

## Master 321

### Chapter 321 - 321.Practical Skills

Once Walker had dealt with the ice the body of the wide mouth frog showed a large amount of damage. The way the ice had frozen it had pierced many of the internal organs and even torn the skin in many places. The party would have trouble using most of the skin as materials but the meat was still safe to eat. Walker pulled out a dagger that the wandering blacksmith had made as extra and carved out the eyeballs to store separately. After this, he used one of the smaller hammers to cut down the legs.

The design of the small hammers was the best for multiple uses due to the bladed back end they had. This added enough weight to cut down trees if needed along with other basic uses. The skills that the wandering blacksmith had used to make them feel lighter was really useful since Walker would have to swing multiple times to cut through the joints.

Normally Walker would have stored the entire body as one but due to the damage from the ice, he thought it better to have it broken down in to the pieces that they could cook and eat. He had managed to learn the basics of breaking down animals to cook from his mother years ago. He had never had a skill for it but was still able to manage the basics.

'The skill dissection has been learned from the butcher system. Would the user like to learn the skill dissection?'

Walker had no reason to refuse this skill since it was a very useful one. If he could become more adept in breaking down their prey then he would be able to better store monster materials in his inventory. He would also have the ability to sell specific parts at specific times.

'The skill dissection has been learned.'

Dissection- 1 mana cost

The user uses their inner mana to slice through even the toughest animal tendons and muscles. Delicate meat and organs are less likely to be pierced by the user's knife when they are working on their target.'

This was not a very showy skill but a practical one. Walker could see himself using it constantly, especially when they were traveling and he would have to make the party a meal. This would also help him ration the meat they had.

"I didn't know you could field dress a monster." Gil had not seen Walker doing this before and had usually been the person responsible for any small game they hunted on their trips.

"Well, I learned how to break down animals from my mother and decided I should just deal with this now. I actually just got a skill that helps me do it faster." He was still working but he sounded a bit sheepish.

"I wonder if it does the same as my skill then, I have one that helps me skin prey really fast. I can't really debone animals well. That seems to be a different skill." He looked annoyed by this but was still impressed that he was now not the only way that could deal with the aftermath of hunting.

After a little more time Walker had finished up and used a puddle to clean his hands. The wide mouth frog was stored away properly. "Let's get on the way. Sorry, that took so long."

We don't mind the break, we wanted to check around the area anyways. It looks like there was a small fight over there." Su and Remey had walked along the rail a little and found some roughed up ground. "I would say that it was the frog you just dealt with trying to get a large grey haired spider."

'If that's the case then we should try to keep a better eye out for spiders too. If they are on the run they might attack us if we get too close to where they are hiding." Gil had a sharp eye and could spot the spiders easily, but if they were constantly on the move then he would have to work extra hard to make sure he spotted them before anything happened.

"I should be able to spot them too, leave some of the work to me." Su was glad to take on the role, her new skill was one of the best ways to spot a camouflaged enemy. She could notice even their smallest motions to breathe.

' wide mouth frog defeated

15 exp multiplied to 150 exp.'

This system notification made them all drop in to a combat stance. "Where did Midnight go?" Remey was looking around and could not find their little dragon anywhere.

In the distance, they could hear a triumphant growling which caused them all to rush ahead. Midnight had found a frog wedged between some larger rocks closer to the treeline. She had managed to shred the legs so they could not escape and pounced on top to finish the job.

"Did you really need to rush on ahead without us?" Walker's tone was full of anger and some worry. He was not alright with the fact that Midnight had gone off out of sight and without any notice. If something had happened then it would have been a fatal mistake for the party.

Midnight shrank back losing her victorious attitude in the realization that the entire party was not happy with her actions. "We know you want to go off and hunt since we have been at home for a while. But what would you have done if there were ten of those frogs? Of a bunch of grey haired spiders? We could have been too slow to find you and we would need to turn around the second we have set out.' Walker tried to understand why they were unhappy with her at the moment. Luckily it appeared she was understanding his words and feeling fairly bad about it.

"Just stick closer to us and if you find another then let us know too. We will still let you test out your new strength but make sure you have back up. Onyx isn't even awake yet to help out." Walker stored away the wide mouth frog after breaking it down too. He was a little worried he may have been a little harsh but from the looks of it, Midnight was understanding of the whys.

Walker worried a little that Onyx was not awake and focused on the adventure, however, it was a rainy cold day and he knew that Onyx would be at a massive disadvantage as a cold blooded monster. At the end of the day it was safer for Onyx to remain resting and wait to come out when the rain either stopped or the temperature had warmed up.

Having the second wide mouthed frog body stored away made Walker happy since they would have some fresh meat for the trip. As great as it was having some dried provisions he wanted to keep something fresh to help their spirits in the rain. "Walker, we should walk along the forest edge to see what is what. We might be able to see any decay from the slimes being around here. If not then we know that they don't come this far for some reason."

Gil's idea was sound so the party formed up and started to walk along the tree line in search of any signs of purple slimes. They managed to see a few spots in the mud where grey haired spiders and wide mouth frogs had encountered each other but nothing else seemed to stand out. There were even a few merchant tracks as they braved the dangers of the forest to try and make it to the even kingdom to trade.

"It really seems like things are dead around here. Not man monsters or people have been through. No sign of any slimes at all." Gil's statement made Walker a little uncomfortable.

"If they are only in the deep forest then that points to the theory that they were certainly brought there or even coming from even deeper in the forest, right leader?" Su had created this theory as they searched the tree line. This was the reason Walker had started to feel uncomfortable.

"If they are put there then we will have to find out who and why, I really hope it is not a demon caused incident. If it is then they are in two possible places with two species of slimes that perfectly cause two kingdoms trouble. If they are coming from deeper in the forest we might need help."

Walker knew that the first theory was a whole can of political worms. He would prefer that the party was not involved with a possible war. On the other hand, if they were coming from the deep sun hollow forest it could point to an elf causing the damage. This in itself was also a but problem. No theory seemed to be safe at the moment.

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## Chapter 322 - 322. Smart Spiders

"Well, I don't see anything that looks like decay or slime monster." Remey threw her hands up since they seemed to be coming up empty everywhere they looked along the tree line.

"Looks like we have to head on in now, just remember to keep your eyes open. The trees will obscure our long distance vision and there could be monsters in the branches." Walker gave a few warnings as they all formed up. Remey was the lead with Walker in tow, she wanted him to see her use her combo skill as soon as she found the next enemy.

The forest was not too hard to maneuver since there were worn trails near the outer edge. This made the party more relaxed since they were able to still spot anything a good distance away. The trees toward the edge were also younger and did not have the proper potential for monsters to use as homes.

The real problem was the fact that the ground in the forest was covered in dead leaves or moss, making the floor of the forest soft and effected the party's footing. On top of that when they got deeper the tree roots would become large enough that they would have to step on or over most of them. Some vines had started to grow up the older trees and hang over their heads, these were the perfect place for insects and spiders to hang making Remey much more wary.

"Stop, did you see that." Su had spotted a slight motion four trees ahead of them. "There was something that moved in the corner of my eye, it is on the tree over there blending in." She moved in front of Walker and Remey motioning for Gil to draw a normal arrow. "Aim at the fourth tree about halfway up. The bark doesn't look normal."

Su could see a discoloration on the brown tree bark, it had moved slightly which tipped her off that it was definitely unusual. Gil followed her line of sight and notched a normal arrow. When he let it fly he half expected it to just thunk in to the bark of the tree as any arrow would. However, he was surprised to hear a soft squishing sound instead.

