

Master 411

Chapter 411 - 411. Testing A Perfect Blade

Miranda the elemental spell sword didn't take her eyes off the crystal sword for a second. She had heard Walker's words but had become too caught in the feelings of the elemental mana. Her hands brushed past the many swords on her hips and back. "I have always used many rune engraved swords, but could never have anyone due to the space and materials needed to have an all elemental sword. But this...feels like I have found something I have been missing my whole life."

To Miranda, the perfect crystal sword was calling for her to reach out and grasp it. She was an elemental spell sword and was not bound by one singular element, therefore, using one sword had always felt as if she was missing something. The sword in front of her felt like it would make her whole.

"I don't know what is stopping you from picking it up. You said you received a quest, right?" Walker had hope that he could one day feel this way about a weapon as his partner. He could see the look of yearning on her face and didn't mind at all that she was a little rude.

"Are you sure? I know I may have a quest, but it would be inappropriate for me to claim this as my own." She still had her manners intact and needed to set a good example for the spell swords present.

"Come on, and show us what it can do!" One of the mages had started to lose patience and gave his own encouragement. This caused a few others to shout out as well. They had never assisted in the creation of a perfect item and wanted to see exactly what their effort had brought in to the world.

Walker looked at Miranda with an unfazed face and gestured for her to take the sword. "It is part of my service to the queen to assist in such things, so I will do as you all ask." Miranda tried to hide her excitement but it was impossible. Everyone was equally excited and wasn't hiding a single thing.

Miranda reached out and gingerly grasped the handle of the perfect crystal sword. The elements within it instantly started to harmonize with her causing a slight pulse of natural mana to ruffle everyone's clothing and hair.

The mages stepped back and allowed Miranda room to aim at the targets in front of her. There were multiple crystal and wooden training dummies set up for her to try and attack. The elements circulated through the perfect crystal sword making the entire room vibrate in elemental mana.

The sword first took on the wind element and was slashed down. The thrown blade of air elemental mana was powerful and able to slice one of the wood training dummies in to pieces. The blade did not dissipates however, it continued and landed in to the wall of vines causing damage there as well.

"Oh come one!" Alma rushed over to the spot and frantically started whispering to the vines trying to repair and strengthen the wall. She grabbed a mana potion from a nearby mage and made rushed to make the wall even more solid for the next slash which Miranda had started preparing.

With Alma stepping back Miranda slashed out with a fire thrown blade, then an earth thrown blade, and even more a water thrown blade. She had been able to gather multiple elemental mana while the wall was reinforced.

Elemental thrown blades impacted the dummies causing massive damage. The fire turned the entire dummy in to a complete pile of broken coal and ashes. The water elemental thrown blade cause a layer of ice to spread upon the entire dummy and crack apart. The earth thrown blade was equally interesting in the fact that when it made contact the dirt on the ground shot up and made a few needles to pierce the training dummy.

"Her attacks are much more powerful than mine. If I were to use the same slash then the dummy wouldn't have turned to ash and coal like that." The magma swell sword was in awe over the strength that was being shown to them.

"It must be a combination of the sword and her level being higher. But I believe that the effects are different as well." Walker was already making his own theories when comparing the thrown slashes from before to these of an elemental spell sword.

"I am going to use the darkness and light elemental thrown slash. I heard the news of your fusions skill and which to use the one that I have been given by my system." Miranda spoke with her words directed at Walker. This made the light and dark mages murmur in excitement. They would have even more information to go with their experimentation.

The darkness elemental mana and light elemental mana condensed on the blade making wisps of light and darkness swirl about. The heavy feeling in the room intensified much more than when Walkeralonghis fusion skill. This was the high amount of mana that the perfect sword was able to draw along with Mirandas' higher level.

She raised the sword slowly while controlling the element and sashed downwards with intense focus. The slash traveled and flashed extremely brightly while sending out waves of darkness elemental mana. The three dummies left were all affected and began to rot at an extremely high rate. The mana that had been stored inside had been forced out intensifying the decaying effect of the darkness elemental mana.

The fire mages jumped in to action burning away the decaying training dummies to prevent any further spreading. The perfect crystal sword was noticeably drawing in the elemental mana in the room to replenish. With her strikes complete Miranda calmed herself and started to use her own skills to replenish the mana.

Chapter 412 - 412. Bonding The Blade

"I just finished the first step in the quest to unlock my mastery skill. Please assist me in bonding this crystal sword to my body." Miranda looked at Walker and Alma wanting their assistance.

Walker turned to Alma a little lost, "I have never done anything like that and I don't know how I would help."

"It's actually easier on your side. You were able to control all of the elemental manas and your role in this would be to keep them from running amok while she adds her own mana to the sword. I would be there to make sure that you and her are able to remain in pique condition." Alma had seen this done a few times.

"Can I ask what the bonding will do for her and the sword? I have not heard too much because it is not very common in my kingdom." Walker was still a little lost and only knew that mastery level weapons that were made uniquely for a mastery level system user with a mastery skill.

"It will make the weapon only able to be used by her. It will also speed up the use of skills with it. Her mana will be part of the sword so that it is literally part of her being. If the sword is damaged after being banded with her she will feel pain, but she will gain a better connection. It is easy to say that the benefits gained from the process will make this weapon a mastery level perfect crystal sword. It might even change its appraisal all together."

