arrow there will be a al reaction upon contact.

Water element has been infused in to this wither spike arrow. The result upon contact will cause high amounts of water element to become attracted to the target. This will cause water attracted to form sharp ice spikes within seconds.'

"That's actually pretty amazing. You know what this can do right?" Walker was amazed that Gil had been able to find all of this out in just a short hunting trip with his father.

Gil didn't look Walker in the eyes as Walker said this making him realize that he was off the mark. "Well...not exactly. I kind of broke like twenty arrows trying to infuse them with wind elemental arrows and fusing them with the wind arrow my bow made. I pretty much had the skill but couldn't make it work until now." He wiped his forehead while looking at what he had created in his hands. "You guys want to go out and test this out? We will need to know for safety reasons when we are out fighting."

Walker and the wandering blacksmith did not even flinch as they stood up and headed out the door. No one had to tell them twice. "For safety." Walker echoed Gil as they went to the training field.

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Chapter 312 - 312. Testing Arrows

Three eagerly went to the training field and set up the nearest wood and straw dummy. Midnight and Onyx had stayed in the forge without any difference; they were way too focused on the elemental mana crystals they had to eat. Walker moved the dummy halfway across the training field from where they stood. "This should be far enough so we don't get caught in any of the effects of the arrows." The wandering blacksmith and Gil gave the thumbs up in approval.

"I have been waiting forever to have these arrows just the way I wanted them. They are even better than I had hoped for. They are perfectly balanced and I can't see any reason why they won't fly straight. Let's do this." Gil was radiating excitement as he drew his bow.

The arrow pulled back swiftly in Gil's hands until it looked like it couldn't be pulled back any farther. There was a flow of mana from Gil to the arrow causing the arrow head to glow. The blue glow attracted their attention, Gil released the arrow as soon as the glow seemed to be at its height. His aim was perfect as usual and the arrow found its mark at the center of the training dummy.

For a second they stood there thinking that nothing had happened. However, they were proven wrong in a blink of an eye. Water droplets seemed to come out of thin air and converge on the training dummy. It looks like it had been sitting out in a soft misty rain for hours. Then again, before they could blink, the water sprung out in to a burst of spiky ice. The arrow was left frozen in to the training dummy long with the ice that had pierced through it.

The wandering blacksmith rushed forward to see the results, he had never made arrows that had been infused with such before. He had the skills to make parts of the arrows like the arrow heads but he could not fully create an arrow unless it was completely made of metal. Therefore he was often left having to partner with someone with archery skills who could carve the arrow shaft and add the fins to keep it flying straight. He felt that there was a lot to learn from seeing how the ally infused arrow head took the force from the change in the water element.

Walker and Gil were right behind him finding that the crystal clear blue ice showed them everything they needed to know. The arrow had come in to contact and penetrated the training dummy but had been pushed back out by the freezing water. It left a slightly dented arrow head on the arrow, which was otherwise undamaged.

"Looks like I will need to maintain the arrow heads when I use these arrows if I can get them back. The good news is if I do break the arrow head then I should be able to use the arrow shaft still. I wonder what will happen with the fire elemental arrow?"

"I would assume the arrow head would be fine and the arrow shaft would burn. I think the darkness element when added could cause the entire arrow to decay. The earth element would probably cause the ground to spike like the ice but I have no clue on what the wind would do." Walker was trying to theorize what would happen with each element but couldn't be sure of every single one. He hadn't even mentioned the light element because he had no clue if it would even be able to cause any damage.

"Well, the wind would most likely just cause the same slashing wind effect that my bow makes with its wind elemental arrow. I am not worried about it since I have an idea. I am more worried about what the elements I have no affinity for will do and how I can properly use them. If the darkness element makes the arrow decay along with the target then it could be trouble. What if I miss and hit something

important? Or even worse what if the arrow is similar to a poison arrow and it doesn't stop a monster in its tracks?"

Gil was watching the ice start to melt slowly off of the dummy revealing more of the damage it had caused. He could tell that it had even pulled some of the moisture from inside the dummy to condense and formed spiky crystals of ice. Even if the enemy he hit with this arrow had survived it would leave a dire injury. This was good if he was trying to defeat the opponent but terrible if he hit something he did not mean to.

"The withering wood is really an amazing material for the arrow shaft. It felt very natural when I draw it between my fingers. There was almost no resistance from the air as I released it." The feeling of releasing the arrow was stuck in his head, it was the smoothest process he had experienced since becoming an archer.

"There's only one way to test everything else out and get you used to the feeling of the withering wood arrow shafts." Walker looked at Gil with a light in his eyes. The wandering blacksmith was right there with him. The two wanted to see the other effects the infused arrows would have.

"I can only make a few more today, I used up a lot of my mana this morning so it was harder to make this one properly." He was thinking that with his remaining mana he could only make about ten more arrows before he reached his limit, however he was not prepared for what Walker said next.

"I can just go ask Remey for some of the mana potions she made while training. I need to make sure she can make some antidote potions for when we are in the forest anyway." Walker didn't even look at Gil for an answer before he went toward the alchemy lab. This left Gil to go back to the forge and get to work on making more of the elemental infused arrows. He planned to prioritize those that would cause the least damage to the forest if he missed since Walker had also been training different skills for such a reason.

When Walker looked at the smoke stack on the top of their alchemy lab he found that it was spewing white yellow smoke. It smelled very bitter and definitely was not from the same process Remey had been using the previous days.

"Quick add the florescent fungus and stir as fast as possible to break it up." The old man's voice was easily heard as Walker opened the door seeing the yellow potion being mixed by Remey as her life depended on it. The two were incredibly focused on what they were making and paid him no mind.

The two added a few more smaller herbs that looked very absorbent and similar to mushrooms and funguses. They dissolved in to the bubbling yellow liquid while Remey stirred it vigorously. She had sweat pouring from her face but the determination in her eyes was hotter than the fire beneath the pot. "The lid, get the lid and cover it. We need to seal it and let it cool down overnight." The last order from the old master alchemist made Remey nearly throw the large stirring stick to the floor. She slammed the cauldron lid down on to the top and started to wrap a cloth around the edges to seal everything inside.

The lid tried to bounce off from the steam coming from the still bubbling cauldron but it was too tightly fastened on to it. Remey sat down on the nearby stool and looked at Walker for the first time. "Come over here to see the antidote potions being made?"

"Actually I was going to ask about them but you beat me to it. They look like a lot of work but I know it will be worth it." Walker was looking at the cauldron then to the shelves that were now lined with the potions Remey had used to practice since she got the upgraded system. From the looks of it, she had been constantly working to improve and memorize the actions she would need when making potions alone.

"I also need to ask for some of the mana potions so Gil can keep making his new arrows. They pack a decent punch but he is running low on mana."

"So you came all the way here? Are we invited to see what our hard work leads to? I want to know what I will need to avoid when he used them. If I am too close I am the one who could get hurt." Remey was too tired at the moment to act huffy but still managed to add a lit sarcasm in to her words.