There was a lot of movement from under the brown patch that seemed to be held to the tree with the arrow that Gil had fired. With whatever Gil had hit struggling Remey broke from behind Su and wound up a solid punch. She unleashed two heavy right and left hooks at the spot causing a cracking sound.

Pieces of dried brown bark fell on to the ground revealing a much smaller baby grey haired spider that had just been crushed by Remey. It had used its spider thread to pick up a piece of fallen bark and hide itself to ambush prey. If the party had walked by without Su seeing the movement they could have been victims of this strategy.

"Only two experience points for that but if we hadn't seen it we could have been poisoned or worse..." She seemed disappointed at this because the risk was much higher if they had not noticed it.

"It was using a natural hunting tactic. Just because it was smarter in how it hunted doesn't mean it was any stronger, look at the size. I'm surprised my arrow didn't defeat it in one shot." Gil was looking at the

spider that couldn't even be used as crafting materials. If he had known what it was he would have just tried to go around it and let it grow to adulthood.

"At least we know that they can hint like that. If we didn't learn this lesson now it could have caught us off guard later. I will be looking for discolored spots in the forest as we walk." Walker was studying the bark that had been used as a disguise. "The scary part is that the bark also acted like a little bit of a shield."

"By discolored do you mean something that seems to stand out as a little too different...something like that round spot on the ground over there?" Remey was standing like a stone statue. She was locked on a large round spot on the ground that was a very bright shade of green compared to the moss surrounding it.

"Form up, that one looks bigger. Remey do you want to fight it and try to work some combos is? Or should we try and beat it quickly." Walker left it up to Remey since it was her trying to teach him a lesson. Plus it was a good experience to let her act as the leader at times. The entire party needed to grow and evolve not just one.

"We can take it down together, it will be easier to show off combos against opponents that don't have poison or eight legs to dodge." This was the answer Walker would have come up with. "Su you taunt it while Walker prepares that fancy new skill of his. Gil, you will be support and Midnight will circle behind. Once it is surrounded we will all attack in turn." Remey was more adept at battle strategy and was showing her prowess here.

Gil pulled back a basic arrow and was planning on using it the same way they had with the baby grey haired spider. This one was certainly larger but if it was struck through the moss patch then it would want to attack or run right away. Midnight faded in to the shadows using her shadow wrapping skill and Gil released the arrow.

There was almost no resistance and the scratching of legs gave away the spider hiding under the moss. The light green moss was flung in to the air revealing a very large adult grey haired spider. "Get over here you worthless bug!" Su taunted the spider making it focus its rage from being hurt in her. It charged at her but was met with her shields as it swung its sharp legs down at her.

The sound of vibrating metal let The others know that they were able to attack. Remey went in with a slide to get under its weaker belly. She was able to strike twice with jabs before retreating again. The

damage she had done was enough to slow and stagger the spider. Walker was creating the first whip much faster due to the water all around him.

Since the spider was distracted and staggering Midnight was able to bound in and shred at the legs of the spider taking out three of them in a vicious swipe. When Midnight retreated she flapped out her wings giving her a slight boost backward. Walker wanted to praise her for the wise use of her wings but the frost whip was formed and he needed to hold his own.

Gil and Walker worked together at mid range to fire their projectiles. Gil's arrow was able to take out and lodge in to one of the spider's eyes. Walker sent a pulse of mana through the frost whip and sent three ice needles in to the same area as Gil's arrow. The result was a very angry and hurt spider.

The grey haired spider began to panic at the damage it was receiving and lashed out blindly. Su was there with her shields blocking every attack and even managing to parry one that could have reached out for Remey as she moved in with a hammer fist. When Remey made contact the spider's abdomen cracked open showing just how much damage it was taking from the onslaught of attacks.

Walker knew that it would try to flee since it had started to spin around wildly, he used the frost whip to wrap around two of its legs and made it freeze. He did not worry that the ice would break and he wouldn't be able to control it since he was already making a new frost whip in his other hand. The second frost whip wrapped around another two legs while Midnight came in and shredded off the remaining free leg.

Su slammed her shields together and used a shield bash with her full might to crush the spider in its weakest point. The giant grey haired spider had not stood a chance against the teamwork of the party.

'Giant grey haired spider defeated

45 exp multiplies to 450 exp'

The party looked at the twitching corpse knowing that they had gone in to full attack mode and defeated a strong opponent. If this spider had ambushed them they would have lost a member of their party, no doubt about it. "Nice job Remey. You have good eyes." Walker's sudden praise made Remey unable to reply, however, Gil and Su echoed this along with a few huffs from Midnight. She was suddenly too sheepish to reply at all.

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### Chapter 323 - 323. Goblin Facts

We should be able to get a lot out of this spider. It looks like it has developed well past adulthood and grown a very large spider silk gland. The spider silk is great for bow stings and even used in some clothing. "Your sister might like it." Gil had already learned the value of such spiders because the first bow he had ever owned used the grey haired spider silk as a bow string. It was a very basic bow but he still learned about it as any good archer would.

"Brilliant idea, I wonder what could be made with spider silk from such a huge spider." Walker went to work storing the spider away while the two chatted about what could be made with the silk.

"It looks like it used a bunch of young moss stuck to some of its thread to hide under. If these spiders hunted like this out in the rocks on the outskirts they would be much more formidable." Su was picking up the mossy cover that had been made by the spider. "Leader, please save this for me. I think we can use this if we need to hide some thing." Walker did not hesitate to store it away, Su always had logical ideas and this was yet another one.

Midnight was sniffing around and seemed to have the scent of more spiders. "Sister says that there are many spiders in that direction." Onyx had come out of his tattoo form after so much commotion. He realized that he should be out assisting as much as he could during a dangerous situation.

"Then we will not be going that way. First, it will be a pain to deal with all of them. Second, if there are a lot of spiders, then there are sure not any purple slimes over there." Walker turned his head to the left looking in the opposite direction of the possible spiders' nest.

"Does Midnight smell any from over there?" Remey was very interested in taking the path without the massive spiders. If she had the choice she would rather scrub every single cauldron in the alchemy building than head to a spider's nest.

"Sister says that there are not any spider scents that way." Onyx was already wide awake and translating like he had been there the entire time doing so.

"Leader, come this way." Su took the lead surprising Walker and Gil. However, Remey looked fairly happy having her backup in this.



The party let Midnight take the lead since she had the grey haired spider scent memorized. She was helping them avoid the traps and small silk threads left behind to trap prey. This also was a good way for them to avoid running in to a large nest of them which would be able to outnumber the party.

"The trees are definitely getting larger around here and there are bigger tree roots." Gil had noticed that as they walked the scenery was starting to morph. The tree tops were now well above their heads and the rain that fell was mostly just mist falling off the leaves. The water proof gear they had on was making them as dry as possible.

We haven't seen any signs of monsters or even regular animals for a while. It actually feels like the forest is too quiet. And when the forest is quiet it usually means there is a predator around." Gil had been hunting in the woods enough times to know that when it was too quiet then that means danger. The tweeting of the birds should never be lost from a hunter's ears.

With Gil dropping in a crouch low to the ground the rest of the party was also on high alert. Su and Gil were the two that had the best eye sight and were taking the lead in trying to spot an enemy. Midnight was sniffing the air trying to catch a scent of anything out of the ordinary. Yet as they stopped the sound of tweeting birds started to resume. "Whatever it was that passed by is gone now." Gil relaxed a little and moved back in to the normal walking stance.

"We should keep an eye out for any tracks or evidence of what is prowling around. I would prefer to know what we might bump in to." Walker could only imagine what monster was strong enough of a predator to make all the sounds of the forest go silent.