Walker was impressed and absorbed this information. "So it will become the same as a mastery weapon. Is it because it is a perfect sword do you think? I feel like a regular item wouldn't be able to handle the stress." Walker could already tell from the looks of the others that this was true.

"That is exactly right. The other crystal mages have staffs that they had made that some have tried to bond to them so they can shape crystals better and they shattered during the process. But there was a master crystal mage that made a crystal staff that could hold mana he separated from crystals and distribute it to other crystals. He bonded with it after condensing the crystal to the hardest possible density." The crystal mage had his own goals related to this exact occurrence, it was one of his reasons to improve.

"That is why I received a quest to come here, I have no mastery skill and the last elemental spell sword to exist in the kingdom never discovered theirs. I will be the first to display the skill." Miranda had a strength to her words that the other elves could only respect. She had a rare system when it came to the spell swords and it gave her a chance to rise to a very high ranking member of the elves. But seeing that it wasn't just the rarity of her system that determined her ranking, but the hard work, made them want to follow her to battle as well.

"Then I see no reason to wait. Alma do you need another mana potion?" Walker drank one offered by the light mage and wanted to be sure that Alma was also full on mana. He had no idea how hard this would be to do.

Miranda placed the crystal sword on to the center of the training area so that it was balanced inside and outside with the elemental mana. She sat down and waited for Walker to join her. Alma placed a hand on each other their shoulders while the other mages watched this eagerly. They had seen the binding of weapons a few times but it was not an every day occurrence. For some mages it was a massive right of passage.

"I will begin, please keep the elemental mana contained and balanced within." Miranda used a small dagger at her hip to prick her finger and let the blood drop on to the perfect crystal sword. The blood resonated with the sword as she pushed her finger to it.

Immediately Miranda's face paled. It wasn't from the loss of blood but the heavy stress from the swords mana pushing back against her. Adding mana in to something that had stored mana or bonded mana was not an easy process, it was not welcoming to another form of mana.

Walker could sense the restless elemental mana in the sword and used his grand elemental manipulation to force it to maintain its calm rotation. The only problem was that Walker had no control over the mana that Miranda was pushing in to the blade. Her mana was completely unaffected by Walkers' control.

"Your mana is the wild card in this and it's making the elemental mana unstable. You need to bind it to the crystal and let it rotate with the elemental mana." Walker knew that if Miranda could manage this then he would be able to push the elemental mana to follow her mana easily.

Her face twitched as she heard this knowing that what he was asking was not an easy task. The elemental mana was repelling her own mana. She may have a lot of it due to her higher level and longer lifespan as of yet. But it was still nothing compared to the pressure of the natural elemental mana that had been condensed and stored by multiple mages.

"Alma sensed that Walker was getting low on mana already and started using her skill. She was still a little tired from before but she could push through the mental strain. She needed to make sure that this worked out because if it did it would be a massive gain for her people. On top of that, it would be an amazing accomplishment for her kingdom to show off when the other kingdoms arrived.

Chapter 413 - 413. Audience

Walker could feel the mana that Miranda was adding stop pushing on the elemental mana for a moment. It instead started to spread itself thinly over the entire crystal sword. This slowed the rotation of the elemental mana as if it was being weighed on. Miranda had started to sweat a little but her face was less pale. The pressure on her had started to decrease after she started to focus on the crystal instead of the elemental mana.

Her mana slowly became part of the crystal aspect of the sword and in less than ten minutes it had become bonded. This allowed Walker to be able to speed up the rotation and flow of the elemental mana.

Miranda flinched as the elemental mana pushed at her again but using her newly created bond with the crystal she was able to push back as an equal. The mana began to flow through the entire blade and even exchange with Miranda herself. She began to feel that she was a true elemental spell sword instead of just one that used the elements.

Walker took his hands away suddenly making Alma jump. She had not expected him to stop but he had felt it was the right moment. Miranda had no awareness of this and was struggling still. Walker saw that she was pushing more and more with her own mana as the elemental mana in the sword expanded.

Within moments of Walker ending his influence, the perfect crystal sword changed appearance. It became full of more elemental mana than it had before by pulling it in from the air. The crystal resonated with Mirandas' heart beat and she stood tall holding the sword in her hands. The blood on her hand melted in to the sword and her wound healed itself.

With the training room returned to the natural order of calm everyone watched Miranda for her next move. Alma had also stepped back and was staring intently at Miranda, "Have you finished the process of bonding?" Her voice held a pressure she had not exhibited before other than when she spoke in front of the queen.

No sooner had she closed her mouth did the elemental mana from the sword begin to fluctuate and demonstrate its power. Mirandas' eyes flashed open and a bright smile showed on her face, she almost looked hungry. "I wish to demonstrate my mastery skill that I have learned. Or would you like me to wait?" She looked for Almas' approval since it was a devastating attack.

"I am here children." The voice of the queen shocked the elves in the room and the vines began to form a dense wall. There was a large training dummy forming in the training room along with multiple enforcers entering. "I must thank you all for your hard work, I was notified that a major breakthrough had occurred and I wished to see it." The queen was again walking with the use of the vines. It was an extremely important appearance.

