

Master 451

Chapter 451 - 451. Return To Rest

The party went off to rest while the enforcers left to report as Well. The only one that stayed with the party was Trish who was still struggling with the fact that she had not properly explained the side effects of the mana fruit to Remey. "Master alchemist. Please stop putting it on yourself. My party and you yourself protected me. I am fine and even gained twenty mana stat points. I am much stronger than I was before and if a little danger was the price then I am glad to pay it"

Remey had been trying to get Trish to stop apologizing and it made the entire party wonder where the strict elf they had met before had gone. Trish was showing much more than she had before and was even offering to make it up to Remey still.

"Master alchemist. I believe that Remey had already said that she holds no ill will. Please understand that as the leader of my party I must ask you to drop this. Remey still needs rest and so do we." Walker held a strict tone that seemed to shock Trish.

"No one has ever spoken to me in such a manner..." Trish seemed to be thinking hard on the way Walker had just spoken. "But it was necessary and I will forgive it. I was not acting as a master and instead allowed my emotions to run away with me. I look forward to speaking with you on the future matters of forming an alchemy guild."

Trish headed for her own dwelling and the party noticed a few enforcers join her. It appeared that they had been waiting for her to have this time alone to speak to her about what had happened. "I can place bets on the queen wanting to hear a report from us too after we rest." Gil was already predicting this because this had been a larger event than expected.

"Well, she will need to wait. Su and I already committed to helping with a mole problem in the underground. You should all come with us, it will be good training and we could find some rare items." Walker could only imagine what was down there to be discovered since the glowing mole had taken over the territory.

"Oh you know I am already coming. I need help getting those herbs so I can learn the night vision potion. I think it will have a huge advantage for us. I also believe that it will be better than any such potion we have in the kingdom." Remey had already said this but she shared again her thoughts on the potions' quality. Her energy was still going strong.

"I know you are excited but we haven't slept yet." Gil was a little touchy since he had not properly rested in a few days. Knowing that the other ambassadors were already approaching put him on edge even more. This was simply because they would have less freedom to explore after they came.

"So are you coming Gil?" Walker still didn't hear a straight answer from Gil and wondered if he would turn it down. "I know that the under ground may be tough for you to fight in since you have a ranged weapon. I just thought you would want to practice with your dagger more."

Walker's words made Gil think more about what he was going to decide on. "I want to say no because battling in the underground will make my bow skills harder to use. But if I can get used to this sooner than later I will already have experience when we go to the dwarven kingdom under the mountains."

"Leader, Midnight might already be asleep but we both know that she will want to go just so that she might be rewarded with slime crystals. She is getting hungrier by the day." Su brought this point up after noticing that Midnight had been eating larger and larger means.

"Yes, I noticed that too. She is also flapping her wings in battle more and I think this is the muscles naturally developing. She should be using most of the nutrients from food to build those muscles. If possible I hope she flies soon. Having these charms and an easy source of them means she can jump from tree branches and practice."

Walker had realized that the charms he and Su had bought the other day held a much more practical use than just keeping them safe if they fell out of a tree. They could also serve as a fall back for Midnight while she practiced. It was not something she would always have but it was something that would be her greatest friend for the time being.

"Brother, I wish to stay outside. I want to go and explore to find comfort in my growth." This was unexpected of Omnycxx. Walker had expected him to say he could go with them since Midnight would be going.

"Then I hope that you have a solid plan in mind. I thought you did well with the twin tailed moths earlier." Walker said this but felt a sense of loss from Onyx through their connection.

"Brother, I know I am weaker than all of you in level but due to my species, I am stronger. I fear I could hurt one of you by accident if I do not train myself with the same intensity as everyone in the party."

Onyx had been thinking about this since the movement he had his growth spurt. The last thing he wanted was to harm those he held dear to him.

"That is a great idea Onyx. I think you are wise beyond your years." Su started to melt as she patted Onyx on the head while he was in his smaller form. She cooed over his cuteness and brilliance while the party decided it was the best time to rest before waking up to go and meet Bree.

Chapter 452 - 452. Blue Cave Grass

"Walker, wake up already. We are all waiting on you!" Remey gave a shout to Walker who was still curled up with a blanket. He had overslept out of all of them due to his significant exhaustion.

"Hrmm?" Walker heard Remey but was still slightly in dream land. "Ah! Yes, I am awake!" He realized that he could feel the sunlight on his face and shot out of bed. He threw on his gear and smothered his hair trying to look like he had not just gotten out of bed.

"I don't know what you guys are on about. I was awake the whole time." He tried to play it off like he was already awake and just getting ready, but they could all see the hairs on his head sticking up every which way.

"Oh? And your hair just happens to be like that after you gave it a rinse? That's rough buddy." Gil couldn't help but tease Walker. It was almost part of his job in the party.

"We can make fun of him later. We need to go get the herbs I need for the night vision potion. Su, want to lead the way?" Remey was acting as the main motivation right now which was not surprising since she wanted to learn as much as possible before the king got to the city and they would be stuck in negotiations. There was also the looming fact that they would leave for the dwarven kingdom soon after.