"You don't think we moved in to a goblin territory already, do you?" Remey had paid attention to the briefing Walker gave the party. The predator in the first was numerous, however, one that stuck in her mind was the goblins. The simple reason was that they detested humans or any other sentient race. They had very strong instincts and could use basic tools. This made them tougher to beat when they were in groups. Especially for smaller parties.

"Gil walked a few steps ahead and turned back to look at Remey, "I hate to tell you this, but it looks like we are about to pass through their territory." In front of the path, the party wished to travel were numerous small foot prints.

"Ugh, why did I need to jinx myself like that. I really don't want to fight smelly green monsters." Remey looking at her gloves in fear that she would ruin them in one adventure.

"Leader, you said that as long as we avoid the goblin's nest we should be fine to battle against them right?" Su was a little worried to be fighting more human like monsters. She had some fear that it would be harder to defeat them for that reason.

"Yes, I read a book all about them in the library. They are apparently strange even when it comes to monsters. Unlike the other monsters goblins aren't born from eggs, instead, they are a total mystery. No researcher has even been able to figure out how they breed. They also can't be tamed by any form of tamer yet to exist to human knowledge. The only thing we do know is that they smell, really bad." Walker was joking on the last part since he could see the party needed a little humor. However, Gil picked up the subject.

"They have very poor hygiene and are known to let their food rot. This makes their bite poisonous. They also can use crude tools so watch out for sharpened rocks or sticks. I remember you said that they are known to hunt in groups too. So the least that are usually seen together in two and most ever seen is twenty." Gil had tried to remember these details the most since he was worried about their numbers.

"Oh, I remember too. They have almost no use as monster materials and often end up becoming a nuisance to small villages. The adventurers that are sent to deal with them are often paid by the kingdom or by villagers who saved up." Remey remembered this as the other two had talked.

Walker just laughed to himself since their fear of the goblins a moment ago fell away and turned in to a study session. "Let's move carefully and focus on any tracks we see. They usually can't set traps but had been known to ambush prey. If you see something say something and we will jump in to action." Walker made these last words before taking the lead with Gil. Since Gil was the tracking expert in the party he would be making sure that they were not accidentally following the goblins to their nest.

The careful forward movement lead the party deeper i to the forest. The trees seemed to tower over them more with every passing step. Walker had started to notice the amount of movement above them and become a little worried, enough to tell his party. "Keep an eye up above us too. There are a lot of animals in the tree tops and I am sure there are some monsters hunting them." As he said this he saw a small bird fly branch to branch before suddenly disappearing between them. He was sure he had just witnessed such an instance.

"Great, look on the ground for green goblin monster grossness and look up for anything that might be in the trees." Remey could only imagine another giant grey haired spider descending from the trees trying to grasp one of them as they passed by. It was not a pleasant day dream to have at all, let alone the fact that it could easily be a reality if they did not take enough care in where they walked.

"Grrrrr" Midnight scrunched her nose up and started to softly growl while looking ahead of them. She had not seen something but smelled something very off.

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Chapter 324 - 324. Goblins, Spiders, And Slimes. Oh My!

Midnight was glaring at a patch of trees ahead of them. There was the scent of rot and decay in the air causing all of them to want to cover their noses. The worst part was that they could see the black rot on the trees in front of them. It looked like Midnight had gone around using decaying breath flames for hours and hours.

"Somerhing tells me this is the work of the slimes we are after." Gil was slow to approach the area since the smell of rot was so bad. He prodded that the bark of the tree with an arrow and found that it just flaked off existing in the inside of the rotting wood. The black decay had eaten in to the very core of the tree.

"I can see why people are unhappy with this. These slimes are doing a lot of damage to the very lifeblood of the forest. The elven kingdom must be furious. They literally have lived here forever." One look at Remey told all of them that she was just as unhappy to see this. In her mind she could only imagine how many life saving herbs could have been killed or brought to extinction by this decay.

"I might jot be an expert, but from my friends at the cathedral, I have learned some things about purification . I do not believe that it would be able to deal with this level of decay. The only solution would be to let the infected trees die or to cut off the decaying part."

Su knew that purification was rare to begin with. She had heard that it was usually used to cleanse something of a curse or a living creature from poisons or even to enhance the quality of materials by removing disruptive mana.

"I think so too, this is very advanced and powerful. Remey, what are your thoughts? Could those antidote potions resist this in any way?" Walker was worried that the potions Remey and the old master

alchemist had made might be too weak to protect them if they toughed the slime or had a head on collision in battle.

"Pfft, who do you think we are? We used some of the pure water and even some other special herbs to make sure they were of the highest quality. It may take multiple treatments but if you get that decay on you and wrap soaked bandages on it, then it just might protect you from the decay damage and cure you." She thought for a moment. "The worst case I would say go to the cathedral for healing anyways.

Midnight looked to be suffering in the scene of the decay. Her nose was much stronger than theirs and she could not deal with the smell. Come on let's see if we can follow the path of decay." Now that Walker had seen the full extent of the purple limes decay quality he wanted to formulate some new plans.

He was happy that the slime obviously did not just decay and break things down in an instant. Instead it took time, meaning that the party would be able to safely reach other if they were hurt. The sooner they would use the antidote potion the less damage, if any, there would be. Walker made sure it was always on his mind to pull one out.

"Just stay vigilant, some slimes have been known to shoot acid or other fluids from their bodies. These might not since it looks like they had to be in long term contact to cause this decay. But I would rather be safe than sorry." Walker's final warning was one he said a few times and the party knew he was worrying over it.

With that, the party started to follow the trail of decay. They could still find the tracks of goblins and even some of the grey haired spider silk here and there. This area seemed to be heavily traveled by many monsters. Remey was stopping to look at the remains of the young growth, her grimace getting worse and worse with every minute.

Gil was mirroring her unhappiness, he had been hunting in forests many times with his father and he had been taught to respect nature. His goal as a hunter had always been to take what they needed to survive and prosper. If he had tried to take too much his father was always there explaining why it could hurt the forest and that it was or was not necessary.

Su did not have the same experiences and understanding of the forest that her party members did, however, she had started to learn through gardening that a lot of effort could go in to one single seedling. For a forest to grow it was a massive accomplishment for nature. The way a single tree was cut could change how the entire forest grew, even the smallest detail could make a life or death difference.

These things were driving the party as they noticed that the black decay was getting more intense. They could smell the rot much more strongly, this made Midnight look very agitated and unhappy. She may have a skill that made her flame breath cause decay, but this was something her body was able to produce and not harmful to her. The rot that was caused by the slimes was different, it was rotting things still alive and causing a lot of damage. There was no way Midnight nose could get used to it, especially since she upgraded to dragon champion. Her body was much more sensitive and growing to be stronger, her sense of smell was only one thing that had improved.

The more the party proceeded closer to the heavy decay the more they started to notice signs of struggle. There were grey hairs from the spiders on the ground. It looked like they had been broken or cut off in some ways. There were even remaining pieces of legs here or there. "We are getting close to something, I can hear some fighting."

Gil gave a warning and the party all crouched to try and travel unnoticed. "Midnight, use your skill and sneak around. Don't get in to the fight unless we give a call." Walker wanted to set up to ambush any monsters that they were about to come in to contact with if possible.

Su took a slight lead as they went through the trees. There were bits of purple slime scattered on the ground as the battle they were approaching had progressed. Gil pointed them out so they would not step on them and possibly alert the monsters ahead. What drew their attention was the small skinny green body of a pointed eared creature.

The decay on the body made it hard to see the finer details but it was obvious that this was the remains of a goblin slain by the slimes. They were battling each other for some reason, Walker figured that it was because this was considered the territory of the goblins and they did not like any other monster encroaching on it.