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Chapter 313 - 313. Reading Material

Walker looked At the pair who seemed exhausted from their work. When he glanced at the cauldrons two of them swerve sealed meaning that they were both full of the antidote potion. If the two had taken so much out of them then Walker was sure that they wouldn't be able to make a third, or at least Remey would be unable to while the old master alchemist would need to do it alone.

"Bahh I'm not really interested in some al arrows. I will just stay here and try to experiment on the oozing vine more. I want that other bush to bloom and grow berries but Hilda said it would be another two weeks." The old man seemed unhappy to have to wait for another herb to experiment with.

"Hey Remey, have you shown him the notes from the family that previously lived here?" Walker had realized that in all the time the master alchemist had been around they had not bothered to show him the shelves of journals in the basement.

Her eyes widened and she looked at Walker like he had just opened up a grand understanding for her. "I completely forgot! Old man, we have something to show you for your research. But there are rules."

Hearing that Remey was going to give the old man rules was a little surprising but Walker had wanted to do the same anyways. He would not allow there to be any harm or torture to monsters on the property ever again. If he had it his way it wouldn't happen on the entire continent.

"There are some darker experiments done by the woman who lived here before. She may have meant well but her actions were not so nice. You are not allowed to use live monsters or harm monsters for ingredients. It is fine to procure them safely and humanely but if you use any other means we will get rid of you." Remey said this with all her steel, she was tired but she still had the energy to properly get her values across.

"Who do you think I am? You know what I am like and what I believe in. Now tell me what you have for me that could influence my years of research." The old man did not flinch at her words and responded with the same amount of steel as Remey. He knew how serious she was if she was bringing up her own morals.

"Then before we get back to Gil let's go to the library basement." Walker led the way. The old man was wondering why they were heading to the library since he had clearly seen that it did not have a basement at all when he had been there to see what books they had. He did not find anything he already knew or wanted to read so he had given up on the books there.

When they reached the library and no one was around Walker made a point of closing and locking the doors. He knew that no one would go down and sift through things to cause any trouble but he wanted to make sure that the youngsters, like Maria and Gale, didn't get stuck down there somehow. The way the entrance worked was secret and if they got stuck it would be a tragedy.

When the entrance to the basement revealed itself the old man was stunned to say the least. In all his years he had not gone hunting for such places and never had the reason to go to one. When he entered the basement he recognized the caked attached to the wall and knew exactly why they had said there

were rules. He knew that the previous owner of the mansion must have used this area for their experiments.

"The tools down here and the books are all free for you to use, some are harder to read since they are written by someone mentally unstable, but they are worthwhile for you I am sure." Walker pointed at the bookshelves full of journals that the party had already looked over. He worried that the old master alchemist would become sickened by some of the things written in them but also knew that some of the journals were written based on positive ideals.

"Some of those tools look handmade, they must be for specific potions. Interesting..." The old man did not touch the journals yet since he knew that when he did he would not stop reading until he had found every single little bit of knowledge. He was also interested in seeing what the tools could be used for, it was not the first time seeing hand made tools. Many of the alchemists at the alchemist building would have tools made to be used for their specific research, oftentimes they were just more advanced versions of basic equipment.

"A lot of these tools are useless since they are used for taking living samples, I do not work that way. However, this one looks like it's used to keep the solids in a liquid while under pressure. This one is for removing seeds from a flower, ah and this is for shaving the skin off roots. Only a few moments passed and he had an entire armful of tools to bring up to the alchemy lab.

"Should I just start to store all the journals so you can look at them in the alchemy lab?" Walker was beginning to see visions of many trips in and out of the library which would just end up wasting time.

"Ah yes do that. I want every single one. I also want all the tools on the left side of the table that I sorted out." The old man was not picky at all and did not hold back. He requested everything so with the help from Remey the three of them got everything back up the stairs and out to the alchemy lab.

Once they had set everything in an easily accessible place for the old master alchemist to read and study from they grabbed a few of the lower tier mana potions Remey had been successful in making while she practiced. "Now get out of here and let me have some peace to read. I will have all of these journals dealt with by the time you all get back from that quest of yours."

With the old man shoos them out they had no choice but to oblige. "I can't believe we showed him all those journals and he still rushed us out. It's like he thinks I would distract him or something." Remey was naturally in a huff over it, but Walker saw right through her to the relief that she felt. She had been worried that when they left he would lock himself away at the alchemy building once again, at least

when he was here someone would come to check up on him and he might even go out to speak with Gil's mother about herbs.

"Right, there's no possible way you could distract anyone from doing something/." The sarcasm in his words did not spare Waker from the punch to the arm. He feigned extreme pain while she just pretended to ignore him. The two kept up this skit until they managed to enter the forge.

"So I hear you are doing some cool stuff. I brought some mana potions so you can show off even more." Remey motioned for Walker to take them out of his inventory, he soon had five stacked up on the work table Gil was using.

The wandering blacksmith had a wide smile seeing that there was a way for Gil to continue creating arrows. He had been entranced watching the arcane marksman skill to fuse the elemental crystals in to the arrows and produce mana crystal shards. This was a great byproduct of the process that could be used in many pieces of gear the wandering blacksmith would make. It was also valuable knowledge to see that the elemental mana can be removed and placed in another vessel. The wandering blacksmith had long thought of theories to do something like this but the flames of the forge would remove most elemental mana or change it in some way. If he could take knowledge from what Gil was doing then there was a chance that he would be able to make gear that enhanced ascertain elements and provided resistances to them.

"I have managed to make one of the fire element arrows, two of the earth element arrows, and one of the darkness element arrows. I also have a light element arrow but to be honest I think this one might be a waste. Light element is usually for illusions and healing, what if the arrow somehow heals my target? What would be the point of that?" Walker could only agree, but he still thought that it was worth testing first.

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Chapter 314 - 314. Elemental Arrows

"Then come on and grab your bow, I want to see what they can do!" Remey was getting a little energy back now that he had left the stuffiness of the alchemist lab. She wanted to see the new arrows more and more as she saw that they would have different effects when they hit a target. To support her the wandering blacksmith stood up and grabbed the arrows to carry off with them.

"Well, I guess we are going back to the training field." Gil had no choice, his arrows were snatched and Remey had pushed them to go back out, he felt annoyed that the arrows would be used so fast.

"Stop pouting, we needed to test things out at some point, and you know that Su will need to see it later too. So just suck it up and be ready to make more. You have a ton of arrows to work with anyways. Not to mention the more you have in reserved the better." Walker used his logic to soothe Gil's frustration but instead, he seemed to be hitting on a sore spot.

Midnight had fallen asleep in the forge and could not be awoken by any means of noise. Onyx was still wrapped around a dwindling pile of light elemental mana crystals. Shards were building up as they were emptied of light mana. Walker did not see any reason to try and drag him along since he was working so diligently to grow. The only thing he mourned was that the cute little onyx was slowly becoming the intimidating serpent Onyx.