Su gave a slight nod. She wanted to meet Bree as well since she was always a punctual person herself. Midnight and Onyx were paired up and ready to head out themselves. Walker saw that Midnight was giving her a look and could feel she was still hungry. He pulled some meat from his inventory and let her have at it before they walked out the door and descended the branches.

"Other than the glowing bell mushrooms what else should I have my eyes out for?" Gil wanted to keep a sharp eye out for anything that he could harvest and bring back. This was a valuable chance for him to use some of his foraging skills on new plants.

"We can look for some of the red ore vines. They eat away at ores in the ground and look like rust. They are perfect for salves, There's also some of the fluorescent moss that grows anywhere it is dark. It is pretty common in any mine or even some cellars but it is great for filtering water. Many people bring it along on adventures. As long as it is not left in the sunlight long it can live for years." Remey was already falling in to her newly found lecture mode.

Walker was sure that she was just happy to have the knowledge to share with all of them and he did his part to memorize what she was telling him. He never knew what would be useful in the future. "The only thing I know we must not touch is the blue cave grass. There are small blue thoughts of grass that look innocent enough, but they are loved by the rock mice and if you get the scent of it on you they will follow you everywhere."

Su was curious why the rock mice were so worrisome, she had heard about them being small cute monsters that never harmed anyone. "Why would we need to avoid having them follow us?"

"If they follow us in high number the other monsters might come to hunt them and by them, I mean us too," Remey explained the exact thing she had been told by Trish before. It was the reason why Trish did not grow any of the blue cave grass in the hanging garden. The rock mice didn't fear the highest if they could nibble on their favorite snack.

"Not touching the blue cave grass. Understood." Gil was not setting the goal to have a following of mice, let alone a monster hunting for prey.

"What would be hunting them in the caves?" Walker wondered if there was a monster that Remey wanted to avoid in particular. They may have been after a glowing mole but he was sure that they would run in to others as well.

"I was told that they are the main prey of the sharp tongued bats. Trish said they wouldn't bother with us as long as we don't bother them. But they can definitely cause us trouble." Walker listened to this and was not excited about this risk. Remey had heard a lot from Trish but at the same time, he wasn't sure how the crystal craftsmen were able to safely work.

"I am less excited than before but it's good to know." Gill looked a little worried. Knowing that he would be limited and unable to use his bow the same as he usually would make him uncomfortable. He was

going to face a flying enemy that would be an easy target normally for him, but now it would not be due to the terrain.

"We will do great. We have someone to guide us there and we know what we are going after. The best thing we can do is mentally prepare ourselves so that we can stay focused and get the quest done." Walker said these motivating words as he knocked on the door to Brees' shop before entering.

"Hello?"

"He's here!"

"Let's play tag again!"

"Show us more "

"Who are these people?"

Walker was instantly surrounded by the spirits who fluttered around like energized hummingbirds. "These are the elemental spirits that are bonded with Bree. They are excited to meet you all." Walker shared this and saw that Gil and Remey were still not acquainted with spirits just yet. Their faces showed the curiosity and small amount of fear that Walker was sure his had at first too.

Chapter 453 - 453. Spirit Crafting

"Oh, you are back. I will go get Grandma!" The little elf girl rushed from the front stool toward the back of the shop.

"They are here already? That's why those little monsters abandoned me back here." Bree sounded like the spirits had just left her with all the work without any reasoning.

Bree came out for the back of the shop with a few small crystal slivers on her clothing. "You're just in time. I have already finished up a few things today and was just about to clean up." Bree brushed off her clothes and made a few glares at the spirits which had left her high and dry.

"Miss Bree, this is Remey and Gil. You have already met the rest of us." Su made the introductions and the spirits proceed to spin around checking out Remey and Gil. The little mana waves were only understood by Walker and Bree.

"Gil, the wind spirit wants to look at your bow. It feels like it's fun. Remey, that water spirit and the fire spirit say they can feel the mana from potions on you. My bet is because you use both the most while making one." Walker translated a few things making the spirits more excited and the two to be surprised.

"You like my bow? We managed to get it from an elite archer skeleton in the ancient ruins. It is my partner and I would trust it with my life." Gil held the bow sideways so that the spirit could get a proper look.

The wind elemental spirit rushed around poking the bow here and there causing small bits of wind to flutter everyone's hair. "Well, that is interesting. It's like there is some form of spirit already in your bow." Bree shocked them all with these words. Gil had held this bow since the ancient ruins and had not noticed anything of the kind.

"Come out friend. Don't hide. You can play. Let's play." The wind spirit sounded frustrated to Walker.

"Bree, do you know why there might be a wind spirit within the bow?" Walker was the first to ask the question they were all wondering.

"That's a tough one. There are some al staffs that spirits will fuse themselves with naturally. Sometimes a grand spirit will do this because they want to protect something or partner with a guardian of a certain area."

Su and the others could easily understand this. "That sounds like a spirit p[rotecting a forest or guarding a sacred place. It is very logical." Su had no problem underetsanding this. "But why might one fuse with a bow?"

"That is the other option I know of. Spirit crafting. It is a system that we as elves do not allow in the kingdom due to the cruelty towards the spirits. None have gained the system here in many years and we prefer it that way since those who do are exiled. The spirits are the core of our beliefs and we can not tolerate them being harmed or abused in any way."