"You have been a constant surprise since you entered the kingdom, your friends as well." The queen was very impressed by Walker and his Party's actions. Her gaze landed on Midnight who was close to Walker but then drifted to Onyx. It appeared that she was understanding something but didn't speak.

The vines the queen had controlled had made the toughest looking training dummy yet. It had pieces of the other dummies held within and could take any hit from any mage present. "I recommend all that are present retreat behind my commanding spell sword before she tests her new attack for the first time."

The mages scrambled to follow the queen's words and Alma rushed to her side. With everyone out of the way, Miranda started to gather mana around her. "This will take a little time and will be hard to use while in battle. But it will be the strongest attack I can use. I already know the requirements and draw backs."

The queen was listening intently as small vines rose around all those who were watching. Walker noticed that Onyx hadn't moved and the queen was encasing him in vines as well. He wanted to shout out to him but the queen was giving him a reassuring smile. Walker decided to trust the queen and leave Onyx as is.

"I can use this as long as I have the proper elemental mana built up. I will need a full day to replenish it and during that day I can not move a muscle and will require a guardian." Miranda said this drawback and many of the mages started to whisper. This was very similar to the drawbacks they have heard about when a master elemental mage uses their skill.

Walker was comparing this to the other mastery skills he had seen thus far and thought it was not a major drawback. She could be limited to the skill only being used once a month, but when he considered that Miranda was in essence completely vulnerable for a full day he realized it was very dangerous. Any enemy could pick her off in that time.

"My young mages and spell swords. Please use any defensive skills in front of us so that we are sure to protect our guests and ourselves." The enforcers that had come with the queen kneeled in front and presented their shields in a solid wall formation behind the vines. They were well prepared to defend against large al attacks.

"Let me help a little as well." Walker used his multi buff spell on those watching which increased their abilities to defend. It made them all look over and relax more. They didn't want to get injured from the testing of a new skill but knew they couldn't be reckless. The change in mana signaled that it was time for Miranda to activate her skill.

Chapter 414 - 414. Backlash

Miranda held the sword above her head ready to strike. " Hear my call oh mana of the world. I ask you to blow away the ashes of those I burn. I ask you to bury those that I drown. I wish for the light to separate the soul from the decaying body of that which I see as an enemy. Repent upon your fate, perfect elemental slash!"

Miranda shouted her mastery skill chant and a torrent of elemental mana burst from the blade. Walker could see an untold variation of elements combining and breaking avert. The blade itself had become a source of creation and destruction. Not a single person watching could take in a breath under the pressure.

Miranda slashed down sending a blade of fusing elemental manas. When it hit the massive training dummy the queen had created there was no explosion. There was no sound. Instead, there was only silent destruction. The elements reacted simultaneously freezing, burning, slicing, decaying, shattering, electrifying, building, and destroying the dummy.

The sight was impossible to describe other than that of pure elemental wrath. The dummy was soon nothing but a cloud of dusty ash blowing away in the breeze from the attack. Walker couldn't fathom what he had just seen. There was nothing that could explain what had just happened.

The only one able to move was the queen. She made the vines move away from the clearing dust and saw that the attack had erased the very existence of the dummy she had made. Looking farther she also saw that the vines had been severed from their root and would soon die. The entire training area was going to need to be regrown. But this was not a major loss, they had gained much more.

Walker soon tore his eyes from where the dummy had been and to where the queen was walking. She had stopped where Miranda had been standing. Alma and he rushed over to her side and were stunned by how Miranda looked.

Where Miranda had stood holding the sword had been replaced by a grey stone like a statue of her body and the perfect crystal sword. "She is a statue..." Alma was afraid that Miranda had died from the strike but as the enforcers surrounded Miranda and them, she realized it was not the case.

"Walker, you can feel the elements. Can you explain what has happened for Alma?" The queen knew she could explain the situation but felt it was wise to allow Walker to get a feel himself. It was also another brick added to the road of bonding for the elves and humans to let him explain what had happened.

"From what I can sense there is no elemental mana at all in her body or the sword. She has been petrified to some degree due to the loss of elemental natural mana and the mana her body produces. I believe this is what she meant by the fact that for a full day she wouldn't be able to even move a muscle while she absorbs elemental mana."

"So she is trapped there until she can absorb what she used. This is a dangerous attack both for the user and the receiver." Alma was terrified and worried.

"Yes, it is. It caused more damage than I predicted and also puts the user out of any battle for a full day or for their life if they are harmed. It can end a war or cause the loss of a war. I do not believe this should be used unless the entirety of our race is at risk." Hearing the queen say this every elf present sealed away this memory. If the worst were to happen they would need to be ready to protect their elemental spell sword.

I can't think of any way to protect myself from a skill like that. There is no weakness unless I could make a shield using every single elemental mana and then fuse them in untold ways." Walker was trying to speak of what he saw but many of the mages also had the same struggle.

"I saw a storm at one point in her strike but then I saw what looked like an earth melting. One part was a blizzard and..." Alma was having trouble speaking as well but they both agreed that it was an intense attack.

"The world has many combinations of the elemental mana. It is called natural mana due to the fact that it is the dance of this elemental mana balancing itself at all times to make nature flow. We may manipulate and change it, but we are also part of that balance. I saw creation and destruction in one attack. The dummy I made was not destroyed in to nothing but changed. That dust that blew in the wind was the very essence of what was destroyed."