By the time Gil and Walker had caught up with the other two, there was already a pile of training dummies ready to be set up. They lined them up one by one next to the one they had previously tested the ice elemental arrow on. That training dummy had lost the ice but showed the true damage that had been done.

The water was still dripping from the dummy and the arrow had fallen on the ground. The places the ice had penetrated were torn and scratched up showing the possible internal injuries a living creature would be caused. Seeing this Walker worried that Gil's new arrows would lack the ability to trap an opponent and be too deadly. This made him thankful that he had the horned rabbits paralyzing poison to give him to make arrows for that specific reason.

"Alright, we have enough set up. What arrow should I test?" Gil was standing at the ready waiting for an arrow to be handed to him.

The wandering blacksmith handed him an arrow with an arrow head that was glowing with a brown light. The arrow was obviously an earth elemental arrow that Walker had been interested in. His theory was that it would cause the earth to make spikes as the water arrow did with the ice.

"Earth elemental arrow notched and ready, enjoy the show." Gil gracefully pulled the arrow back and looked to the target. His aim was spot on hitting the training dummy in the center yet again. The arrow released the burst of earth elemental mana and caused the ground to rumble for a moment. Everyone was able to feel the slight tremor.

When the tremor stopped they were all looking around for what was supposed to happen, there was nothing more going on. Gil clicked his tongue at this, "I guess I failed." He looked down unhappy when the ground shook again. The next moment a mass of earth shot up and wrapped around the dummy.

Walker had been proven wrong, there were no spikes made of the earth but a large amount of it rose up to completely encase the target. This was better than he had expected from the earache lament arrow. "We can use this to trap enemies when we encounter a group!" His happiness was tangible.

"My thoughts exactly, I was sure that your theory would be right. I am actually happy you were wrong. I was beginning to think all of my arrows would be super dangerous." Gil was on the same side as Walker when it came to the new arrows. They did need to be deadly against monsters, but they would not always need to harm everything he shot at.

"I have to give it to you, that was pretty cool. I would have no way to stop that in a fight if you hit me with that arrow before I saw you and used some evasive maneuvers to dodge. Plus the earth was delayed making it even more of a surprise." Remey was shaking her head knowing that Gil had just gained a huge amount of versatility in his archery. Gil had already been a top quality shot when it came to long range combat. Now he was also a top quality damage and physical damage dealer. His strength had easily doubled.

"Now what arrow are we going to test?" His answer was already being handed to him in the form of an arrow radiating dark mana. "Darkness elemental arrow it is." Gil did not hesitate and notched the arrow right away. He pulled it back and let it fly after adding his own mana yet again. The arrow hit the training dummy and immediately released a dark burst of what looked to be smoke. This was the darkness mana that was escaping the arrow head.

The darkness elemental mana faded away leaving the dummy standing with the arrow stuck in the center. However, there was a noticeable amount of rot and decay at the spot where it had impacted. When the group moved closer they could see that the inside of the training dummy was starting to visibly rot and decay in front of them. Before any of them could say anything the training dummy fell over and was pretty much split in two halves with rot on each piece. The arrow had surprisingly stayed intact.

"Huh, I thought the withering wood arrow shaft would rot away from the darkness elemental mana but it looks like I was wrong. The arrow head is definitely more brittle now though." Gil was examining the arrow which still seemed usable. He probably wouldn't be able to add any of the elemental mana to it now but adding a poison would be fine. "Alright let's test an air element one, I want to see if my bow speeds it up even more."

Gil betrayed himself and got very excited about the wind elemental arrow since it was similar to using his bow's element. He was already looking less tired than he had been when he was first working on the arrows in the forge. It was clear that he was still learning about the effects of his mana absorption.

He took the arrow from the wandering blacksmith who was enjoying every moment of this testing. He rarely got to see some of the things he helped create in action in a way such as this. Gil was already drawing and releasing the arrow before everyone had focused. The bow seemed to add extra wind elemental mana to it and the arrow shot much faster than anyone had expected it to.

The arrow fully buried itself in to the training dummy. The huge amount of air elemental mana released caused the wind to pick up and spin around the training dummy. The wind tore at the dummy breaking it apart and leaving it slashed in many places. The ground and nearby training dummies also suffered from this which really showed the strength of the wind element.

"Area effect damage is awesome..." Remey was in awe, she had no skill possible of this kind of damage. She could attack a single target and make short work of them, but when it came to dealing damage to multiple at one time she was at a loss.

While they all checked out the damage that had been done they realized that this would be the best arrow to use against any grouped enemy, it would be even better if they snuck up on them. "Gil I'm pretty sure we can't use that in the forest. We would tear up a decent spot of the land and definitely anger any of the elves that saw it.." Walker was still trying to be proactive in causing as little damage to the forest as possible. This didn't stop him from thinking of all the great possibilities that this arrow came with.

"Two elemental arrows left right? I think the fire elemental arrow should be last. I am pretty sure it will burn up the leftover training dummies. Plus we have no idea what this light elemental arrow will do, might as well take the shot. Gil shrugged while taking the arrow infused with the light elemental mana. He notched the arrow and aimed for one of the dummies still standing.

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Chapter 315 - 315. Blinding Light

The light elemental in Gil's hand radiated some light from the arrow head before Gil let it fly. Everyone held their breath out of curiosity as it flew to the training dummy. When it made contact the entire group was completely stunned. The arrow made contact and the light that came out from the arrow head was blinding. Every single one of them lost their ability to see in the world of white light.

"What in the world!"

"My eyes!"

"Ugh, why didn't I expect this!" Walker was the last to cry out his frustration at the new blindness he had. He could have used his all around appraisal skill to see if this had a dangerous effect. He could have looked in to the light element which was used to do similar visual skills. He could have just not focused on the arrow so much. Sadly not a single one of them thought of this.

The four of them were stunned and crawling on the ground completely blind for ten whole minutes. When their vision started to return they were still unsteady in their feet due to how blurry their eye sight was still.

"Arrow we shouldn't use unless we absolutely have to and are completely prepared," Gil said this while looking at the fuzzy outline of the training dummy he had just shot.

"Yup, wither spike arrow with light element should be treated very delicately..." Walker trailed off as he rubbed his eyes again and again trying to fix his sight.

"That was the worst thing that we have ever tested. If you use one of those and don't warn me in the future I will beat you." Remey couldn't tell which outline was Gil but she still held the murderous intent in her voice.

The three of them heard a muffled voice that was definitely the wandering blacksmith, "perfect arrow." The arrow had somehow made him deem it perfect. This was surprising to them since it had caused them so much distress.

"Well, I guess it does work really well for blinding an enemy for a long time. I think we can use it at night to double the effect." Walker just went with it even though he was surprised with the wandering blacksmith's reaction.

The group waited a little more time and soon found that their eyesight had returned to almost normal. "Since I can see better, want to use the last arrow?" Gil was looking at the fire elemental wither spike arrow in the wandering blacksmith's hand.

"Sure, let me just stand back a little farther." Remey was not taking any chances after the last arrow had blinded her. He did not trust that the fire would stay contained in any form.