The wind spirit was still trying to coax out the other spirit that it said was within Gil's bow. Play! You can come out and play!" the shouts and mana were getting more powerful as the bow didn't react.

"I feel like I don't want to know what the spirit crafting systems would involve. But if it gives me insight to this bowie maybe it will be worth learning." Gil prepared himself to hear some of the worst.

"A spirit craftsman would have the skills to forge weapons or create armors using regular materials. But they would also be able to fuse spirits in to them making them gain unique abilities and strengths. Let me guess, that bow has some wind based attack or boost, right?"

Gil looked at Bree and replied with honesty, "Yes, it lets me use mana to make a wind arrow that can pierce through and cause wind damage to a target."

"That is the result from the spirit fusing with the materials within the bow. It was most likely forced to do so and became trapped. The spirit will not be able to keep growing naturally and require mana from the user of the weapon. This is unfair to the spirit and breaks the natural cycle. That is why we elves do not support it, but if this weapon is already made there is no going back. The only hope is that one day you can provide enough mana so the spirit can show itself."

"So it is up to me to become stronger and give this spirit a chance at a little freedom...I understand." Gil clenched the bow in his hands and let his mana flow in to it while swearing he will do just that.

The wind in the room kicked up making the wind spirit rush around more. It could feel that the spirit within the bow was stirring finally. However, just as the phenomenon appeared it faded away leaving the wind spirit sad again. "Why won't you play?"

"Gill will help make it stronger so it can play one day. Just give it some time." Walker tried to comfort the wind spirit but was shrugged off as it rested itself on the bow.

"Just wait it out. Spirits don't like to feel trapped especially wind spirits. It will come around, just let it be and bond with the bow for a while." Bree didn't seem very concerned about all this. Walker was just thankful that none of them were users of a spirit crafting system.

The party had lost some of their fire learning these things about Gil's bow. They had been so impressed by it and the skills it gave him, but now they were slightly afraid of him using it. "Stop with the sad faces, using the skill shouldn't hurt the spirit so you can rest easy."

Chapter 454 - 454. My Cozy Shop

Gil finally breathed a sigh of relief after hearing that he had not been torturing the spirit within the bow for this entire time. "I feel bad that the spirit had been trapped there for who knows how long. It was being used by a skeleton..."

"That sounds gross. I hope I never deal with any undead. I prefer my cozy shop." Bree shivered a little not wanting to ever smell the rotting flesh of any undead.

"Well, it wasn't as bad as you might think. But we got so immersed in it that we got used to any smells." Remey was past the emotional talks of the spirits and was ready to get on the way to the herb harvesting.

Su caught on to this while playing the little game of tag with the dark elemental spirit and decided to push things along. "I believe it is a time to deal with the mole problem miss Bree." Bree was happy to forget the undead in her thoughts and grabbed her basket from the counter.

"I will be back soon. I will leave you in charge again."

"I will do my best grandma!" Gil and Remey had already understood that elves aged differently than humans but were still surprised to hear the little elf girl call Bree grandma. This was a temporary hang up as they quickly left the shop with Bree in the lead.

The spirits insisted on gaining the attention of every single one of them as they walked down the same steps as the previous time. Gil and Remey had not expected to have to walk down so many stairs and were less than enthused. Luckily Midnight and Onyx were content with the walk as long as Walker shared some elemental mana crystals with them here and there.

The familiar sight of the crystal craftsman floor was soon expanded before them. This new sight to Gil and Remey brought some more excitement to their face as they immediately went toward the crafting area. Many young craftsmen were out and about today working on many things.

Gil was soon watching one make some arrows and Remey had found an audience watching one create some crystal armor. Both were caught up in the activities before they even got to where they were supposed to be. "You two realized that Bree is taking us to the crystal farm that her bother owns right? We aren't here to sight see." Walker teased the two who tried to wave him off. However, with the help of Midnight, they were dragged away after Bree who was heading toward a gated area.

There were two enforcers standing guard at the large metal gates. "We are going to clean up the glowing mole problem within my length of cave. Please allow me to guide them to the area." Bree spoke and the enforcers readily opened the gate. They both appeared to recognize her and didn't even need to ask her for any form of proof.

The metal; gate creaked as the doors swung open to reveal a dimly lit cave. There were a few elves around making it appear almost unnecessary for the gates to be closed. "Why are the gates closed when there are elves on the other side?" Remey asked this question while the earth elemental spirit tried to latch on to her foot.

"These are the crystal growing areas we use, but there are many connections to natural caves. We would be fools to believe that we have complete control of the entire area. If we were to deal with a monster horde then they could rise to the very center of your city. That is why we have many gates such as this spread through the entire cave system we use. I have heard that we could travel all the way to the dwarven kingdom and emerge out of the mountains if we traveled enough."

"That sounds a little risky." Gil was a bit less enthused hearing that the caves could be so large.

"They are natural caves. They were made by the flow of water and nature over time. They are a maze that no one has ever mapped out. I don't believe it would be a wise idea to try and travel that far. Bree agreed with him and pointed at the wall. "The area the elves roam is clearly marked out. My brother and I have a dead end portion of the cave, or at least it used to be a dead end portion of the cave."