The party saw a grey blur as a spider jumped from a tree towards the ground. The next thing they saw was a round purple blob that seemed to ripple as it rolled forwards. The sickly purple color it had made it look unnatural and poisonous. The battle the two were having in the small clearing ahead was not the only battle.

There were about five other monsters battling slimes as well. These slimes which were the same size as a ten year old child seemed to have the advantage due to the fact that they couldn't be killed unless their core was destroyed. The goblins that appeared to be working with the grey spiders were trying their best to thrust sharp sticks and stones in to the slimes to break their cores.

"Do you see a goblin riding a grey haired spider over there...?" Gil was staring at a goblin using a very large grey haired spider as a mount. It looked like they had somehow paired up while fighting and their strategy was working. The spider would move around the slime and allow the goblin to stab with its pointed stick. The pair took out a slime faster than the rest of the goblins and spiders that were struggling.

"I know that they are usually enemies competing for prey in the forest. But it looks like the threat of the slimes somehow brought them together. I'm not sure if this is good or bad, but I prefer the natural order of the forest over the invasion of the slimes. What would you guys say to help the goblins and spiders out for now?" Walker's idea sounded like a mad man had just spoken. Not a single adventurer would say they wanted to help monsters let alone goblins which were known to hate other sentient races.

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Chapter 325 - 325. Joint Battle

' Heroic quest: protecting nature's balance

Join the natural monster species in defeating the invasive species of slimes.

Requirement:

Defeat three small purple slimes

Defeat two medium slimes

Defeat one giant slime together with the natural monster species

Reward:

200 exp

Free travel through goblin territory

Respect of natural monster species with intelligence.

1 heroic quest point'

"Well I feel a little crazier, let's go help some monsters." Gil read the system quest and decided to just roll with it.

"Ugh, they might smell by I guess I am feeling crazy too..." Remey fleshed her fists ready to lay down some hurt on the slime cores she could get her hands on.

"We need to protect the natural order of the world. It is what a true hero does. Even if these monsters do not appreciate it then I will still do it." Su had already made up her mind. To her this was to be expected of them, they needed to be heroes in every way, not just to humans.

Midnight had already gone off and would jump in when she could. This left Walker, Remey, and Su to lead the charge in and take over the pace of the battle. Walker threw together a plan in the hopes that if the goblins and grey haired spiders attacked them as well they could manage to dodge and get away.

"Su you go help those spiders, they are struggling against the small slimes. They can't get them to be still so you will take care of that. Remey and Gil, you two team up against the medium slimes. Gil can pierce the core while Remey keeps those goblins from being swallowed. I will see what I can do with that goblin riding a spider, it looks to be struggling against the giant slime."

'The requirements to learn the great tactician passive skill from the general's system have been met. The user had joined and formulated a plan with a cavalry unit, a foot soldier unit, and a specialized soldier unit.

Grand tactician- passive

The user has a more fluid ability to formulate plans on the move. Their tactics will be much more easily understood by the forces they join and command. When giving orders to a unit their morale is boosted adding +1 to all stats.'

Walker started forward in to a running pace. He had no time to pay attention to the system now. The goblins and the grey haired spiders saw the new enemies join the fight. Walker sprinting past them heading for their strongest member made the others on edge, however, their instincts screamed at them to focus on their own enemies.

The goblins fighting the medium slimes were distracted enough for the slimes to roll closer and try to devour their prey by encompassing them in their bodies. Yet the goblins didn't feel the pressure of death, instead, a large wind gusted around them sheering off pieces of the slime's bodies. They could only see Gil standing at the edge of the clearing with another arrow in his hand.

"Snap out of it you smelly monsters!" Remey dashed in and pushed one of the goblins away from the other medium slime. She had made herself the slimes target by doing this, they started to troll toward her stretching out small parts of their bodies to catch her. However, Gil's wither spike arrow was still causing wind to separate parts of their bodies.

"Blobs of jelly like you have nothing on my hields!" Su was not sure if her taunt skill would have any effect on the slimes. However, when she shouted the small slimes started to roll after her. She used her shields to bash at them pushing them away and making them easiwr targets for the grey haired spiders.

The spiders had lower intelligence than the goblins but they had the instinct to understand that Su was not showing hostility for them. They focused on the predator they were fighting together instead. They slashed out with their spiked legs trying to cut away the slimes. They were taking damage because they could not resist the decaying effects of the slimes body. However, Su saw one of them get lucky and pierce a slime core. The result was a puddle of purple slime and a broken purple rock falling in to two.

Walker was the most dramatic of the party as he entered. He lept in to the air as high as possible and took his draconic crusher from his inventory. He channeled his mana in to the hammer and attracted the water element around him. His goal was to freeze off chunks of the giant purple slime so he could either collect the giant slime's core or break it.

The goblin riding the spider saw the incoming Walker and moved away to avoid a possible blow. But when it saw that the target was the slime and not itself it was left cautious and curious. Walker had come down slamming his hammer in to the slime, his elemental smash skill sent the gathered water mana in to the slime's body.



There was a moment where the hammer just hit the slime and made a soft dent in it however, after a few seconds the water around the slime gathers and attached to its body. It froze and became sharp spikes trapping and freezing a large chunk of its body. The chunk of frozen slime did not move with the giant slime and instead slipped down to the ground where it broke in to countless pieces.

The goblin on the spider looked at the scene of Walker standing with a large hammer and quickly gathering a frost whip. Walker could tell that ice would be the perfect way to cut down this giant slime's size. He quickly sent a pulse of energy in to the frost whip he created from the high amount of water around him. The ice needles sped toward the slime and pieced it fairly deeply. The frost that formed was less than what the hammer did but it was still a noticeable piece of ice that fell to the ground and broke in to shards.

The goblin on the spider did not hesitate any longer seeing this, it rushed in and let the spider choose its path. The goblin brandished its large sharpened branch and stabbed constantly at the giant slime trying to reach the core. Every time it made contact it would cause more decay to the sharpened branch. With its weapon failing the goblin pulled out a sharp rock and grabbed a branch from the nearest tree. Walker watched as it crudely cut the end of the stick in to a point and started to stab at the giant slime again.

This dance of retreating from the giant slime and sending ice at it while the goblin on the giant grey haired spider tried to stab it continued for some time. The slime had slowly started to lose its mass and surprisingly get faster. With less of its body to control it had the ability to move faster, the downside to this was that Walker and the goblin on the spider were able to predict its simple movements and still avoid it. The core of the slime was also now vulnerable with less protection.

Walker could hear the growls of Midnight from nearby and when he retreated from the giant slime next he was able to catch a glimpse of Su and Midnight teaming up on the last small slime while the spiders retreated near each other. They had lost a few limbs to the rot and needed to avoid the remaining slime to survive.

When he looked toward the medium slimes he saw that the goblins there were jumping and shouting their scratch shrieks in victory. Gil had shaved off a lot of their bodies with the wind elemental wither spike arrows. This gave Remey the ability to let the goblins get in close and destroy the cores of the two slime. She had already grabbed the broken cores to bring to Walker as soon as he finished his own enemy.

Having less of a slime body to protect its core of the giant slime was very exposed. Walker created a frost whip while the goblin and spider duo retreated yet again. This battle of attrition was finally ending.

Walker used the whip not to shoot out ice needles but instead to pierce the slime and wrap around the core. He jerked backwards on the frost whip and pulled the core from the body of the giant slime.

With the purple core fading in to a dull purple color, the slime core went dormant since it had nobody to supply itself with nutrients. The slime body fell in to a puddle of purple slime. Walker looked around seeing that the spiders were now wary of Su and Midnight. The celebrating goblins were now silent looking at the one on the spider. It was making a confused face, Walker was curious if it would attack or if it would run at this moment.