"I am going to have my ready too, just in case." With Walker also being more careful Remey and he gave each other a knowing look. The wandering blacksmith was not phased at all and eagerly awaited the last elemental arrow to be let loose.

Gil drew the arrow and aimed at the group of training dummies that now looked rather rough in comparison to how they did before the start. Some visible sparks were coming off the arrow head of the wither spike arrow. This was different from the other arrows and made Remey step backward more.

Gil released the arrow and the sparks became embers until they hit the training dummy. The result was a burst of fire similar to when Walker's fire doll would be destroyed. However, the difference was that the flames burned longer from the arrow. The spot that the arrow struck was burned to black ash while the flames spread around the target in an area a few feet around it.

The other training dummies caught fire as well since they were just wood and straw mostly. Walker was looking at the flames, "Well at least we know it wouldn't burst in to a massive wildfire immediately." This was the positive he saw in the whole situation. "But we are still not going to use it in the forest. The impact point completely turned to ash." His analysis was supported by everyone there.

"That was one of the coolest though, you need to admit." Gil was smiling like a fool while looking at the dummies on fire. His theory for what would happen with the arrow was proven correct which really made his day.

"Yes yes it was cool, but do you know who will have to put this out?" Walker was about to make the point that he was going to have to use his grand elemental manipulation to put it out when he noticed that the wandering blacksmith was pointing at the sky.

The rest of them looked up just in time to see the large grey cloud overtake the sun. The first drops of rain landed on their faces. Before they had even looked down it had begun to pour, they were all completely soaked.

"I did not feel like taking a cold bath like this!" Remey yelled in protest as she ran towards the inside of the mansion where she knew there would be a fire burning.

"I will get Midnight and Onyx, you will stay in the forge and keep working right?" Walker figured that Gil would be too excited to stop at the moment so he just assumed that he would keep making more arrows. His answer was simple, Gil ran towards the forge. Within a few seconds, Midnight left through the door and seemed to be enjoying the downpour of rain that helped to clean her scales.

Onyx was a different story, he looked unhappy to leave the forge since the rain was cold. He watched as Walker and the wandering blacksmith came inside the forge. When Walker was inside Onyx wrapped himself around Walker's. "Want me to bring in some light elemental crystals inside for you?" Onyx did not need to answer, Walker could feel the desire through their bond.

Walker stored a few crystals away before he prepared to run through the rain to the inside of the mansion for his own dry clothes. The warmth of the forge fire looked to be enough for Gil and the wandering blacksmith. The two were focused on the arrows on the table. "Just remember to make some with the paralyzing poison from the horned rabbits. If you run out of mana or we don't want to use mana we will need another option." Walker headed out running to the mansion on that note. Gil and the wandering blacksmith just kept at work with only a small glance at the door.

When Walker had finally gotten himself and Onyx dried off he found that Su and Remey were in the dining hall with Midnight. Midnight had curled up by the fire and Onyx did not miss the chance to head over and join her in the warmth. Ramey was describing Gil's new arrows to Su who was the only one that did not see him test them.

He decided to join them and quickly passed the night. When dinner came the old master alchemist was missing since he was completely absorbed in his research of the journals left behind. Gil was surprisingly absent as well, the wandering blacksmith was naturally still out in the forge with Gil. The two missing dinner was not a major problem, but Walker did worry that Gil might not rest properly.

Remey had left the dinner early so she could sleep a few hours before she needed to be awake to store the antidot potions in to the vials. They were one of the most important things the party needed for their trip.

Walker noticed that Midnight had eaten much more than usual for dinner and that even Onyx had joined in. The entire time he could only think that the two were going to be much longer in the coming month. By the time they returned to the mansion they might just look to be different monsters all together.

The rain beat on the windows throughout the entire night. This set the mood for a cozy night wrapped in the blankets and made way for a slow start in the morning.

When Walker finally opened his eyes he noticed that the rain was still coming down outside. He wondered if everything was going to be alright with their travels and decided to see if Lisa had any ideas on water proofing some of their gear. They already had some water and wind proof winter gear but having some water proof shoes or even socks would make their travels that much more pleasant. The real question would be if Lisa was up to the challenge. Walker set off towards his sisters' work room.

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Chapter 316 - 316. Seamstress At Work

Walker headed towards Lisa's room. He had the fact that the party needed some modified water proof gear for traveling in the pouring rain. However, he was also interested in spending some quality time with his little sister. He had focused so much on the party and growing stronger that he had neglected to take some time for his family. It didn't help that he had been caught up in the healing efforts at the cathedral along with spending time with Alice.

He approached the door worried that he would be waking her, however, he could hear that there were scissors cutting fabric inside. With a knock on the door, Walker heard that the cutting stopped and footsteps approaching. As the door swung open, Lisa's face showed a brilliant surprised smile.

"Brother! What are you coming here for? Don't you need to train for your quest?" Lisa had been hard at work herself wanting to reach a higher level in her own system. If she could level up as a seamstress she could constantly make better and stronger clothing for her brother's party. She would also one day be able to provide money for the family while they were out hunting.

She knew that she didn't need to work for gold but she hated the idea that she would not be contributing when everyone else seemed to be. Eleven Su's parents managed the estate and helped to keep everything clean. "I couldn't leave for another month or more without spending some time with you. What kind of older brother would I be if I didn't? Not to mention I also have a challenge for you, are you up for an order?"

Hearing what Walker said Lisa became much more animated. Not only did she get to spend time with her brother for some sibling bonding, but she was also going to have an order she knew would be helping them. She could not contain herself and started to bounce on her feet waiting to hear more.

"We have to travel in a lot of rain and that means that we will be soaked the entire time. I had hope that you could make us some water proof anything to maybe save our feet and bones from freezing." Lisa looked at Walker intensely while she brainstormed ideas.

A look of enlightenment came to her as she started to rush around the room for small pieces of wax. "This is the perfect solution. You won't need new clothing or anything to wear extra. Just get everyone's winter gear I made and boots so I can make them water proof." With his orders, Walker headed out and managed to get everyone's traveling gear.

Most of his party members were relaxing on the rainy day and spending time with their parents as well. Remey was gearing up to go to the orphanage one last time before they left, Walker was lucky to catch her and ask for her boots at the last minute. She had not seemed too happy switching to her old pair but when she heard that the agility boosting boots she had gained from the ancient ruins were going to be properly water proofed she became much brighter.

Since Remey had finished her antidote potions earlier in the morning to free up her time she also promised that on her way home she would get something special for dinner. Walker did not disagree at all with this since he knew his mother would be excited for the help, even if it ended up being something small.

Carrying all of the gear in his hands along with the boots Walker looked like a living ball of laundry. When he burst through the door Lisa jumped up and was about to throw her scissors at him before she realized it was him. "You scared me half to death Walker. What if I have thrown these at you!?"

Come on, you wouldn't have hurt me, you are too adorable to hurt anyone." Walker tried to talk Lisa down so she wouldn't be too annoyed with him for his loud entrance. Walker placed the gear and boots on the table looking at the pieces of wax that Lisa had gathered up.