The elves around the entrance to the caves were chatting and trading crystals with each other. Many of them were speaking like they were old friends and sharing techniques. This was a normal meeting place for them before they headed off to their own shops or to make deliveries.

"It looks like this area is relatively safe." Walker made the basic observation.

"Yes, the enforcers will do patrols of this area since it is so close to the craftsman. The farther away we get the more dangerous it is. There are also some areas that are abandoned due to money, crystal growth, and just plain old negligence. Those are where some of the monsters and animals will make their homes." Bree gave this warning just in case the party decided to go exploring. She had no idea where the glowing mole had dug and what caves it had connected.

"I do wonder where the mole came from and where it is now. If it is moving around in the area it may be invading others' crystal growing areas. If it is in a natural cave we should be prepared for the worst. One of these glowing moles sounds like they have some tough defenses. I don't know how multiple will be." Walker was trying to prepare himself for the toughest possible situation. He couldn't imagine a glowing mole coming from a farmed cave.

Chapter 455 - 455. Fork In The Cave

The party followed Bree a fair ways away from the first gate, so much so that they passed through two more similar gates. There were fewer elves the farther they had gone and even some small underground plants. The pathways themselves were littered with more loose stone and dirt, unlike the busier ones that were kept cleaner.

"This is the entrance to the section my brother and I own. It is a little farther from the floor but it is very high in natural mana so it is able to grow crystals faster. Also, the reason that the glowing mole must have come here for food. I don't know why it didn't choose one of the abandoned sections though. There are plenty off that way."

"I would guess because this part is unkempt more than the abandoned ones. If you are growing crystals here it would mean it smells more enticing." Su made her logical conclusion as to why a monster that fed on ores would want to come here.

"That is a fair point. It is most likely the best place for it to find a snack around. The problem is where it came from. If possible I would like the entrance it came from sealed or at least marked so we can watch it." Bree didn't expect this to be easily possible but thought she should put it out there.

"I can do that if we can find it. I will use my high earth sculpting to make sure it is reinforced as well." Walker chimed in with an immediate response making Bree smile in surprise.

"Then I will leave you all to it. I lack the offensive skill and will, be returning to the main floor. I would just hinder your duty if I came." Bree was no fool, she did not have any battle spirits with her nor did she ever plan on bonding with one. She preferred her peaceful life of crystal making and gossiping.

"Alright, we will be back when we can." Walker looked in to the section that Bree had brought them to and did a final check of his gear. He made sure that he and the party were ready to go. "Onyx, I want you to slither around on the ground. You are more sensitive to vibrations due to your species. I expect you to be paying attention to any strange vibrations."

You can count on me brother." Onyx was more than happy to be asked to help. He never felt that he was assisting his family as best as he could and this was a chance for him to do better. Walker could feel that Onyx was more than determined so he let him take the lead of the party.

Surprising him Midnight used her shadow wrapping skill and blended in with the shadows. This cave environment was an amazing place for her to be able to sneak up on any opponent. Between her and Onyx they were sure to either surprise an enemy or predict when an enemy was near them.

"Leader, there are some small crystals here that appear to have been broken by something." Su had noticed the small details on the sides of the walls. The crystals that she pointed out didn't look like they were taken out of the wall whole but instead shattered off.

"There are no pieces anywhere so it would be safe to say this was not an elf harvesting them." Remey chimed in after looking through some of the loose dust on the ground. She had come up with nothing but soon held up some greyish black hair. "I bet this is from the culprit."

Gil looked at the hair and jumped right in to tracking. Onyx was right next to him as Gil followed the traces left by the glowing mole. He waved now and then to stop and have them move forward. He had started to see some slight scratches in the dust and dirt but not much hair. There was also no sign of the mole digging through anything in the wall or floor.

Gil held up a hand bringing them, to a stop. "The cave splits here. There are traces of the mole going both ways...I think it is just one but it has traveled over this area so many times that I can't even tell which way it has been going." The fact that Gil had said it had been traveled so many times he couldn't tell direction was worrisome.

"The mole is comfortable here to travel through often. We need to figure out why that is." Walker looked down one of the tunnels and could feel a slight breeze. "I have a bad feeling that the breeze coming from that way is bad. Mostly because there shouldn't be a breeze coming from a dead end."

"Brother, sister says she can hear a strange noise from the other cave." Walker looked at Midnight who had her head perked up looking down the opposite tunnel. The party was torn. If they went to the tunnel that did not have the breeze then they could meet their enemy. However, if they went down the one with another entrance then they could solve the problem of where the mole came from.

"No matter which way we choose to go we will end up with the possibility of being trapped on both sides. Either a monster comes from the opening of the right tunnel or the monsters in the left try to leave through the right tunnel." Su's logic was sound, but Remey was having a brilliant idea.

"Walker can just use his skill to block one path. Then when we deal with one we can unblock the other, then deal with that one." Remey said this like it was the most common thing ever. However, Su felt that her wisdom was being dashed. She had completely missed this logic.

Chapter 456 - 456. Ugly Flies

"Great idea Remey. I am going to block the entrance with a breeze first. I have a feeling that it will take longer to deal with." Walker used his high earth sculpting skill and made spikes like prison bars rise from the ground. The stone spiked perfectly blocked the cave, even Onyx would have a hard time squeezing through.