The queen pointed out the exposed roots of the vines that made up the training area. They were covered in the grey dust but that wasn't what drew their attention. What really caught them was the fact that they had already begun to sprout and grow when they should be too damaged to do so.

"That's amazing. It is like a fertilizer made of natural mana. The attack may have used all of Mirands' mana and stored elemental mana, but it left behind the perfect material for new life to grow." Alma and Walker both marveled at this until the queen interrupted.

"Now, I know this was a lot to take in and you may wish to understand what is happening better. But your party member is in need of your attention." The queen had waved a hand making the vines she had encompassed Onyx with start to subside. However, Walker did not see Onyx at all, he saw a dense mass of shadow where Onyx had been.

Chapter 415 - 415. Young Adult

Walker stepped toward the shadowy mass hesitantly. He wasn't sure what had happened, this was not the usual skill Onyx would use to become a shadow tattoo or melt in to a shadow. "Onyx?" His voice was soft but easily heard through the silent training area.

The shadows appeared to be shifting in response to his words. "Is that Onyx?" Alma came up and sounded her voice of worry. Midnight was right beside Walker equally curious. Her muscles were tense and she had a slight fire in her belly.

There was a slight shift and Walker made out something that was not part of the shadows on the ground. "Look, there is a piece of his skin. I think Onyx shed his skin!" This was more exciting than he had imagined. Onyx had been ravenously consuming the light elemental mana for the past day and this must be the result. He had finally had his growth spurt.

The shadows vibrated and Midnight stepped forward. Walker wanted to pull her back but instead decided to follow her lead. Alma was not as brave and didn't know Onyx well enough, therefore, deciding to hold back.

"Onyx, are you feeling alright?" Walker and Midnight were both worried at this point since Onyx had not replied at all. Walker checked the party status and still saw that Onyx was in the party meaning he had definitely not been harmed by the mastery skill.

Walker did notice that there was a slight change in the species of Onyx, it read Young adult Abyssal serpent now. This was a good sign that Onyx had grown and might just need a little time to adjust. Midnight was sure to have the same issue while she grew.

"Brother. Sister." The voice that filled their minds was much heavier than it had been but was undoubtedly Onyx. Walker and Midnight both had excitement flow through them as the shadows started to break.

Onyx was not a smaller serpent any longer. His size had tripled, his head was easily the size of Midnights', it was even a little larger. The thickness of his body as it slithered out of the shadows was similar to a tree of some years. But what shocked everyone witnessing this the most was his length. Onyx could easily have wound himself around an elephant now if he so desired.

"Hahahaha, I don't think you can sit on my or even Midnights' shoulders now." Midnight huffed and flapped her wings a little laughing with Walker. The two had teased Onyx as soon as he had shed his skin and shown his growth.

"Brother, do not worry I have a skill that will let me do so with ease." This made them both stop suddenly. Their laughter had been the only sound in the room.

"Before that, why didn't you mention that you were about to shed your skin and grow?" Walker had been a little worried the entire day since Onyx had acted strangely.

"I was not sure I was going to. I knew I would need to shed my skin soon, but I was too hungry to tell if I would be full. I just continued to eat and store the nutrients on my shadow." This was a new fact that Walker had not known about Onyx. Surprising abyssal serpents would store their light elemental mana that they used as nutrients in their shadow.

Midnight was growling slightly while adding some small huffs here and there. "No sister, you can not ride my back instead. I said before that-"

Walker cut Onyx off, "Yes, Midnight it right. We can right on your back now so be prepared." He smiled a little mischievously at Onyx who was slithering away from them.

"No, I will shrink myself and ride on your shoulder like usual..." Onyx tried one last time to argue against Midnight and Walker but saw that he had no chance of winning. "Just for the trip back to the tree house..." Onyx sounded a little pitiful, however, this did not affect Walker and Midnight at all. They had carried him around many times and it was only fair now that he was a young adult abyssal serpent with a massive size.

Alma just stood in place wondering what was wrong with these three. Not only had they just assisted on and witnessed a mastery skill with extreme potential, but now they were casually chatting about something silly like riding on each other's backs. She had no words that could merge the radical change in topic.

"Brother, I only gained one skill from my growth. But it lets me change my size. It is called shadow shrink. I can shrink my putting my body mass in to my shadow." Onyx started to demonstrate. There shadows he produces spread out around the room reaching the size he was. But his actual body seemed to melt in to the shadows leaving behind a hatchling sized Onyx.

"Now I see why you said you can ride on my shoulders again." Walker just laughed more to himself as the cute little hatchling Onyx slithered over.

"Wait, and now he's just a little noodle again? What is this? I have never seen such a skill." Shocking everyone the queen let out her own exasperated shout. Walker wasn't sure if the queen had actually spoken of if the shock from so many good things had finally broken his mind.

"My queen, please rephrase your question." Alma bowed slightly trying to remind the queen of her standing. With a slight cough, the queen hid away her curiosity and shock. Walker was happy to see that the queen was much like her people; interested in the curiosities of the world and the systems within it.

"Ehm, please explain to me what you know of that little serpents' species. I find him to be very interesting compared to the giant boas and wind gliding serpents we have in the forest." Walker smiled and started his explanations.