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#### Chapter 326 - 326. Respect

The silence in the clearing was more than the party could handle. The goblins were looking to their strongest and the injured spiders were frozen in fear. The humans that had shown up out of nowhere and completely changed their struggle should be attacking them. This was an instinct that they had long developed through many generations as monsters.

Walker looked at all of them and finally rested his eyes on the goblin riding the giant grey haired spider. He knew that if he moved he could start another fight, but if nothing happened they would stand frozen forever.

Walker returned his hammer to his storage causing a small flinch from the goblin and spider. As his frost whip melted back to water the spider started to relax a little. It could feel the threat fading since it was much closer to its instincts than the goblin. However, the goblin was not relaxing, it was tightening its grip on the decaying pointed stick.

The goblin started to let out small quiet screeches and hissing sounds. It was speaking to the other goblins who were responding with similar sounds. There seemed to be no rhyme or reason to the way they spoke. Walker could tell it was not an actual language but more of a feeling that was translated back and forth.

The goblin eventually looked back at Walker and each of the other party members. It looked at Midnight with more fear in its eyes since every monster could feel the difference in strength when it came to the bloodline she had. It thrust its decaying stick to the ground and hopped from the spider. It took slow steps towards Walker and looked at him dead in his eyes.

Walker did not hesitate and pulled out four of the antidote potions he had in his inventory. This was a risky move since it caused the goblin to take a few steps back and appear to fall in to a fighting crouch. Yet when Walker placed them on the ground and stepped back. He wanted to make sure he completed the quest, but he was also started to realize that these monsters might not be a real threat.

The goblin carefully lifted the antidote potion and pulled the cork from it. The sniffing made it grimace at the smell. It did show that it recognized what the potion was for and make some shrieking sounds at the goblins. Soon another came over and took the potions towards the grey haired spiders that had decay on their legs. The goblin started to pour some of the potions on to the spiders and the decay visibly started to recede.

This seemed to remove a lot more of the goblins' stress and fear of the party. This moment made Walker wonder why they needed to fight monsters like this in the first place. However., he had heard all too often of the goblins that had become powerful and lead by a hobgoblin to attack villages. It was part of their instinct to survive yes, but they were lead in a way that put their species first. They were no different from humans.

The goblin fiddles with a necklace it had strung together of animal teeth. There were some fangs evidently from a snake and what seemed to be a forest wolf. This goblin had been very successful in its hunting and displayed this as evidence.

It placed the necklace on the ground the same as Walker had placed the antidote potions. Walker did not hesitate to pick up the necklace and wrap it around his wrist. He used his all around appraisal skill to see what it could mean.

'Emblem of achievement

This is a piece of jewelry made by an accomplished goblin hunter. Only the strongest and wisest of goblin species are able to create jewelry using their best hunted materials. They wear it to show their strength and earn respect from goblins. This is something all goblins of the world will recognize no matter their species.'

Walker nodded at the goblin that was still looking at him. Seeing that Walker had accepted it the goblin started to walk back towards the spider and mounted it like they were meant to be one monster instead of two. Out of curiosity, Walker checked the Goblin and spider with his all around appraisal skill as well.

'Goblin Spider Rider

Level:???

This is a unique class of forest goblin that has spent many years thinking and evolving its mind. It has learned how to befriend the grey haired spiders that naturally live in the forest and work together to thrive. They stand above any other forest goblin and will often attempt to forge relations with other species.'

Walker was surprised that he was unable to see the level or other information, but he remembered that the all around appraisal skill was not a mastery skill and could not tell him everything every time. Seeing that the goblin was a unique class that had learned to live with another species that would normally be an enemy was also very interesting. Furthermore, it was a type of goblin known for creating relations with other species instead of trying to kill them instantly.

The other goblins started to shriek and hiss as they went to the injured spider s and started to carry them away. The goblin on the spider moved toward the edge of the clearing and stopped looking at the party waiting. "I think it wants us to go with it. Stay on alert and let's go, this goblin is different than the usual." Walker was going to explain what was different but first, he wanted to make sure the rest of them knew his intention.

Gil was already right by Walker's side ready to go but Remey was holding back behind Su. She was naturally more uneasy where su was putting her faith in Walker's decision. Midnight felt that she could get rid of the goblins and spiders without worry and instead raised her head to show off her might. The party followed behind the goblin spider rider.

The path they followed was easy to see, there were plenty of patches that the purple slimes had started to decay as a food source. Walker could feel that the giant slime core in his hand could cause a lot of damage if it gained a body back. He was careful to hide it away in his cloak, wishing that he could store away living creatures in his inventory.

"So why are we following them?" Remey whispered in to Walker's ear not wanting to cause any problems with the goblin they were following.

"That goblin is a rare class and species. It is known for forging relationships with other species, that's why it is able to ride that spider. It gave me this necklace that makes other goblins respect it. We should be safe taking both of these things in to account." Walker did have some lingering worries but the system was about to back him up.

'Heroic quest: protecting nature's balance- completed

Join the natural monster species in defeating the invasive species of slimes.

Requirement:

Defeat three small purple slimes

Defeat two medium slimes

Defeat one giant slime together with the natural monster species

Reward:

200 exp multiplied to 2000 exp.

Free travel through goblin territory

Respect of natural monster species with intelligence.

1 heroic quest point'

The party saw this notification in their systems and felt that having the confirmation that they had respect was better. If they had not seen this they would have been so on edge that they would have jumped in to combat at the slightest sound.

Walker was watching how the spider reacted to the way the goblin moved. The two were perfectly in sync like they had been together forever. This was a level of teamwork that anyone could praise. Even if it was a monster no human Walker had seen yet was this perfect in their teamwork.

After following for a little more time the goblins reached a small cave that they brought the injured spiders in to. There were webs all around showing that this was their nest. The outside of the cave looked to be where the goblins would rest since there were poorly made beds and even a small fire pit. It looked like this had once been a temporary adventurers camp that had been left to rot away. The goblins had managed to make it their home.

The goblin spider rider let the giant grey haired spider go to the cave to be with the other spiders while it started to pick around the ground and move things toward the empty fire pit. "Gil, can you and Remey get some wood? I want to start a fire here." Walker had an idea that the goblins had never managed to start a fire in the fire pit, but he could start one and use it to cook some of the wide mouth frog meat. The party would not rest here but they could show their own prowess and cook.

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#### Chapter 327 - 327. Cooking For Goblins

Walker pulled out of the largest legs of the wide mouth frogs. The goblin spider rider was visibly shocked at the meat that had come out of nowhere. It retreated away from Walker unsure what the human was doing. Seeing that Walker had pulled a small knife out as well and started cutting the meat in a diamond pattern it was even more curious.

Walker was using a cutting technique he had seen his mother use plenty of times. He could hear her saying "This is how you get the skin to be extra crispy" In his head like she was there next to him. At one point he remembered that he had wished to become some form of chef when he unlocked his system. When he was very little and needed to be watched he was always watching his mother cook. To him it was like watching a miracle at work.

'Skill knife skills have been taken from the master chef system. The skill knife skills has been automatically learned due to user action.

Knife skills- passive

When using bladed weapons for cooking the user will naturally move in a way to avoid self harm. The cuts will be more exact. The chance of damaging the product the user is preparing is greatly reduced.'

Walker almost ignored this while he was starting to cook. But when he saw that his preparation of the meat would be more exact he became curious and grabbed the second wide mouth frog leg. He started to work on it with the same technique and found that the two legs looked like they were night and day.

"Leader, did you just gain another skill? Your knife work looks pristine now." Su had been observing him while he worked just as the goblin spider rider had. Su wished to protect Walker if anything were to go poorly while he was distracted.