"With that done let's go this way. The glowing bell mushroom likes areas without moving air." Remey said this making the entire party realize that her decision to go this way was completely based on the fact that she wanted to go after the herb. Walker almost wanted to argue with her but he still had to give her the credit for realizing he could block the other entrance.

They took a slow approach down the cave with non moving air. They knew there were monsters in this one since Midnight was hearing the slight sounds as they moved. The only question was what kind of monster there was.

Gil was trying to take the lead but realized that he was not the best for the job. He let Onyx and Midnight take over since they were more experienced and better prepared for the environment. This was a move that the others silently praised him for since he could have insisted to stay up front due to his tracking abilities.

Onyx started to be the translator of the group so they could speak without alerting what was in the dead end of this cave. "Sister says that the sound is like an empty flour bag in the wind." When Onyx said this

there was only one monster that came to all of their minds; sharp tongued bats. If they were in this cave then it was safe to say they were after some rock mice.

The party fell in to crouch positions and moved slowly until an opening revealed itself to them. The cave opened in to a larger area that had many places to allow the crystals to grow in the wall. This was not the focus for them though, there were three pale grey bats flapping around the ceiling. They didn't appear to be intimidating but for the barbed tongues hanging from their toothless mouths.

Walker used his all around appraisal skill to see what he had to watch out for and let Onyx share it with the party.

'Sharped tongue bat

The sharp tongued bat is a completely blind monster that requires its sense of smell and earth elemental mana to move around. They instinctually can sens the earth elemental mana and fly through the caves without fear, Their main tactic is to find a large prey and latch on to it to slowly drain it of blood over time using its sharp barbed tongue. Its/ favorite predy is rock mice due to their high nutrition value compared to larger prey. When in the mating season it can hunt up to fifty rock mice in a day to bring to its' desired mate.'

Walker thought this was a bit much for an explanation but still memorized the information. The bat was not much of a threat in comparison to other monsters they could face and he was tempted just to have the party let them be. The only problem with that was the fact that there were small glowing mushrooms in the middle of the clearing. These were shaped like bells and Renmey had her eyes locked on them.

Onyx was still sending the messages back and forth between everyone, " Gil can shoot one of the bats down and Midnight can be ready to sneak up and attack one when it swoops down at us. The last one Su can block and I will finish off with Remey. Onyx stay on the look out for the mole. I don't want it bursting from the ground to surprise us."

Walker sent out his plan for everyone but realized the only one he didn't get a reply from was Midnight. He searched around the entire area and wasn't able to find her. After a moment he felt a nudging on his shoulder and looked over. Midnight was pushing her nose against him and trying to draw his attention to a pile of glowing bell mushrooms piled in front of her.

"Sister says the ugly flys didn't see her grab them and she can go get more if we want." Remey wrapped her arms around Midnight and hugged her.

"Sister says you are squeezing her to death but that you are welcome and owe her a piece of your bacon at breakfast." Remey struggled not to laugh at the response but was very happy with how sneaky Midnight had been.

"Well, since we don't need to risk anything I will just use some to knock them down and we can easily beat them. Especially since we have the mushrooms we need." Walker stood up and released three fire bolt spells as fast as he could. They each hit a sharp tongued bat.

The p[op of the fire bolt hitting them caused a large echo and the bats to fall to the ground crushing some of the remaining mushrooms. Gil sent an arrow at the one that was still able to move and easily defeated it.

'3 Sharp tongued bats defeated 30 exp gained.'

Walker thought this was low for experience but thinking of how weak they were and how little threat they held for any of the party he pushed the thoughts from his mind. Walker stored the mushrooms away while Remey searched the area a little more to find that there were no signs of crystals at all. She did manage to find more mole hairs which spoke of how voracious the glowing moles' appetite was.

Walker spoke out loud now that the bats were dealt with. "Nice job, with those mushrooms gathered, we didn't need to avoid damaging them when we defeated the bats. Now when people return here it will be safer." Walker helped grab a few more mushrooms then looked toward the other cave entrance.

Chapter 457 - 457. Lure

"Does anyone see anything else around here we might want to grab or remember?" Walker had already stored the bodies of the sharp tongued bats along with any glowing bell mushrooms that had not been crushed by their falling bodies.

None of them said anything and moved to get in to formation. They had only found more evidence that the mole had been around and that it had gorged itself on more crystals. They had successfully found the herb they needed and Remey was exceedingly happy. One goal finished was more than two unfinished.

With this mentality, Walker moved back toward the other cave entrance and felt that the breeze was cooler. "I think the cave leads toward a deeper part of the cave system. If the air was warmer it would be coming from higher right?"

"That sounds correct leader. I think that we may have a mole that came from the deeper natural cave system to look for food." Su was having the same thoughts the entire time.

"Will we go down in to a natural cave to find the mole? Or will we wait it out here?" Gil wasn't sure if it was the best idea to go searching a place that was unfamiliar and completely uncharted.

"Yeahhh I'm not going hunting in a place like that. We should just lure it out with crystals, You should have enough in your inventory." Remey was all for Gil's idea. She was against venturing in to another cave and risking any loss. The longer she was here the less time she had to learn a new potion.