"So here's the plan, we need to heat up these extra bits of wax in to a hot thin liquid. I save all these from making water proof thread for this reason. Then we will add some natural oils that will help it bond to the fabric. The next step will be completely coating the outside in a very thin layer of wax. It is kind of hard to do because if it is spread too thick the fabric won't be able to absorb it and you will just have a crumbly wax mess." She held up a large metal bowl resting it on a piece of blackened wood. "Now get some of that fancy fire , I want all of this melted while I prepare the clothing."

Walker had never seen his sister in her work mode. He swore that she was a completely different person. This change must have begun when she got her first quest and just kept building until she was an intense worker always striving for improvement.

Lisa was pulling out wire molds that she put the gear on, they were similar to mannequins but made of wire so the gear could be easily adjusted and sewn. She had enough to set up everyone's gear separately. "Walker throw your boots to me and hurry up with the way!." Her shout gave him no means to argue and he again did as he was told.

She even set up the boots with some pieced of rounded wood so they were bent like someone was wearing them already. It was a trick he had not thought that a seamstress or even a cobbler would use, mostly because he had little to no experience in the techniques they would use. He made himself a promise to learn some extra trade skills when he had time, they could come in useful one day.

She started to add bits of thread to the joints in all of the clothing making them seem even tighter. This would tighten the spaces between the seams making them less likely to allow water within. This would keep them all drier in the long term travel.

Getting all the way to the forest was the problem when it came to the rain. There would be no way to block the downpour and the party would take all of it upon themselves. When they entered the forest there were the benefits of the trees which could block a lot of the falling droplets.

Walker used one of the lit candles in the room to start his grand elemental manipulation skill. The fire in his hands was basically the same as the dark fireball but it was made of regular fire. This was enough to heat the wax in the bowl to the melting point. "Make it as hot as you can without causing it to burn. The thinner it is the easier it will be to brush it on to every single bit of fabric."

Walker had expected Lisa to be in awe of his use, however, she was instead focused solely on the sewing she was doing. The smell of hot and nearly smoking wax filled the room, upon completing the first pieces of gear Lisa checked the viscosity of the wax. "Perfect, now I will add some mineral oils that will keep it stable and allow it to absorb in to the fabric better. I need you to do the mixing while I keep sewing. If you stop mixing the oils will burn." Her words carried a heaviness that he had not expected, he was more and more impressed by the minute.

He continued on with the wooden stirring stick he was handed while Lisa went to each of the wire mannequins in turn. She was speeding through the sewing much faster than anyone would normally. "Stay focused on the wax, it smells too hot." Lisa could smell the wax starting to smoke slightly and she quickly called for the adjustment.

Walker had been watching his sister work and couldn't help but wonder what kind of skills she had developed that let her flow through every stitch with such speed. After another half hour, Walker could see that the oils Lisa had added were completely incorporated and had become a perfect emulsion. Lisa had also finished up the sewing. She had taken one of the larger needles and added to the places where the laces joined the boots. The new look was one that seemed much more closed and stable. The technique was not one that only a cobbler would have but also one that a seamstress would have, Walker was interested in seeing this overlap of skills.

"Alright let the wax stay at that temperature so I can get a brush." Lisa had a set of brushes she had invested in recently started away in a tool drawer. She grabbed three that were ideal for the job and focused back on the task at hand. She dipped the largest in and started to evenly brush the wax in to the largest areas of the gear. Her brushstrokes were definitely imbued with mana that Walker could easily sense. This was definitely adding to the water proofing technique and would lead to a better product. Walker was amazed all over again by the skills his sister knew.

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Chapter 317 - 317. Mud

"You know most of the time people are amazed by what I can do, but today I get to be the audience and watch something amazing you can do." He hadn't even thought as he said this. Lisa just smiled and

worked a little faster. She loved the compliment from her older brother but could not let it stop her from her goal. If she was going to show off she refused to let some praise ruin her work of art.

Before Walker knew it Lisa had switched brushes and moved on to the arms and sleeves. She was making sure that they were coated the same way as the larger spots were and even getting the seams. The smallest brush was used last for the seams and the crevices in everyone's boots.

When Lisa stood back and wiped the sweat from her forehead the difference in the gear was almost unnoticeable. The only thing that gave away the wax added was that there was a slight shine to everything. "Done done done. These should keep you all as dry as you can get out in a rainstorm like this." She was very happy to have this all done. "Oh, you can pour that melted wax in to the metal jug over there. When I need to use it again I will place that right next to the fire to start it melting." Walker did as he was told happy to get rid of the heat that had made him sweat as well.

After getting the wax poured out he opened the window letting in the fresh cool air. The room became much more refreshed with the burst of air and the two realized just how warm it was having the fire going the entire time. "So I would say that was pretty fast. When did you learn a skill to let you sew so fast? I could barely see all the patterns you were adding."

Lisa proudly put away her needles and rolled up her waxed thread. "It's a skill known as quick stitch. It lets me use any of the stitches I have learned to completion at my fastest possible pace. The only problem is I need to get to completion. That means I need to use the strict pattern over and over again. The basic ones only had to be done a hundred times. But the one I used took a thousand stitches to master." This sounded like it would take a lot of time. It made sense that this was how a trade skill like seamstress system would work, but it sounded very daunting.

"So what you're saying is I was lucky enough to witness hours and hours of your hard work come to fruition. As expected of the world's best little sister." Walker placed his hand on her head making her blush from the praise.

Lisa quickly gained a serious look again, "You can't wear it until tomorrow. The wax needs to set and if you wear it now it will make spots that aren't properly water proof." Walker had moved to touch the gear and start to fold it all up to bring to everyone, but now he was quickly withdrawing to make sure he didn't ruin the effort they put in.

"Get down here and help! The rain is going to flood the strawberries!" Gil yelled through the entire mansion making Walker and Lisa jump to attention. The two gave each other a look of worry and started to rush downstairs.

"What's wrong with the strawberries?" Walker wasn't sure what would happen if they got flooded but based on the yell it was not a good situation.

Gil was getting another pair of boots and a cloak on. "The rain is coming down too fast and the place we planted them holds the water. There is a huge puddle that will drown the strawberry patch if we don't get pout there and dig some channels for the water to stream off." He rushed out the door the second his boot was tied. Walker and Lisa started to get ready to go out themselves.

"So we are going to play on the mud right?" Lisa was not as understanding since she had never done any gardening at all, but she did remember making mud pies with her brother.

"Pretty much, just watch Gil and copy him. He grew up doing the farming stuff with his mother. I am sure he can't do things like a real farmer but just going through the motions can do much more than you would think." Walker knew that the skills that Gil's mother would use could do much more than theirs but since it was simple as putting seeds in a hole or digging a channel then they could be of help.