Chapter 416 - 416. Relation

"So an abyssal serpent egg can be dormant for years on years if they can not gather proper light elemental mana to hatch and grow?" The queen had listened to what Walker knew and had an attendant write this down. The elves didn't have any ravines near their forest and had never encountered such a rare monster before.

None had asked any question about Onyx before due to their hesitation in conversing. But now that more information had been dangled in front of them there was no way that any elf let alone the queen, would not want to know everything possible.

I did notice the control over the shadows and the fact that he was able to draw in the light element. That is similar to the wind gliding serpent. It is green and lives high in the trees. To travel it waits for a gust of wind then leaps up in the air and glides to another tree. It has the ability to feed on the wind elemental mana." The queen had seen these serpents her entire life and easily drawn the line to connect Onyx to them.

"Brother, do you believe they are my distant cousins?" This made them all laugh a little.

"That could be the case. I honestly have no idea where either of your species had begun. If that is the case then it is pretty amazing that the change between elemental affinities could occur like this.." Walker pondered the many years that would be needed to make it to such a difference.

"But wouldn't Onyx perish if he isn't able to eat enough light elemental mana? So why would they live in deep abysses or ravines?" Alma was curious about this fact. It made no sense to her.

"I would bet that it has to do with predators. They may be able to hide in their shadows and manipulate a shadow to a degree but I believe those skills were learned to specifically hide away. They also absorb

light from any source so it is not required for them to be in direct sunlight, plus consume light elemental mana crystals. I think I read once that light elemental mana crystals actually grow better in the dark because there is a place light and only light can influence them naturally."

"Yes, it is usually a surprise, but the darkness elemental mana crystals will grow right next to them." Alma had also learned this fact and wanted to join in a little more as well.

The queen having gained the knowledge and seen that her attendant recorded it looked at Onyx. "Congratulations on your growth spurt, and also for being the first abyssal serpent within the forest elf city. Now I must leave for some ceremonies to prepare for the full moon tonight. I recommend getting some rest if you are going to meet and assist in the potion refining later."

"Oh, no. I was too focused on the things happening here that I forgot about the full moon. Walker, I must leave as well. The lunar priestess needs my assistance for her healing preparations." Alma followed the queen out leaving Walker with the mages who had all be examining the effects of the various skills used today.

After some time with the mages, Walker was able to separate himself from their theories and questions. It had been a great challenge since the spell swords had also been trying to ask him to help make them a crystal sword. Some even requested he train with them to help them gain a new understanding of the specific element.

"Brother do you have any more light mana crystals? I used the majority of my stored mana to grow and my appetite is still strong." Walker could only wonder just how much Onyx was going to be eating from now on. He was going to have to invest in more and more light elemental mana crystals as time went on.

"I have a good idea. I have a lot of the crystals, but why don't we head over to a shop that sells them and find a mid tier or a high tier light elemental mana crystals so that it lasts longer?"

"I would like that." With Onyx's approval, the trio headed off towards the market.

Walker!" Su's shout caught their attention as they went by the same shop with hanging rune fabrics. Su was holding a large parcel which was the order they had placed. She had already beaten Walker to one place.

"Hello, I thought you would have long beaten me through everything." Walker stored away the fabrics so that Su wouldn't be troubled by carrying them.

"I was about to get to the shops when I ran in to Calen. She showed me to the best places to sit and eat here in the city and we spent some time bonding. She has a lot of energy but she is very kind. I hope that she is able to slow down and enjoy the roses more." Su spoke like she had spent a little time babysitting as well. But her face was full of joy so Walker made no comment.

"So, when are you going to explain Onyx reverting back to his adorable baby state?" Su had seen this but didn't want to force them to explain in the very first instant they meet back up.

"Well, he shed his skin and had a growth spurt. It was after witnessing a mastery skill so I was terrified he had been hurt in some way. But I was wrong and he was actually a massive young adult abyssal serpent. He can even give us a ride on his back."

"Brother, I am comfortable here. Please let me rest. I am very tired." Onyx tried to be sneaky and pretend to be tired. But Walker knew better. Onyx had already asked for more food so he was not going to sleep anytime soon.

Chapter 417 - 417. Drawing Attention

"Sister, I have said that I won't let you catch up to me. I will be the biggest little brother." Onyx had decided that he would stay ahead of Midnight in size forever. However, Midnight had rejected this and currently argued with Onyx while Walker explained the entire story in detail.

"I swear, if you two keep fighting I will make Walker hold on to your food for an extra hour." Su had rarely used the strict voice she was capable of. But she had become a master at mediating the disagreements between Remey and Gil. Stopping these two from fighting was child's play to her compared to them.

" Please reconsider. I am willing to give you a ride on my back if you do." Walker's jaw dropped. Onyx was being so shameless. He had tried to get out of letting Walker and Midnight on to his back to balance out the many days of him resting on their shoulders. But now he so easily offered it to Su.

Midnight beat Walker to reprimanding Onyx and the two became much more intense in the arguing. Su was forced to watch as the two eventually came to a conclusion. "Sister and I agree that I will let you all rest of my back if we both get our choice of high elemental crystal."

"Wait, but how does this work out that way?" Walker was about to make them answer when Su gave him a nudge to drop it.

"They worked it out themselves, just do it. We have the gold and we are going there anyway."

"That is agreeable. Then we should get going." Onyx was more excited than the others seeing that his and Midnight's plan had worked. He immediately started to return to his natural young adult size.