"Brother, I can feel the ground vibrating softly. I feel like there is a monster digging around below us." Onyx stopped the entire conversation with this one sentence.

"We should move in and see if it will come up." Walker pulled a handful of elemental mana crystals from his inventory and used his high earth sculpting skill to open up the other cave path.

The party was slow moving but did not hesitate to move forward. This was a larger section of cave and was clearly the main crystal farming area. The walls were scraped up and showed signs of being cut in to by various tools.

Midnight had used her shadow wrapping skill yet again to hide herself away. As she had been growing Walker was worried that she would be outgrowing the skill due to her body size, but this fear was unfounded. Midnight appeared to have a denser darkness element wrapping around her than before hiding her even better. So much so that Walker was losing track of her if he even blinked.

Gil motioned for them all to take a look at the path ahead which had much more dirt dug up around the walls. There had been some recent activity here which was even more apparent when they could see the small pieces of crystals still left in the walls.

Using Onyx as a translator to pass on the messages Walker made a warning, "The dirt is soft here so be careful of your footing. We don't know where the entrance to the other cave is." Walker had an eye out for any place a monster could have crawled out from and was coming up empty.

The party heeded his words and allowed Onyx to maintain the lead. Every once in a while they would stop while Onyx felt for vibrations. He was still feeling the same ones below them and Walker had a feeling that the mole was bringing the crystals it had pilfered from this cave and brought it back to the natural cave to eat.

"If the mole is bringing the crystals back to the natural cave below this then it might have a large amount to eat. We could end up waiting much longer than we think." He finally brought this theory to the rest of the party's attention for fear that they would end up waiting for too long and need to abandon the quest all together.

"I hate to say this, but that would mean we should go down. Can you at least sense anything about the shape of the natural cave below us?" Gil wanted to make sure that they wouldn't be going on totally blind. If they could get an idea of the dimensions of the cave then they could try and prepare themselves for the battle against the glowing mole.

Su slowed her pace making Remey bump in to her. "Su, what's wrong?" Su was slowly lighting up, her face showed a brilliant realization.

"The lure orb. Use it to attract the mole and we can launch our first attack. We can hold back while Walker waits for the mole. When he sees it he lets us know and we all jump in to battle. Gil can have his arrow ready to deal a large hit and Remey can follow up with her defense breaking palm. Before it can react I will taunt and then Midnight can get it from the back while it goes for me." Su had it all planned it all out already.

"We will move with Su's plan then. Onyx, you will stay on communication and look out while we prepare. If it even tries to come up here you sound the alarm and we will go all out." Walker was not willing to take any chances. With their plan, they were going to be able to take the mole down without major stress.

The party moved in to place and located the hole the mole had broken through. With Walker waiting at the edge he slowly channeled the light elemental mana to create the blue lure orb. As it came in to being above the hole he kept his gaze down and avoided the tempting blue light. He had hopes that the mole would still be attracted to it.

Chapter 458 - 458. Glowing Mole Battle

"Brother, the vibrations are getting stronger." Onyx gave Walker the warning so he could prepare for an attack. Without hesitation, Walker had the mouldable crystal ball in his hands to transform it in to a spear shape. He wanted to make sure that he was well protected if the mole charged at him before the others attacks landed.

Walker could sense the wind elemental mana gathering around one of the wither spike arrows that Gil had drawn. He was aimed at the entrance of the natural cave with his eyes closed. When Walker gave the notification he was going to open his eyes and aim as fast as possible.

The sounds of scraping and scratching became louder along with small pebbles hitting the cave walls. Walker shivered at the sound of grinding crystals in the mole's mouth once it was closer. This was not the cracking and crushing that Midnight would make but a high pitched scraping.

The smooshed pinch nose of the mole made its' appearance while Walker looked in to the natural cave. Soon the rest of the head followed making Walker finally understand why it was known as the glowing mole.

The mole had spots on its body that were devoid of fur and had a crystalline appearance. It was more like its fur had fallen out and its skin was reflecting the glow of naturally growing crystals.

Walker did not miss the chance to use his all around appraisal skill before they attacked.

' Glowing mole

The glowing mole has extremely tough claws to cut through stone. It is very slow but driven by press and crystals it wishes to eat. The glowing comes from the natural mana of crystals it consumes. The fur will fall out revealing its luminescent skin depending on the temperature. The more crystals it consumes the tougher its claws become. It is completely blind but is sensitive to light elemental mana due to living in the dark throughout its entire life.'

Walker was surprised that it was still very sensitive to the light elemental mana. If it was blind he had thought that the lure orb must not affect it while he read the all around appraisal. Knowing that even a blind monster can sense a foreign mana that it was not used to was valuable information.

Since Walker was holding the elemental mana crystals in one hand to help attract the mole and the moldable crystal ball in spear form he was completely caught waiting for the monster to come closer.

With a quick thought, he willed the lure orb to disappear, "Now!" Gil's eyes flashed open at his sudden shout and the wind elemental arrow pierced the space between them.