By the time the two had reached the strawberry patch, it was clear that the water had been pooling there since the rain started. Walker looked around seeing that Gil had already grabbed a myriad of tools for digging out the channels. "Just grab something and dig. It needs to stretch slightly downhill so the water runs away from the puddle. Just watch out for roots. No earth Walker!" The task was given and before he knew it he was digging a little channel while getting covered in mud.

Lisa did not leave his side and was carefully digging the same channel with him. She was wearing her basic work dress which would be needing a hard washing after this. She was smiling bright enough to push the grey clouds away while working hard. Walker couldn't imagine how she was so happy to be doing this but when he realized they were saving the fruit they had worked hard to plant he felt happy too.

By the time Su joined them and Gil's mother made her way from another patch of the garden the strawberries were draining very well. "I need to put in better irrigation over the next weeks. If I had known that the land was prone to puddling around here I could have prevented this." Gil's mother was not happy, but there was no way for her to know how the land acted since they hadn't even been at the mansion for a year yet.

The group finished their work after another hour. There were not rudimentary channels dug that let the water flow away toward the front gate. Shivering and covered in mud they all tried to rush inside towards the warmth. Their shoes were all left by the door but that didn't help protect the carpet from the water dripping off of them.

"Walker use your to get the water off me so I can get to my room!" Lisa was demanding as ever, but Walker knew that this was just an excuse for her to see him use more .

"Alright, just stand still and watch the awesomeness." Walker channeled his mana using his grand elemental manipulation skill. The water elemental mana reacted and started to converge in to one point leaving Lisa's clothing dry. The mud was still there but now mostly just clumps of dirt.

Lisa looked at Walker like he had just done an amazing feat. "Do it again!" Walker couldn't resist the cute look of excitement and started to dry his clothing in the same way. Now with two balls of water, he just stood there wondering what to do with them.

"Umm, grab the door?" Walker asked Lisa to open the door and he prepared himself to throw the water outside where it should be. When the door opened he didn't even look and tossed both of the water balls outside. The only problem with this was that Remey was just about to open the door.

"I rush home to get out of the rain and you are waiting here to throw water at me!? You better start running now." The death stare that Remey had in her face was enough to make Walker do just that. The two ran around the entrance while Lisa giggled at the show. "Oho, so you convinced your brother to do this practical joke then?"

Lisa had given herself away in Remey's eyes by laughing so much. With a new target, Remey was now chasing Lisa around threatening to get her. It was Walker's turn to enjoy the show.

The three tired themselves out after a little bit more of their fooling around for a bit longer. "You guys know we have to clean all of this up now, right?" Walker had realized that between Remey and them there was now dusty and muddy dirt all over the entrance. Not to mention where the water had been falling off of Remey. They had made themselves their own chores, it was a sad realization, but Lisa was just happy to spend more time with Walker while they got some cleaning supplies.

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Chapter 318 - 318. Slime Anatomy

After the three had properly cleaned up the mess they had made they got changed and headed to the dining hall. They had not seen Gil, Su, or Gil's mother come inside and wondered if they were still outside working. They were proven wrong when they saw that they were by the fire drinking tea and walking about the plans to properly irrigate the garden when the weather clears up. It would be a large project which would be perfect for Gil's mother to do while the party was off on their quest.

"Oh there you three are, we decided to use the back entrance since you all looked to be having so much fun," Gil smirked as his mother said this. He had thought about joining in, but he knew he would have to clean up after.

"Oh we did, I'm glad we save the strawberries too. If we didn't have the strawberry jam to look forward to when we got back from our adventure don't know what we would look forward to." Walker teased a little seeing that Gil was smirking at him.

"I heard the yell and I was worried that we had already lost them. I did not think that they could get too much water. I have learned a lot today." Su seemed the most thankful. It looked like the strawberry jam really was something she was looking forward to the most.

"Since everyone happens to be here do you guys want to go over our travel plans for tomorrow?" This seemed like the best idea since they would be spending the remaining time preparing last minute things and having some of their own time. After everyone seemed to agree Lisa and Gil's mother decided to hang out and finish the tea by the fire. Midnight and Onyx were roused from their spot in front of the fire and came over to the table where everyone had sat down.

"You guys remember the path we took when we went to get the flame newts right? I figure we can follow that and enter the forest the same way. We can then slowly make our way deeper until we can find evidence of the slime's decay. The goal will be to observe first then try to defeat some and capture their bodies. If we can separate their core from the slime that would be good too."

Walker had read up on the slime anatomy and found that there was really just a condensed core created through various means. Many slimes can be created naturally in standing water and take on characteristics of what they formed from. The cores would be the instinctual consciousness that held the actual body together. It was very rare for slimes to grow very large since they had almost no defense or defense. The real problem was that if they were not defeated properly they would not die.

"We need to be careful of the slime body and core merging back together. I read the same book as Walker and it said that a slime core is not considered defeated even separated from its body. It will just go dormant." Su had done her own research and found this interesting fact.

"Could we save the slime cores to bring back with us? Should we save the slime from their bodies too? " Gil was a little lost on slimes. The only ones he knew about were the ones that started to form on the farm. To him, those were just weird puddles that never became a monster but instead just covered by dirt and never seen again.

"I think we should do that for sure. We can bring a water proof bag to hold the cores and some glass vials to store the slime. I won't be able to keep the cores in my inventory since they are technically alive. But I should be able to store away their bodies without a core since they are just slime after all." Walker had already thought of this and wanted to bring back as many as possible for the kingdom to research.

"We should bring back a lot of the slime then. It can be used for potion ingredients. I have no idea of a slime that can cause decay is worth much but it could still be valuable research." Remey was thinking of the uses these new slimes could have while also looking forward to new potions training.

"We can do that. The more we bring back the better then. I also think we should keep an eye out for quests to gather herbs and such. If we can double up on the things we bring back we could be if some use to others." Walker had also considered the reason for the quest. They were not there to exterminate completely or to gain levels. They were there to study, research, and find the cause of the slimes. They could also use that hunting time to look for herbs. They needed to scour the area anyways so it would just work out.

"Leader, we should also try to greet any passing elves. They patrol the deep sun hollow forest and are very territorial. If we forge a bond with them it may help us for years to come.' Su had a good point. They should try to gain relations with as many people as possible, it could only help.

"I doubt we will see any elves. They are way more at home in the forests than we are. They will probably just watch us and then act if we break their rules. But hey we are going to be there to hello so I doubt anything will, happen." The party all felt a little shiver as he said this but brushed it off without worry.

That leaves gear, I worked with Lisa today and it is all water proofed. In the morning we can collect it and then head out. So make sure that you have everything ready to go tonight." Walker put the hard deadline to leave down making Gil look a little unhappy.

"I thought I would have more time to make arrows before I left."

"You can just make them as we travel, it's not like you won't have your mana replenished faster than all of us." Remey tried to cheer Gil up, her attempt seemed to work pretty well.

"Just make sure if you make arrows you do it in the tent. I don't want any prying eyes to see what is going on. Just in case. I know we eventually need to deal with the dangers of you having the system unique to elven races, but for now, we can try to avoid it. We need to accomplish our quest first." Walker's serious tone made Gil fully listen and think on this. He did not want to risk the safety of the whole entire party.