"You guessed right. I just got a skill that helps me with using a cooking knife. Actually, I think I got a skill from that battle." Walker looked through the system notifications while pulling out various spices his mother had insisted he put in his inventory for while the party was traveling.

At this moment he was happy his mother had cared so much since the smell of the spice had brought the other goblins out of the cave. Instead of pouncing on the meat and eating it directly, the goblin spider rider had shrieked at them to stay back as it observed. The goblin spider rider was smelling the same delectable scent but was not allowing itself to be controlled by it.

"I gained a skill that helps me with battle strategy. It needed me to deal with different types of troops in a joint battle. I guess the goblin spider rider is a cavalry soldier. Regardless when I give orders to follow my plan you all should receive a boost in your stats. This skill is great." Walker was very happy to read the skill. It would prove very useful when working with others to get a job done.

Gil and Remey returned with fire wood after a short time and piled some up in an ideal shape to allow airflow to create hot flames for cooking. Walker used some basic flint and steel he had in his inventory as a basic survival gear to start the logs ablaze. The small twigs he used to start that were scattered about the camp so he didn't even need to go hunting for any as tinder.

Looking about Walker took two of the pointed sticks that were leaning against the cave causing the goblins to hiss slightly at him. However, the goblin spider rider did not stop him from using them. When Walker used them to stab through and hold the wide mouth frog legs the goblins were completely lost as to why.

The simple fact was that goblins would just eat meat and any other edible things they found raw. They could not normally create fire to cook, it was just not in their skill set unless another specialized goblin with the ability was around. When Walker set up the skewers to cook the smell that hit the goblins made them drool even more than they already were.

"Don't tell me you are going to try and find a way to tame goblins with food. I know you have some tamer system skills to contract monsters but this is just weird..." Gil was worried about why Walker might be doing this.

"I am more curious about the nature of the goblins. The books and everything we have read paint them as vicious creatures that try to destroy everything they see. But that goblin right there seems to be teaching the weaker ones differently. They even worked together with other monsters. It may sound weird but I would like to see them grow."

"If the books are wrong and these goblins grow they might change the entire species." Su had grasped the thing Walker was looking for. She would also like to see the evolution of a kinder monster. She had already seen the proof that not every monster was bad in Midnight. Now if it was seen in a creature notorious for being cruel then it could mean much more.

"Honestly I am getting over the whole goblin thing right now. I think Midnight and I deserve the first bite of that wide mouth frog leg." Midnight bobbed her head in agreement with Remey.

"Weren't you the one saying that frogs were slimy before? Maybe we shouldn't give you any and just keep it for those who don't think frogs are slimy." Gil's retort earned him a solid hit in the arm from Remey. Midnight also looked ready to pounce on him since she took this as a threat. No one would take her food from her.

"Gah, no Midnight I would never take your food. Don't look at me like that." Gil had seen the look in her eyes and quickly tried to talk himself to safety.

"Cut it out, the food is almost done. Now what I am thinking is if these goblins are indeed different we should help them a little. I have heard stories of the desert goblins attacking villages and even the forest goblins doing the same in rare cases. The mountain goblins are known for ambushing travelers and dropping boulders on them." Walker's face was sour while talking about these things he had read.



If the right goblins thrive and share their mentality maybe they could start on the path of the ancient dragons. I know they are very different and live above other species, but they still live side by side with other species. They are technically monsters too. So what if goblins can walk that path too? I would not have considered it but with the system giving us the quest to help the natural species, it made me wonder." Walker spoke while gazing off in the distance.

He had hope for a better future when it came to monsters, however, he did not let his hope run away with his heart. He needed to be realistic in how long such a thing would take. He also knew that some monsters would never live peacefully and instead remain shackled to their own instincts.

"Leader, I am not sure if that is possible but I would love to see it one day." Su could feel her heart warming as she thought of the possibilities of this happening. She had also studied the cases of goblins and their cruelty. She would not have thought it possible for the species to be kind or have respect, but those ideas had been shattered in one battle.

"Don't let your food burn Walker!" Remey had become distracted by Walker's ideas and drifted in to thought, but the smell of browning meat had called her to reality.

"Ah, you're right. I almost let it get over cooked. Walker pulled one of the large legs off and used a stone as a table. He cut it in to perfectly sized strips to share. The second leg of wide mouth frogs had the same fate and was cut to serve everyone. Walker waved for the goblin spider rider to take some of the meat to share with its' fellow goblins.

The goblin spider rider approached slowly but was soon propelled forward by the shrieks and hissing from the other goblins who were losing control of their hunger at the delicious scent. The party was already digging in and eating while keeping an eye on the goblins. The only one who paid no one any mind was Midnight who was busying herself with eating the entire leg, bones, and all she would refuse to leave even the smallest scrap uneaten.

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#### Chapter 328 - 328. Goblin Creation

The goblin spider rider grabbed the meat offered to it and rushed back to the other goblins. It made sure it was the first to take a bite before distributing it evenly. The look of hunger that came over the goblin spider rider as the meat touched its tongue was visible from the cave entrance. It started to devour the meat making the other goblins jump in and fight for it as well. The chance to divide it up heavenly had been thrown out the window.

Walker smiled to himself knowing that he had cooked his best to try and make the goblins want to learn these things. If they were left with this great of an impression they just might keep pursuing a peaceful relation with other creatures.

Walker and the party finished their little meal while the goblins looked at them in hopes of more food. They had all been hooked enough to want to find a way to ask for more. In response, Walker took out the remainder of a wide mouth frog body and left it to see what would happen.

The goblin spider rider was the first to start putting the puzzle pieces together that it was given. Walker had made a big show of how he prepared the meat and cooked it. The goblins had wanted every second of it with eagerness. Now they had a chance to figure it all out themselves.

With this clicking in to place the goblin spider rider started to cut apart the meat with the crude sharpened rock. The pieces were not even at all but they were better than cooking ti whole. The other goblins realized this and joined in to the cutting process.

Walker and the party were watching as the poorly made skewers came in to being. Walker just smiled more and more as they started the skewers cooking. They had not added spice but that was fine. Walker had them stored away anyways.

The smell of cooking meat became the smell of burning as the goblins started to learn about cooking temperature. Some had placed the meat way too close to the fire while others feared the fire and placed it way too far. Either way there was only one goblin that seemed to be having success.

The shortest goblin out of the bunch was cooking three skewers at once and continuously turned them. This was something Walker had done himself while cooking that he was sure the goblins would not use. Instead one of them was.

The goblin spider rider took notice of the shorter goblin and made some noises for the meat to be handed over to it for cooking. This move was another thing Walker had hoped for, if they could learn then it was only a matter of time before they started to see the benefits of peaceful relationships with other species.

The goblins were more successful after relying on the shorter one to cook for them. The result was less burned meat and a lot of happy eating. The goblins quickly eat their fill and started to fall asleep strewn about the ground in their poorly made beds. The only one that remained awake was the goblin spider rider.

The arty was starting to prepare to leave when the goblin spider rider came forward and stood in front of Walker. It hissed a few times along with a few grunts before turning toward the cave. It looked back waiting for Walker to follow it.

"Do you think it's safe to follow it?" Remey was worry that if Walker went he would not return.

"Don't worry, Midnight can use her shadow wrapping skill to follow me unnoticed." Midnight looked at Walker knowing that her job would be to protect him if the worst happened.

After taking a deep breath Walker followed the goblin spider rider in to the cave. He found that it was much easier to see because there were glowing green crystals in the walls. The spider webs hid them from the outside making it seem like any old dark cave.