The mole felt the sudden change in mana along with Walker fully activating the blade of night and day skill on the spear. The arrow and Walker's quick jab made it try to rush backward, but Remey was already coming forward with a defense breaking palm.

The loud squeal from the mole spoke of the internal damage the attacks had done but it was not the end for the glowing mole. Instead, it was the start of its rage. Luckily Su was already in position, "Get your ugly dirt loving claws over here!" Su had become more colorful with her taunts which seemed to make the mole zero in on her more.

The mole charged toward her and slashed out with its' claws. Su had her shields together and blocked that attack. While the mole recoiled from the hit Midnight revealed herself and used her own claws to shred the moles' back. This was the final straw and the mole started to flail in pain.

Midnight was flung away but managed to use her wings to slow her speed before she bumped in to the wall and jumped back up. This had made her royally angry and she took a deep breath. Before Walker could say anything Midnight released a jet of decaying flames that ate away at the moles' wounds. The flailing was cut short as the mole lost its ability to move.

Remey moved in and used her combo skill to deliver a series of punches with a final defense breaking palm.

'Glowing mole defeated 70 exp gained'

The party looked at Midnight worried that she had been hurt. However, Midnight was prancing around in victory, She felt that the blood in her body was boiling and she could defeat any of the

Monsters in the cave by herself.

"Su, your plan was great." Gil was amazed by how smoothly the plan had gone. He could not have planned it better.

"Su hit her face behind her shield in embarrassment. She had been lucky to connect the dots and remember that Walker had the skill that could potentially affect the mole.

"Onyx, are there any more vibrations?" Walker wanted to make sure that there was nothing more in the natural cave.

The party snapped back to attention with all eyes on Onyx. Gil realized that he had started to celebrate too early, the same was said of Midnight. The seconds ticked by and Onyx did his best to feel any vibration no matter how small. "No brother, there is nothing moving that I can sense."

The collective sigh of the party made them all realize that it was now safer to speak. "I am going to store the body. Should I close up the natural cave now?" Walker wasn't sure if they had any reason to leave the natural cave open for now.

"We thought that it was bringing the crystals and ores down there to eat right? What if we collected some of them for Bree to start working on? It would be a nice bonus for here. I also think that if we brought it up to the surface it would make her brother come to visit as she wants." Su was already thinking ahead. Walker gave her a smile and readied the spear.

Chapter 459 - 459. Mole Nest

Knowing that there were most likely no monsters in the natural cave below Walker started to climb down in to the natural cave. His spear in his hand for anything that could possibly show up and threaten him. He could feel the breeze coming from deeper in the cave and had a feeling that he could spend days down here exploring.

"Let's stay close to the entrance here so we don't get lost. I don't want to risk anything." Walker made sure that the party heard him and moved farther down.

The natural cave was misshapen compared to the ones the elves had used for farming crystals. This one had an uneven ceiling and many stones sitting around the floor that had been moved around by monsters over time. The stalagmites and stalagmites grew unimpeded. The sound of dripping water echoed around as if part of the rhythm of a song.

"Walker, I can see the way the mole went. Follow me." Gil saw the clear markings that had been made on the natural caves' floor by the moles' claws. He was having an easy time following it toward a small indent in the cave that had a large amount of upturned dirt.

This looks like the spot it would rest and eat." Gil motioned to the small shard of crystals and tiny chunks of ores.

"So, we just missed out. It ate everything?" Remey was a little unhappy with the fact that she could not find the moles stash of crystals to take back with them. She had hope that it had not eaten anything and that the party would be better able to show off their skills.

"No, wait." Su saw a slight shine with her eyes and moved toward the pile of dirt. She reached her hand in to it and dug away a small bit to reveal that there were ores hidden in the dirt. "It hid them like a squirrel hides a nut." She was happy about the find since she knew that Bree would be happy.

"We can take the ores and sell them while we bring the crystals grown and rightfully belonging to Bree." Walker saw this as a huge win win situation for the party.

"There is more here than just that." Gil had started digging as well and found some gemstones. This was a huge surprise to all of them since Walker had just learned of the diamond the lunar priestess imbued with elemental light mana.

"We will collect those too and see if they can be our gift to the queen. The king most likely brought something but if these will help her kingdom we can help him make a better impression. It could also be our bargaining chip to get them to work together smoothing." Walker had been thinking a little too politically but saw this as a good card to have.

"Sounds good, but what do we do with this thing?" Walker was about to ask what thing when he saw Gil pulling up a strange rock.

"It looks like am rock Gil, just toss it aside," Remey said this full of sarcasm, but Walker grabbed his hand and held it. He had used his all around appraisal skill to check it just in case.

' Albino glowing mole egg

Like all monsters, the glowing mole produces eggs. This fact sets them apart from the natural animals that do not produce their own mana. This glowing mole egg has a rare mutation that has caused it to develop an affinity for the light elemental mana their species rarely sees. Due to this, it has been lying dormant well after the others of its' clutch have hatched. A glowing mole will not leave its nest until all eggs have hatched and will grow more aggressive in its searches for food the longer it needs to wait. This albino mole egg can be hated by placing it in an environment full of light and earth elemental mana.'

Walker read this out loud making everyone stop in thought. Onyx and Midnight were the first to move toward Walker and ask a question that everyone was thinking. "Brother, will this be sister and I's little sibling?"