"Onyx you might need to stay in tattoo form with your shadow ink skill for a while. I am worried you will get too cold." This was only natural to worry about since like most snakes and serpents Onyx was cold blooded and needed the warmth to function.

"Don't worry brother, if I get too cold I can always wrap around Sister and stay warm." Midnight huffed at them and raised her head higher. She was clearly telling them to leave it to her.

"Walker, I have actually been thinking about something." Remey chipped in with a little more seriousness than usual. Walker looked at her not sure what to expect her to say. "You know my combo skill that I use to string my punches together? Well, I think you should learn it for your attacks. With your inventory, you can take out your weapons out in the blink of an eye. All you need to do next is make the attacks flow."

This was a really good idea and one Walker had thought of a little. He had believed that the skill Remey used was unique to punches but hearing her now he was excited. "Then I will try to learn it from you while we travel. It would definitely help me out. I have some unique weapons like the dual swords, large hammer, and a scythe. Plus mix those hard to expect attacks with the basics of a common shield, sword, spear, and well bow; then an opponent would never be able to keep up. It would make his close combat strength much higher and even give him his own unique style of fighting. His physical combat prowess may just be able to rival his attack prowess.

"Good, I will start putting you through some training every time we stop to rest." Walker was not sure if this promise from Remey sounded like she was helping, or like she was planning to torture him to death. Either way, he would be learning a new skill.

Chapter 319 - 319. Out In The Rain

The morning came crashing in as the sun shined through Walker's bedroom window. Before the party had gone to sleep they had packed their bags and had Walker store everything within his inventory. The only thing he had left to do was visit Lisa's work room for the gear that was freshly water proofed so they could all manage the rain during the trip.

Looking about the room he noticed that Midnight had made her way in to the room to sleep the night. It was clear that she still was having a little trouble sleeping on her own, especially since she knew Immortal king had shown up for a visit. With a slight smile, he went to get cleaned up and ready for the day.

The noise of him changing slowly woke Midnight who had a drowsy Onyx on her back. Well good morning to you two." His greeting was met with a small groan showing that they did not want to be up so early. "If you both sleep the morning away we will leave late and you two won't get to join everyone for breakfast." This perked Midnight up pretty fast. Walker knew that the motivation of food was the best motivation for her.

The three traveled down to the dining room finding that there was a massive spread of breakfast foods. Bacon, apple pancakes, and even hash were piled high on plates. The smell was enough to make anyone's mouth water.

"Quickly eat faster before Walker starts to steal it all." Gul was already hard at work making sure the mountain of food disappeared. Su paid no attention and instead was enjoying fruit salad and tea in as refined a manner as one could while wearing armor.

"Your mother was up early with Lisa and Maria to make all of this. I tried to jump in but just got yelled at. So instead I made a few more light mana potions for us to bring. They are in the table over there." Remey pointed to a small box of vials. Remey had already made a decent amount of potions in practice but had now made even more to bring along.

Walker had counted that they had twenty antidote potions, thirty health potions, and thirty five mana potions now. They were multiple tiers so that they could use the ones they needed at the right moment.

Walker wanted to sit down and dig in but stored the potions away first. When he turned around he saw that the last of the bacon had just been scraped on to Midnight's plate and was being devoured. Walker fell to his knees defeated.

After properly mourning the missed chance to eat bacon Walker and the rest of the party headed to Lisa's work room. "You can all take your gear, but for Midnight I have something special." Lisa ran to a chest up against the wall and pulled out a matching cloak. It was strangely shaped and had a braided tie around the top. "I made this to help keep you dry too."

Midnight let Lisa tie the cloak around her revealing that it tied around her neck and kept her entire back covered. The rain would roll off instead of sticking to her while they traveled. Midnight strutted around the room showing it off and testing it out. After she had found that it did not stop her from moving and jumping she seemed even happier.

With everyone geared up, they all let Lisa walk around and take a final check. There were small tweaks here and there but after a few moments, they had reached her standards. "You are all ready to go!" She stood there looking at the hard work completed.

"We will all keep an eye out for anything we think might be useful for you while we are out. If we are lucky we will find some herbs that you can use as a natural fabric dye." This promise from Walker made Lisa even more excited for when the party would return. Midnight gave Lisa one last bump before the party headed toward the entrance of the mansion.

The party had said their goodbyes the night before and they were all ready to head out. The system was right on time with their departure and finally issued the quest from the king.

'Kingdom quest: Slime investigation

There are two locations on the continent facing a new peril. Two new species of slime have been found to be wreaking havoc on the environment. The Crystal Kingdom's allies are investigating but are looking for assistance. A strange demon-like character has been observed near the slimes in question.

Requirements:

Investigate the cause of the new species of slimes in either the deep sun hollow forest or the dwarven mines.

Gather the slime bodies and cores for research

Find possible solutions to prevent further damage

Rewards:

1000exp

Gift from the king of the Crystal kingdom'

This notification made the entire party feel the full weight of their new quest. They had not received a quest titled; kingdom quest before, having one now made it feel like the quest was much more important than any of the others previously.

The party made their way out in to the soft drizzle, the streets were almost abandoned due to the poor weather they were having. The rain was one thing that would keep people inside and close to the fireplace. Many outdoor jobs would not be able to work due to the more dangerous conditions. This was evident when the party saw the structure of the carpenter's quarters being built. It was obvious that the heavy rain from the day before had slowed the projects.

"Walker as soon as we leave through the gate we should take a quest to hunt something. I want you to try and learn my combo skill before we get in to the forest." Remey knew that this would be easier said than done because most of the minsters and animals would be hiding where it was warm.

"Awe so that means no flame newts to hunt as targets..." Gil looked sad. He had hopes that he would be able to test his long range sniping against the smallest flame newts sun bathing. Sadly he would not have the chance because the sun was not looking to be able to peal out from behind the grey clouds in the least.

"I don't know why you all seem to be so unhappy with the rain. We will be able to fight against the wide mouth tree frogs." Su had been fairly quiet while thinking on the new strategies Walker would be able to use when he learned the combo skill. However, when she heard that they were worried they wouldn't be able to train on the way she had to speak up.

"Not sure how I feel about having to fight against slimy frogs." Remey was not the happiest to hear this but everyone else seemed to have no problem.

"They aren't slimy." Su gave Remey a look while she explained "The wide mouthed frogs are just that. Frogs with very wide mouths that can use their long tongue to grab prey and swallow them whole. They usually go after the grey haired spiders after it rains. This weather is their ideal hunting conditions because they can find the grey haired spiders that get flushed out of their dens after the rain." Su had done a lot of reading up in her free time to make sure she was prepared for the adventure. The fact that she had even taken weather in to account was impressive.

"Wait, if I remember right they can be used in a lot of different gear because of their skin having elastic qualities." Gil had heard this as a child from a neighbor farmer who used it for some repairs.