The shadows pulled out and made his shadow appear normal for the size he was becoming. The daunting young adult abyssal serpent soon rested in front of them. "When you have a growth spurt I did not imagine it was this major. How did you even survive being so small and then switching to this." Su was just gesturing with wide arms in amazement.

To Su, this was an impossible growth all at once, but after Walker and Onyx explained that Onyx's species could store away nutrients for growth it made sense. "I just can't believe that he is already bigger than Midnight," Walker whispered this so he didn't restart the sibling rivalry between Onyx and Midnight.

"You did say they were once known as world eating serpents. That might be a myth for all we know, but if this kind of growth spurt happens it makes sense." Su remembered the myth from when they all first spoke about Onyx and researched his species.

"I'm just worried that he will have a hard time growing now. I can't imagine how much light elemental mana he will need to grow to an adult...or more." Walker thought that an adult Onyx could be too massive to imagine. However, why would happen if he could grow more after that?

The four all heard this and pondered what an elder abyssal serpent would look like. It could be incredibly large, possibly enough to snap up the entire kingdom in one bite.

"Sooo Onyx, would you like to lead the way to the crystal shop?" Walker slowly said this making Onyx recoil a little.

"I did promis elder sister Su..." Onyx spread himself out so the three could hop on and be his passengers for once.

"Your scales are much tougher now." Su felt that the scales weren't as hard as Midnights but had significantly strengthened. They had started to replace the stat that Walker could see through the party leader function.

"Sister, I am not big enough to see the world from my back. But when you can fly you can share with us the views of the world." Onyx was dismissing some of Midnight's claims. This didn't mean that his happiness at his size didn't show.

The three were watchers on Onyx's back as they traveled the ground towards the market street. They drew a huge amount of attention since no elf had seen such a creature as Onyx before.

A few jumped in fear that a strange giant boa had shown itself. Yet when they saw the heroes on the back of Onyx they were able to relax. Walker couldn't help to kick himself a little since they had again put themselves in gossip's grip.

Onyx was able to safely make it to the market in no time flat. He was happy that he was able to coil up in the sun that shown on the market during the day and decided he would wait outside.

His massive coils of scales slowly shrank as he used his skill and soon he was resting on a nearby bench. "I'll grab you the best light crystal I can. Don't worry." Walker gave his word as the three went in to the shop.

Midnight was eager to explore the crystals and pick out the one she wanted to eat. For here this was the same as a child going to a candy shop. The options were exceptional and the flavors endless.

"You're back already?! I thought it would take you more time with those experiments." Bree was almost unhappy to see them, but seeing that she was just restocking the shelves with crystals Walker understood why.

"Sorry for coming back so soon. We were just too excited to purchase your and the spirits amazing quality crystals." Walker had learned that flattery in life was always a safe bet.

"Of course of course. It has nothing at all to do with the hungry looking dragon sniffing all the dual elemental crystals." Walker had lost even when giving it his best shot. Su laughed silently seeing the slightly depressed look Walker had.

Chapter 418 - 418. Poor Quality

"Midnight, come meet Bree. She is the one who makes these elemental mana crystals with the elemental spirits she is bonded with." Midnight left the shelves of crystals and came to sniff Bree.

"You're cute, but if you keep eyeing my crystals like they are food I will have to kick you out." As mature as Bree was the response was still childish.

"Miss Bree, we came looking for a mid or high tier light crystal for one of our party members. We are also looking for one that Midnight can eat to strengthen her scales. We hope you can assist us." Su just greeted Bree politely and tried to get the ball rolling.

"Well, I do have some high tier light crystals that I recently made. I can part with three of them at the moment. But the others I have are for orders. And the other matter depends on the elemental mana affinities this little dragon has." Bree loosened up as she spoke thanks to Su's words.

"Then we will gladly take those high light crystals. Midnight will choose them herself. She knows best." Su was smart not to admit that Midnight could consume any elemental mana crystal here. It was too rare for there to be multi elemental mana crystals that could give her system away.

"Midnight, you have not eaten many earth elemental mana crystals compared to the darkness crystals. Maybe you should look for one of those?" Walker suggested this because he had not really gained these crystals for her to be able to eat them. He still had plenty of the elemental mana crystals at the forge in the mansion and in his inventory. But it was better to hold them for now.

Midnight bounced a little as she received the permission and advice to go choose a crystal. Her nose was turned up to the air and she was drawn down an aisle of shelves. She soon stood in front of some larger earth elemental crystals, but one in particular glowed with wisps of shadows.

Her soft huff from where she stood attracted the other three. "You want the mid tier earth and darkness elemental crystal? I can sell that no problem. It has been a while since anyone bought one of them so it is fairly priced to reflect that." Bree was curious how Midnight had zoned in on that specific crystal with only her nose. She has a suspicion that Midnight was using another skill or instinct.

Walker pulled out the gold necessary and was about to store the crystal that Midnight had chosen, "If she doesn't mind she can eat it here. I think the spirits would appreciate the learning experience of what the crystals can do for a dragon." Bree seemed to have her own curiosity as well but Walker saw no problems.

"I would like to see the spirits again too. I feel like they could teach me something important. Midnight, how do you feel?" Walker was met with a soft nod from Midnight. She was hungrily glancing at the crystal.