The walls had some crudely drawn images of spiders and goblins battling against each other before two came on contact with each other and didn't fight. Walker was able to tell this was the meeting of the goblin spider rider and the giant grey haired spider.

The cave was a little deeper than Walker had expected it to be. The green crystals that he thought could be wind elemental crystals were most certainly not. They gave off a strange mana that seemed to be a mixture of mana elements, some Walker could not grasp.

The farther the goblin spider rider lead him in to the cave the stronger the mixture of mana. Walker found that the injured grey haired spiders were in the webs against the walls shrinking back as he walked past them. They did not attack but carefully watched the two.

The giant grey haired spider came in to view as the cave opened up in to a small round space. In the middle was a very large green crystal that seemed to glow with the beat of a heart. There were grey haired spider eggs all around it but for the front face if the crystal.

Walker wished he could ask about the crystal and the eggs but as soon as the goblin spider rider stopped in front of it the glow intensified. The pulsing light seemed to become stranger and a shape formed within the crystal. Walker watched as the elements converged in to the shape of a young goblin.

The crystal started to crack and fall to pieces leaving a goblin on the floor of the cave. Walker was standing there with his jaw on the floor. He had never expected to see such a thing. Most monsters were different from normal animals because they would be birthed through eggs, it was just how the world worked. There were some cases where monsters like slimes were created through natural means, and then there were cases that were still a mystery. Goblins were one of those mysteries.

Walker was the first that he had ever heard to see a goblin birthed, and in a way that no one had expected. The crystal that had shattered seemed to melt in to the floor and form in to a much smaller crystal that pulsed very slowly. The green light became very soft and the goblin spider rider moved the small goblin to the back of the room while looking at Walker. This was an act of trust and respect, there was no other way to interpret it.

Walker just nodded and did not move at all. He did not want to overstep his boundaries and interrupt what he was being shown out of trust. This was the start of a new path for the goblins. Walker wished he could return this gesture.

At the moment the only thing he could think to do was to pull out more food from his inventory. He pulled out some of the horned rabbits he had left and placed them down in the cave. He also left the other body of the wide mouth frog.

The goblin spider rider had wide eyes seeing this because it knew with this much food it would not need to go out hunting for a while. Since the grey haired spiders were injured and healing after the use of the antidote potion, they would need a few day's rest.

This was a huge boon for the goblins since it would help them recover and even become stronger. The goblin spider rider made some grunting sounds and a small shriek at Walker. It was clear that these were words of gratitude. Even the giant grey haired spider had reacted by snapping its fangs together to make a small clicking sound. The two were still perfectly in sync.

'Hidden quest: Goblin friends has been completed.

The user has befriended a monster species thought to be hated by their own species due to their naturally evil tendencies. Having discovered that these were falsehoods based on singular experiences the user has assisted the goblin species. The goblins now have the chance to change their fate as a species destined to go extinct to a species destined to stand equally with all other races.

Reward:

Title- Friend of the goblin race

The title friend of the goblin race has been absorbed in to the title true hero. The title true hero has gained a bonus effect of +1 to charisma, +3 to attack, + 5 to agility.

The user and their party shall receive the benefits from the title- a friend of the goblin race and gain the effect- safe travel in the land of goblins. The user will be seen as any goblin they come in contact with a friend and brother.'

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Chapter 329 - 329. Ecosystem Crash

Walker almost dropped to his knees in surprise. The only thing he could ask himself was if titles were so easy to come by. Had befriending the goblins who were usually killed on sight that big of an achievement? How lucky were they? They had just happened upon a goblin that was more known to make friends with other species in their time of need. Walker struggled to regain his calm appearance before the goblin spider rider motioned for him to walk back out of the cave. It was clear that it had shown him the respect he wanted and also was happy to gain more food for them.

When he exited the cave he saw that the others were all closed up in a huddle discussing what was happening. They were completely stunned by the second title. They were stunned yet again when they saw their systems saying that their hero title had absorbed it and gained the benefits from the friend of the goblins title. It was just too much for them. They had already learned to live with one title, and that was still a daily struggle.

Once Walker had reached the fire and stepped over the sleeping goblins he sat down looking deep in to the embers. The goblin spider rider sat next to him like it was the most common thing in the world. The two sat there just warming themselves and thinking about the events of the day. Anyone who wandered by would not be able to understand this scene.

"Brother, you finally lit a fire to help me warm up. It was so cold with the rain that I didn't dare to come out until it was warmer and drier." Walker was surprised that Onyx had finally decided to grace them with his presence. However, it did make sense that Onyx had not wanted to risk being out in the cold rain and falling asleep in a dangerous place.

"Perfect timing, we actually are in a very interesting situation and your translations would be great." Walker could only hope that Onyx could translate with his mental ability. He wanted to make sure the goblins knew the dangers of talking to other adventurers and that their best path to safety would be to avoid conflict.

"Brother I could see the title we got. I am like you now. I am a title holder. When you were fighting I was wrapped around your arm and helped you hold on to the hammer tighter." The voice of Onyx in his head was boastful and arrogant. He had been learning too much from midnight as was not very prideful when he acted, especially if the things he did were able to help another party member.

"Don't let Midnight rub off on you too much, but thank you for joining me. I really am glad things went well." Walker gave a small shake of his head at this. His party members were still silently watching him as he spoke to Onyx waiting to see what would happen next. They wanted to ask a million questions but had a firm grip on themselves.

"Hello, I am Onyx. Brother wanted me to try and translate for you." His words were open to Walker and the rest of the party as well. Onyx was doing exactly as he usually did with midnight to the goblin spider rider.

The goblin spider rider jumped in to a fighting stance and shrieked slightly while looking for the source of the unfamiliar voice. It quickly locked in on Onyx before shrieking and grunting a few times.

"Brother, it says I am a weird worm." Onyx sounded a little insulted but Walker just brushed it off.

"You know they are not the same as humans, just cut them some slack for now." Walker was still resisting the urge to laugh after Onyx had been called a weird worm. "Please ask our goblin friend what their name is please."

"Brother would like to know your name. His is Walker and he is a human." Walkernwondered why his species was brought in to this but if it was said in a way for the goblins to understand it was a good test of possible hostility towards humans in general.

The grunting and hissing of the goblin spider rider were met by Onyx bobbing his head before finally speaking. "Brother, his name is Kroll and he says he is a wise goblin." This information was interesting since Walker knew this species of goblin to be called forest goblins.

"Why does he call himself wise." Remey had surprisingly joined the conversation breaking the silence between all of them.

"That is Remey, she would like to know why you call yourself wise." Onyx was again listening and speaking within the goblin spider rider's head. It still flinched as he did so.

"Kroll says that only wise goblins can lead. That he has a different skill than the normal goblins so he is wise." This did make sense. It wasn't wisdom in the way humans would think when they heard the word but wisdom to do things other goblins did not. It was in fact rare for goblins to ride a spider or anything for that matter as a mount.

"Brother, Kroll wishes to know why you decided to join their side in the fight against the killing blobs." Walker was amused by the name the goblin had given the purple slimes that decayed the forest.

"I chose to join them because they were the species that belong in the forest. The slimes are here to cause trouble and pain and should not exist here. The need to go back where they came from or be completely wiped out before the forest is destroyed." This was an undeniable fact, even the monsters that naturally existed here had begun to fight them at this point.

"Kroll says there used to be many tribes of goblins here but after the pointy eared skinny ones attacked the tribes lost many. Then the killing blobs showed up and started to kill everything with their poison. They are the last of the goblins from the tribes in this area."

The entire party drew a sharp breath at this, not a single one thought that the combination of what they believed to be elves hunting and the purple slimes destroying the forest could cause the goblins to shrink to such numbers.