"I wonder what we could use it for..." Walker started to ponder this as Su spoke back up.

"I also read that the meat is considered a delicacy. Apparently, it tastes like a higher quality chicken." This got Midnight's attention. She started to look about and focus on where the party was walking. Since they were approaching the gate it was the perfect time to sharpen their sense.

The party passed through the gate with a wave and some see you later shouts from the guards. They recognized the identifications of the party and were happy to see them off. Many of the guards had either known Walker or had heard of the recent endeavors. Feeling a little more motivated at the happy send off the party got in to formation with Su at the lead. Walker was on the same side as Remey so that he could properly observe the combo skill he would be trying to learn. It was going to be a harsh day but hopefully very worthwhile. "Gil if you see any wide mouth frogs let me know, I will take the first one." Remey brandished her knuckles in excitement.

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Chapter 320 - 320. Wide Mouth Frogs

The party held close to the merchant trails as they left the city. They had already traveled the route from the south gate a few times and were much more comfortable leaving this way for the sun hollow forest. Luckily the rain was misty instead of the heavy downpour from the night before. If it had been too bad they would have lost visibility making travel much more dangerous for everyone.

"Hey Walker, you don't think that the wither spike ice arrow will have a greater effect since it's raining, do you?" Gil had come to this realization as they walked. He wanted to think of the best times and places for each arrow and how to make that decision during battle.

"It should, the arrow just makes the water elemental mana gather in one place to cause it to form in to ice spikes." Walke had already thought of this and made the decision that it could end up being beneficial. However, there was also the possibility that things would be more dangerous since they did not know how much more water elemental mana would be attracted.

"That sounds like it could be dangerous. From the way Remey described it all to me it could cause a lot of damage to the surrounding area." Su had much more dramatic ideas of what the arrows did after listening to Remey. She was currently imagining that the entire forest would be turned in to ice if Gil so much as thought about shooting one.

"It should be limited to the amount of water elemental mana within the arrow. If we can figure out the area that it can affect then we shouldn't need to worry too much. Plus I think the fire element arrows are pretty much useless in weather like this. Not sure about earth element but I have a feeling they are not as good either." Walker stepped in to a little mud to make a point. The water was making the path they were traveling much softer which would make the earth softer as well when manipulated by .

"That makes sense, if more of the elemental mana is around it should be more powerful, and if the opposite elemental mana is around then the opposite will be weaker. Why would fire burn in water anyways." Remey was just stating the blunt facts but couldn't understand why this was a topic anyways. She would prefer just to avoid the risk of a massive move as a whole, especially after the incident with the light arrow.

"Well, we don't have to wait to worry about it. Gil, do you see that green and brown spot on the top of that small rock up ahead?" Su had caught a small bit of motion well ahead of the party on the trail they were walking.

"I see what you are pointing out. That definitely is a strange shape for a rock. It would make a perfect target for a water elemental wither spike arrow." Gil pulled one from his quiver over his shoulder. This was another new gear item that the wandering blacksmith had made for him.

The quiver was made so that it could hold all the elemental arrows in its own space. This would make it easier for Gil to pick the one he wanted in an instant instead of grabbing with the hope that he had pulled the arrow he wanted at first. It was also easy to restock on the go so that Walker could drop more arrows into it without trouble.

Gil had already set his sights on the camouflaged frog, he swiftly pulled back an arrow and channeled some mana in to it. The blue glow coming from the arrow head made the air around him chill slightly. This seemed to already have a greater effect than when he tested it before. "Su, it feels a little different, we are far away bit please stay ready just in case." Gil made his warning and let the arrow fly.

The far away target was hit with an audible fleshy thwack, the arrow easily pierced the wide mouthed frog which let out a pained croak. Within seconds the water around it in a five foot radius pulled in to a ball around the point that the arrow struck. The water rapidly froze and created a large chunk of spiked ice.

The wide mouthed frog which was the size of the average cow was now almost completely pierced and encased within the ice. "Wow" Remey only let out this one word but it spoke to what they all thought.

"I would say that is a significant boost in strength because of the high amount of water in the area." Walker was already heading toward the target.

'Wide mouthed frog defeated

15exp multiplied to 150 exp.'

The system was a little late from what Walker could see but since the wide mouth frog was partially trapped and partially skewered it made sense that it may not have been instantly defeated.

Midnight was right there next to Walker wanting to see the new food she would be able to try when they all stopped for rest later. "You look pretty excited, is having frog meat really that delicious sounding." Midnight's reaction was to speed up and get to the frozen frog first. This left Walker to think of how he would properly defrost the newly acquired dinner.

"Gil it looks like the arrow is still good even though it was completely frozen. The soft skin of the frog could be a really good thing when we defeat them." Walker immediately noticed that there was not any dent or other mangle to the arrow other than the fact that it was now frozen. This made the arrow much more useable over and over saving the party a little gold and time.

"It worked like a charm, it's not really an area of effect attack but I would say it can do some damage to surrounding enemies." Gil was analyzing the use of the arrow in comparison to what it had done.

"Nope, you guys can cook this up, I won't be touching these unless I have to fight one." Remey had goosebumps just looking at the frog's skin. She had been told it wasn't slimy but that didn't mean that she believed them at all.

Walker found that he didn't need to use much mana to make the ice melt. "I am pretty sure since you used your mana to make the arrow cause ice to form it is easier to use mana to make it melt. I am not sure if this is good or bad since an enemy that can manipulate elements too might have an easier time escaping the earth elemental arrow." this was good and bad news, the good side was that they could have more unexpected strength based on weather. The downside came in the form of mana, if a mage with the element Gil used was somehow trapped then they could escape much more easily.

"This sounds gross and I think it's gross, but save the eyeballs separately. I read that they are a delicacy for elves' traditional rituals. I read that they use it to assist in the growth of certain underwater herbs." Remey had gotten over her current disgust to make this fact known. She may not want to touch the frog but she could still remember the things she had picked up from the old master alchemist. The herbs that she had heard were normally sold to their kingdom by the elves due to the tough growing methods.

"So there must be some sort of mana or material in the eyes of the wide mouther frogs that provide the right nutrient for under water plants? Interesting, I will try to think of that in the future. You will have to let me know of any other monster parts that can be used to grow certain herbs, I want to make sure I

don't waste anything, I kind of have been thinking we should also build a greenhouse for you and the old man at the mansion." Walker said the last part with some embarrassment.

"Really!? You want to build a greenhouse so we can farm our own herbs better?" Remey was very excited at this possibility since she had hundreds of herbs memorized that she would need to go get fresh every time she wanted to sue them. If they had a greenhouse built then they would be able to just go outside the alchemy lab and pick what they needed.

"The mansion seems to get bigger every day, I will have to let mom know that she might be able to grow some tropical flowers if we get a greenhouse," Gil mumbled to himself remembering some flowers his mother had once shown him in a hand drawn book. She had always wanted to grow certain flowers but lacked the gold to have the proper environment set up. Gil took this as his next personal goal at the mansion for when they returned.

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