I will go get Onyx, he can wrap himself up with one of his light crystals while the spirits watch Midnight absorb the elemental mana from the crystal." Su left and quickly returned with a small Onyx on her shoulder.

"Well aren't you an adorable baby boa. I thought the regular boas had gone extinct when the giant boas had become the predators in the area." Bree was convinced that Onyx was a boa constrictor. "Why is he all black though? Usually, there are patterns on their scales and they are a dark green..."

"Miss, I am Onyx an abyssal serpent. I am not a boa." Bree smiled a little as if she already knew this. He had been playing with Onyx.

"I see an abyssal serpent. How rare to see you in the forest. You must be struggling with the shade from the trees. Wrap up with one of the light crystals over there. I will have my friend help you with the light elemental mana."

Bree let Onyx take a light crystal free of charge and used her skill to release the elemental spirits from her body. The light elemental spirit approached Onyx and started to force the light elemental mana to converge around him.

Onyx basked in this light and Bree smiled while pulling a note pad from her clothing. She took a few notes and then looked at a regular light elemental mana crystal. "I knew the absorption rate was being slowed due to the imperfections in these crystals. I need to take more time to refine them or find a better crystal craftsman."

"Are you looking for the same thing when Midnight eats the crystal she chose too?" Su was genuinely interested in the flaws an elemental crystal could have. If Bree was researching them then that meant she was aiming to make a better one.

"Yes, I know that monsters, humans, and even spirits have different ways to take mana in and out of elemental crystals. But the ways it is done depend on them. The quality taken in or out is dependent on the medium, in this case, the crystal." Bree was still making some notes here and there.

"The crystals I use are grown in a manaless area so that I can have them at a better quality than the ones I remove and change mana around in. But lately, I have noticed a decline in the quality. Naturally, I wish to figure out the specific defect and fix the problem."

"If you can find the problem can you tell me what the difference would be?" Walker had found his interest had been piqued and wanted to know more about the princess. He didn't even notice the elemental spirits crowding him and trying to examine him up close again.

Chapter 419 - 419. Only Seventy-One

"That's a great question, I will be able to make the crystal much more usable if the imperfections are fixed. First, the crystal naturally bleeds elemental mana. It is unavoidable but the rate can be lessened. Second, the flow of the mana when being used can be smoother so that it doesn't cause any damage to whatever it is being used by. And third, it can be made more sturdy so that it has less chance to break. For some elemental mana crystals, the possibility of breaking can mean death."

Walker understood these points and how they could be good for anyone that possessed the crystal. In Onyx's case, the crystal needed to let the mana flow out of it smoother. This would let him absorb the light elemental mana at a much better rate and safer.

"If a darkness elemental mana crystal broke, would it cause decay in the area due to the elemental mana density?" Si looked to Bree for the answer.

"That is exactly the risk. I take pride in never selling a crystal that has caused such harm. The fire elemental mana crystals breaking in certain ways could cause forest fires where water elemental crystals breaking could cause frost to spread and kill plants. The worst I have seen is a high earth elemental mana crystal breaking due to an imperfection and causing an earthquake."

This was all terrifying to them, "Can this happen to a normal crystal? Or only if it breaks due to certain reasons?" Walker was thinking of how Gil made his elemental arrows and worried that one day there might be an accident causing serious damage.

"It is specific reasons, the crystal needs to be defective in some way and needs to be very condensed. If a proper crystal breaks the mana will just bleed out in mere minutes. Improper crystals will shatter and cause a huge pulse of mana."

They were learning so much but Midnight was losing her patience. Her snack was sitting there mocking her while they all spoke and watched Onyx absorb the light elemental mana from a crystal. She nudged Walker a few times to get his attention.

"Sorry Midnight, I got focused on other things. Feel free to enjoy your crystal. I can ask Onyx to take you to the tree house if you are too tired after eating it." Bree was privy to the information that a monster would often need to rest after absorbing high amounts of elemental mana so she did not worry about midnight falling asleep.

"Yes, please eat eat." Bree pushed her on while Midnight opened her mouth wide. The sound of her teeth crushing the elemental mana crystal was not something Walker would ever get used to. It made his teeth throb in phantom pain. His skin crawled as the grinding of it reverberated through him.

"I see, so the elemental mana doesn't actually absorb in the beginning. It gathers in her stomach then slowly seeps in to here then moved towards her scales." Bree walked circles around Midnight making notes.

"Here and here. Yes and there too. I knew those points were weak. But it was a mid tier crystal." Bree mumbled to herself for a while before writing notes at a furious pace. "I have theories!"

Walker and Su looked on eagerly. Midnight and Onyx didn't bother looking up since they were completely focused on what they were doing. "There are some structural weaknesses in the crystals.

The first possible reason could be the crafter. They could be inexperienced and not able to craft them properly. The second is that the crystals themselves are growing improperly and I should go check the underground crystal growth chambers."

Walker and Su knew that they were being tempted. But the two of them easily folded to their own curiosity. "Is that something we could see?" Su's voice was soft since she knew this was bait from Bree.

"I am glad you asked. I was planning to go there today. I have no problem bringing you two along." Bree smiled knowing that her offer was not easy to resist. "Onyx and Midnight are welcome to rest here. They will need time to sleep off their absorptions."