"Leader, without the goblins, won't other monsters and animals in the forest grow out of control?" Su was already putting the pieces together and realizing that the species of green forest mice and scaled bats the goblins often hunted would not have a natural predator any more. This would make them grow out of control and further damage the forest by consuming other species and many plants. It would be a massive ecosystem crash.

"I didn't realize that goblins could be so important. Even I read the story books about how they were the worst of the weak monsters that should be killed on sight. But now that I think about it I have never really heard too much about them when I have spoken to other adventurers. Were the story books wrong and everyone has believed the wrong things for years and years?"

Gil's theory was the most probable out of any other theory.

"If I remember right those books are mostly written about heroes that go after goblins that were minions to the demon lord right? Maybe they used to be like that since they were controlled and now they are at their natural state?"

"Brother, Kroll says that we are very powerful and is glad that we chose to join them in a good battle." Onyx had been chatting with the goblin while the party conversed. They had become distracted by their own theories and the realization that humans and other species had long been believing something completely false.

"Tell Kroll that I am happy to have helped when we found them. Also, let him know that we are here in the forest to find the cause of the purple slimes and that we would be grateful for their knowledge. Also please explain the dangers of adventurers and what to do if faced with travelers. I am trusting this to you Onyx." Onyx looked extremely happy to be trusted with such a task. He constantly worried that he was of no use to the party.

With Onyx on the task, Walker joined the rest of the party again to put together what their next move would be. They had a lot of things to understand and sort out when it came to the new titles incorporation and the way the goblins acted. The simple fact that the forest goblins were nearly extinct was enough to bring in the adventurers guild or a kingdom's royalty to issue a protection order.

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Chapter 330 - 330. Protection



Walker realized while he was talking to the party about the possibility that these goblins were really some of the last of the forest goblins, that he needed to contact Clara. He had the ability to send a system message to their manager as the leader. He also remembered that he had yet to look at any quests he had been sent, but that would need to wait for later.

Walker outlined the basics of what was going on and how there was a huge problem in the forest that they had not expected to be this far advanced. He tried to avoid the possibility of giving her a heart attack by mentioning a new title but Walker knew that she would see it somehow in the system anyways.

Before he had managed to even focus back in the party's conversation Clara had sent a message in reply. "I have Barry coming with a group of monster researchers. Continue on your way and ask Onyx to let the goblin leader know." It was a very simple reply but Walker knew that she would want every tiny detail when they returned to the guild.

"Well that was quick, Clara already replied and is having monster researchers and Barry come to protect them. I wonder if the elves will be against this though." Walker's worried leaned on the fact that the elves technically were in charge of the deep sun hollow forest territory but also did not control it completely. It was a strange grey area between the two kingdoms.

"Good, the guild has the power to keep them safe. I have heard that even the elf queen listens to the adventurer guild in their kingdom." Su had taken her time to ask around about the elf kingdom while she was going about her activities in the kingdom, she had heard a lot of rumors and useless information, but small things like this might just be useful so she remembered them.

"Well, I guess that's it for the stinky goblins. They will be safe, but we still have no idea what is going on with the purple slimes." Remey chimed in with this harsh reminder to keep the party focused on what they were really there for.

"Kroll told me what he knows." Onyx rejoined their conversation at the perfect time. Walker was just feeling the need to make a game plan for their travel. "Kroll says that the slimes we defeated fell off of one enormous slime. It has been traveling around and leaving pieces of itself to grow. It is currently moving towards the largest tree in the forest."

"All of that sounds bad..." Gil said this and nothing else, he was convinced that a massive lime that could lose parts of its body to create small, medium, and giant slimes were something that would be incredibly hard to deal with.

"I think what sounds the worst is that it is heading towards the largest tree in the forest. If I remember right that is one of the elven kingdom's cities. They have a spirit tree in their center that the elves use to commune with nature." when Su said this Walker's face became much more serious.

"If the massive slime is heading there right now then it is a much worse situation than any of us believed. I will send another message to Clara. Then we are getting on the move." Walker wanted to rush off that moment.

"I'm not going anywhere. It is getting dark and we are in a forest we are not used to and we are tired. All of that sounds like we should rest then get going." Remey was putting her foot down here. She wanted to rush off too since there were many that could be harmed if they did not act in some way to at least warn the elves. However. She was not going to let them run around lost in the dark.

"I really want to go, but I know you are right. I will take the first watch with our goblin friend here and you can all get to sleep." Walker wanted to see if Kroll would stay awake the entire night or rest as well. He also wondered what would happen if any other monsters came out of nowhere and attacked. It was better to have two on the watch than one.

Midnight curled up next to Walker and stayed in the warmth. She looked at Kroll one last time making sure the goblin was not going to do anything. She may have realized what the new title meant but she was another monster. She would not trust as easily as the rest of their party. However, she knew that Walker would not leave her, in danger and decided to rest nonetheless.

Walker sat up for a long time. It seemed that Kroll and Onyx were getting along rather well. Onyx seemed to have a really good knack for getting someone talking, it was a wonder that he didn't have a skill for it. "Brother, Kroll says that the elves use the same kind of arrows as Gil." Onyx had managed to get in the same topic as the arrow that arcane marksman used. This was a good point for Walker to wake Gil up.

"Is it morning already?" Gil groggily mumbled as Walker gave him a few taps on the shoulder to get up.

"No, it's your turn to take watch. Plus Kroll is talking about the arrows the elves use. I thought you would be interested." Gil shot up and out of his makeshift bed. This was something he refused to let escape him.

"And you waited to wake me up? This is super important." Gil rushed off to the fire and let Onyx on to his shoulders for a change.

Walker just smiled to himself knowing that he had told Gil as soon as Onyx had told him about the arrows. Walker made himself his bed next to Midnight and let the night pass.

Walker woke up when it was still dark to Su nudging him. "Leader, it is time to get moving Onyx got the direction of the massive slime and we are all ready." Midnight was also just waking up and gave Su a look that pleaded for more time to sleep.

The two got themselves up and shook away the sleep. They snacked on a few pieces of no stale bread and even left some for the sleeping goblins. Kroll had been awake all night and so had Onyx.

"Onyx, let Kroll know that we are going off after the massive slime. Also, remind him that our friends are coming to protect them." Kroll looked to be happy to hear Onyx's translated words. The goblin spider rider was even happier seeing the bread that was left warming by the fire.

"Kroll says that he will always hold great respect for you and that you will win your battle." Walker took this as a goodbye and the party also made gestures of goodbye. When the party finally started to walk away from the goblin's small camp Walker could see Kroll falling to the side dead asleep.

"Soooo we are now friends with goblins." Remey was not sure how to start the conversation now that they were walking away from them.

"About that, what really made you want us to help them? The system gave us a quest, yes, but you already had your mind made up before that, I know you, Walker."

"How would you feel if someone showed up and kicked you out of your home?" Walker's words were much heavier than Gil had been prepared for when he asked his question.

"The more people we meet and the more species of monsters we fight, the more I learn. My feelings that every monster is not evil are only enforced after meeting Kroll. I hope we have a chance to meet an ancient dragon one day. Maybe Midnight will meet some mentors and we can learn about how the

world has changed." Su was speaking on these things casually. But the meaning of her words was much more.

If the party learned more about the history of the world they might understand where the hate of goblins truly came from and why the wars had started in the past. The more they knew now the more they could understand now. This theory had saved many lives throughout all of history and using it was never a wrong process.

"Maybe goblins aren't that smelly. I expected them to be unbearable. But they more smelled like dirt than anything." Remey's random out loud thought made everyone laugh. They all had realized that when they first met the goblins but Remey was finally saying it out loud now that they had left the goblin's little camp behind.

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