Walker wanted to say yes but he knew that having another monster join their party would make them become much slower moving. It would also mean he had another mouth to feed as they moved towards the dwarven kingdom. "No, I think I should keep it in the dormant state and store it away. While it is dormant it is technically not alive and I can keep it in my inventory while we figure this out."

"Then no new sibling." Onyx and Midnight showed pitiful looks but Walker refused to budge.

"Leader, we are heading toward the dwarven kingdom. These glowing moles were able to sniff out rare ores and crystals. Don't you think we may be able to gift this egg to the ruler of the dwarven kingdom so that they may allow us to assist them more easily in their slime troubles?" Su had this idea which made Walker feel both good and bad.

If they were to use it as a gift it could be seen as wrong since they were giving away a potentially living creature. But this was also a good idea since the dwarves could use this monster to benefit their society and grow more. "The real question, will we meet a dwarven tamer that could take care of this mole and raise it well? I would much rather give it to someone who will be family to it and not an owner."

The entire party agreed and Walker stored the albino glowing mole egg. This was the most unexpected price for them. Out of all of the crystals, jewels, and ores, the eggs was the most valuable due to the mutation it had.

Chapter 460 - 460. Calming Lessons

"Do you really think that the albino glowing mole egg will be able to find a safe home?" Su was worried that it could end up like Onyx's egg which had been forced to stay dormant for years and years due to the fact that it had not received the proper light elemental mana to hatch.

"Yes. We are heroes and if we need to can use all of our power to make sure it gets the best family we can find." Walker was sure that using their titles this way was in no way selfish. If they had the title and used it to gain fame and fortune while not helping others it would go against not only the title but their morals.

On the other hand, using their titles to help a creature find a safe family where it would not struggle to survive in an environment that it was not perfectly suited for was better. With their backing, it would be able to not only find the elemental mana it needed to thrive but also a partner that could stand beside it for its' entire life. This was just like the party with Midnight and Onyx.

"Brother, are you sure that it can not be our sibling?" Onyx tried again. He and Midnight wanted to be the older sister and older brother to yet another monster. But if Walker was to use the blood contract with this egg things would get much more complicated.

"If I use my skill on it then yes you would be an older brother and Midnight would have another little sibling. I know that's exciting. But look at the place we are in our journey. We will be going somewhere that this little mole would be able to thrive in. The dwarven kingdom relies on rare ores and crystals to make their world shaking gear."

Midnight and Onyx were listening intently to Walker speak, they hung on every word he spoke. "They will not only have a constant need for a mole that can search out rare ores but also be able to provide fresh and new food for it. It would be a beneficial relationship. Not only this but they would both be able to see the value in each other making their bond stronger. If they stay with us we will not be able to give it the proper attention at all times because of our travels."

Midnight and Onyx both started to think about the situation in this way and came to their own conclusion. "You are saying that if we were to act on a whim and gain a sibling that it could feel unloved?" Onyx said this as the culmination of his and Midnight's thoughts.

"That is one possibility, another is that the little mole could not grow to its full potential and always feel like it is weaker. I know you feel this way at times Onyx and it makes me feel poorly as well." Walker was right out and open with them. Onyx still felt weak compared to Midnight and the others due to him

being younger and less experience in battle. He had been able to help recently but he was not sure that he was doing enough.

"Sister says she is alright with having a good person raise the little mole. But she says they will still need to call us big brother and big sister." Onyx had made the deal with Midnight that they would still be considered the siblings of the mole and would make Walker visit the future family no matter what.

"Of course. Did you two think that we all wouldn't be friends with someone who could be good enough to properly raise a soon to be family member? Even though they may be part of a different family they are just an extension of our family tree." Walker placed a hand each on Onyx and Midnight's heads to show them that they had perfectly understood.

' The skill soothing touch has been taken from the family head system. The skill soothing touch has been learned through user actions.

Soothing touch- 1 mana cost

The mana gathers on the hands of the user causing them to have a perfectly even mana flow covering their hands. This mana flow resonates with the target's mana and causes it to calm as well. Skills trained after the target has been affected by this skill will be easier to use along with strengthened understanding.'

Walker blinked in surprise. He had never heard of a skill like this but felt it was one of the best he could have gotten. At first glance, it was not much of a skill at all. If it just calmed mana within someone it would just have a comforting effect. But with the fact that it made skills easier to use in training and even had the chance to help someone understand the skills they used, made this skill priceless.

"You gained another skill again, didn't you?" Remey said this with a flat tone recognizing Walker's face.

"He definitely did. He only smiles like that when he gets a good skill or reads a good appraisal. He just had it when he looked at that mole egg." Gil was also seeing the same thing as Remey and didn't even hesitate to speak as if he wasn't able to hear them.

"Please, you two should be more respectful to the leader. He also looks this way when he sees his bed at the end of the day." Walker had not expected teasing from Su as well. He was completely defeated.

Walker glared at the three teasing him, "If you three are going to be mean I will only tell Midnight and Onyx the awesome skill I gained. They will appreciate it." Walker ignore the three and proceeded to do just that as he started to seal up the hole to the natural cave they had just come from.