"There is no way for us to refuse. This sounds like a very educational trip and I wouldn't have it any other way." Walker just smiled and went along. He was a little tired from the big events of earlier and didn't want to rush off in to anything. But if he gave up this chance he would be cursing himself later.

"Ariel! Come up front for a while." Bree yelled and caused a shuffling to come from the back room.

"Master, am I going to be watching the shop? Or do I have a new lesson?" The little elf girl that came up from the back of the shop looked to be the size of a human seven year old. But Walker and Su had learned that elves were deceiving. She was most likely many years older than them.

"This is my granddaughter Ariel, she has the same system as her grandma. I will leave here to watch the shop while we are underground."

"You can count on me!" Ariel ran to a stool by the entrance and sat down. She fiddled with a handful of tiny elemental crystals. She had been practicing her skills in the back like her grandmother had instructed her, Now she could run the shop and be the face of their crystals.

"Bye bye now. We will be back soon." Bree waved to Ariel as she pushed Walker and Su out the door. The two were still stunned by the fact that Bree had a granddaughter. "That girl will take over my shop one day. She has already bonded with three elemental spirits and she is only seventy one years old. Bree teared up talking about it.

Chapter 420 - 420. Down We Go

Bree didn't hesitate to lead them toward one of the openings in the ground by the base of the massive tree. She spoke the entire time about her elemental spirits which followed them the entire walk. She also couldn't resist speaking about her granddaughter.

"She was visiting me and was barely about to take her own steps when she was tickled by my elemental spirits. The next thing I know is she is trying to bond with one of them. She couldn't even say anything but for mama and papa. It was a surprise of a lifetime." Bree was gushing over the stories of her granddaughter like any grandmother would.

Walker and Su were still struggling with the fact that she looked so young to their standards. "So, I know we are going under ground, but what exactly are we going to?" Walker found a chance to cut in and ask where they were heading.

"Oh yeah, sorry I just get so caught up, you will be like this one day too. we are heading underground to the crystal smiths. They work near the roots of the tree so that the excess mana can be absorbed by the tree. Then from there, we can go to the underground crystal mines. They are more of a farm in a way than a mine though."

Walker couldn't help but get excited to see the crystal smiths. These crystal craftsmen were more specified than the crystal mage in creating things out of the crystals. Walker was sure to see the people who made the water spikes or even just shaped elemental mana crystals in general.

"I think it will be exciting to watch these elves work. Our kingdom doesn't have a crystal smith or craftsman at all." Su drew Bree's surprise with this.

"You really don't have them? I would have thought every kingdom has them in spades. Without them, we would be missing so many things for the city. I couldn't even do my job without them or advance my system level." Bree knew just how important crystals were to their city.

"Now we head down here and we will reach the general working areas for crystal smiths and craftsmen. We will probably see a few crystal mages as well if you're lucky." Bree beckoned for them to head down a large staircase. There were multiple groups of elves heading up and down towards the surface or the depths.

"I actually already met a crystal mage. I was able to work with them and create some interesting things as experiments. It's how I got the crystal crafting skill." Bree was taken by surprise yet again hearing Walker.

"If you want you can come down here anytime while you are visiting. I am sure that another person with crystal crafting skills will be welcomed. If you could even take some work off of the ones that are growing crystals you might be considered a saint." Bree laughed knowing that the crystals were always in high demand, even if they increased production the demand would mirror it.

"I think we should at least look to see what we can do to help. It is only fair since we are guests to your people." Su was only hearing the fact that they might need some help. Bree smiled warmly hearing this, Su was full of intoxicating kindness.

"I feel like these stairs are going on forever..." Walker was looking at the long staircase still stretching before them. There only things that made the view change were the elves coming back up to the surface and the light crystals put on the walls to radiate a faint light on the steps.

"Well, the roots are very deep. We are only going to some of the medium depth roots. The deepest is in a place much too dangerous for normal people to go." Bree was speaking about the chambers where fire crystals and lava crystals were made naturally. There were some tough tree roots that would move in and out of pools of lava.

"Miss Bree, we only have a short time until we need to be at the surface for the full moon tonight. That is why we are worried." Su was trying to keep their time which made Walker appreciate her much more.

"There's no need to worry. We aren't going far down. The place we need to go is fairly high in the levels. If we went all the way down it would take all day." She said this like it was a simple fact but Walker and Su had a hard time imagining the fact that they would have to travel all day to reach the lowest floors of the elven crystal growing operation.

"These light elemental crystals are set in the wall, but they are attached with the same rope that they used on us when we were imprisoned." Bree coughed a little when Walker said this. She had heard of the incident and didn't expect Walker to bring it up so casually.

"You are right. It is a similar rope that can easily drain or transmit mana. It is made from some hair from the unicorns. I know you met them as well." Bree tried to divert the attention from the while imprisonment incident but Walker hadn't been focusing on it in the first place.

"Does that mean that the mana gathered in your prisons is transferred to light elemental mana crystals to help keep them in working condition?" he could only imagine the benefits that this caused. It kept the city running without harming prisoners in a cruel manner. The only rough thing was that the ropes would need to bind them.

"Yes, that is the case. It is one of the more safe and humane ways to do good for our people and not harm those we punish." Bree gave up on trying to sidestep the conversation and gave Walker the answer he was looking for.