

Master 591

Chapter 591

"What are ya doing up there archer kid? You are firing arrows in to the merchant district for fun, but not even helping out here!" One of the dwarves with Gil had become annoyed seeing that Gil was standing on top of one of the heist buildings. He also thought that Gil was firing arrows at apparently nothing.

"Eh, firing arrows for fun must be a human trend. I thought a so called hero would be a little useful." The other dwarf was setting up his crossbow with a new bolt while shaking his head.

"I just had to help out my part leader for a moment. There was a large slime that didn't want to go down easily. Let me fire a few more at some slimes that are going after some golems." Gil didn't even flinch at the dwarves' words. He just fired a few more of his eater elemental wither spike arrows from a long distance at the slimes.

"What does he mean helping out? There's no way that he is hitting anything from there. His leader went with the king to the high forge. It is halfway across the entire district." The other dwarven crossbowman was shaking his head even more annoyed at the notion that Gil had such pristine aim that he could hit a target from so far away.

"Unlike your bolts, I have some fins on my arrows so that the direction stays a little more on target. Not to mention I have a skill to snipe a target from a long distance. You should try and make a crossbow bolt that can go farther than mid range attacks." Gil spoke as if he was just lecturing a younger archer. It caused the crossbowmen to get fairly angry.

"If we wanted to use a ballista we would put one on wheels. But even if we did that the speed of the bolt is too fast. You think you know everything but you are just a babe to those experts in the high forge. Let alone the masters." The dwarven crossbowman that appeared to be the leader looked at Gil with a hard glare after these words.

"Then why haven't they fixed it? Or do you just accept the weapons you're given without questions? I helped to make these arrows and I know their capability with my own skills. I am sure you know your weapons with your skills as well. But why not push for more control? Humans may not use crossbows often because of the strength required and the challenge. Yet, dwarves can so why not be the best at it? Not to mention I have bonded with this bow more than any other I have ever held, apparently, it is one of the spirit forged ones, I learned a lot about spirits from the elves. I hope to free the spirit one day."

The words Gil spoke made them angry again, however, they made the crossbowmen angry at themselves this time. They had been disbelieving Gil when they had not even turned their gaze inwards. Their blunt nature had always let them take what they could and use it no matter what. However, Gil had said something that caught the dwarves off guard.

"You have a spirit forged bow? How? The cost for one is too high. Our master blacksmiths need to burn a lifetime of mana to even make one. How can you have it?" The dwarf that spoke had begun to shake slightly. A spirit forged weapon was seen as the closest to a sentient weapon in their eyes.

"The ancient ruins. There was a skeleton archer there that used it. I thought it was a special bow that allowed a wind elemental attack and so did my leader. But through our journey, we met the elves and they knew more. Now We are here to help your people and hopefully mend the tension between your race and the elves along with add you to the Genesis alliance. Our goals are large, but we believe there can be many new paths created."

The dwarves had gone from annoyed and angry to awestruck and silent in seconds. There were too many things they needed to think about and understand before they were able to properly reply and say anything anymore. Gil may have had a slightly more condescending attitude but for the situation, it appeared to be the perfect way to handle the prideful and hardheaded dwarves.

"Can...can I hold it? I have never seen a spirit forged weapon or armor. The last one made is in the kings' personal armory. The master that made it said he felt that his life was about to end so he forged his greatest work. I don't think anyone has even made a spirit forged ranged weapon and I would like to say I have held one before."

The dwarves had come to a standstill since the tide of yellow slimes had been held back for a bit. Since they didn't see any around there was no reason for them to hold back any longer. They gave in to their curiosity and tossed aside their negative feelings and skepticism.

"Oh, and my leader is on his way with some other members of the party. We are going to push down to the mining level and help them. Our alchemical brawler said she would have something to help us in three hours so we might want to prepare too." Gil was a little overcome with the sudden attention from the dwarves. He was sure he should be readying his arrows but also wanted to give in to the newfound attention.

Everything had happened so fast in this situation but it had actually taken longer than expected. The dwarven crossbowman had taken care of the small slimes and could keep them at bay with Gil's

assistance. Walker and Midnight had partnered with the king to clear and begin a complete retake of the merchant district. And Remey was making a slime poison to bring to the lower level. Su and Onyx were still healing as many as they could. The party was in their elements and full of motivation for the more dangerous mining level.

Chapter 592 - 592. Spirit Forging Clues

"Walker!" Gil shouted to Walker and ran over. He and the crossbowmen had reassured the barricade on the path to the mining level and had been waiting for Walker and the dwarven royal guard. "You're finally here. I have been stuck forever."

Gil had been constantly bombarded by the questions about the bow he used and how many times he had used it along with the attempts to hold and use it by the crossbowmen. They were completely infatuated with it even though they completely lacked the skills and ability to use a proper bow. They had crossbowman systems and were trained to use crossbows.

"I managed to learn a few things but I think I would go crazy if I am left alone with them any longer." Walker could see the crossbowmen fall in to an orderly line and begin to report on what had happened to the royal guard. It was clear that the royal guard ranked much higher than them in their military and this was an expected occurrence.

"Well, we have a little time before Remey gets here. Why did they find your bow so interesting? What did you learn?" Walker felt that Gil being paired with the crossbowmen had worked out better than expected. There was plenty of time between the dwarves and golems taking over the merchant district and Walker meeting back up with Gil.

"So, they know about the spirit forged weapons and said they have never heard of a ranged weapon one. So my bow is pretty rare. But they also said that they are so rare that they only know of the kings' armory having some really. But they also said that masters don't make them because it uses all their mana for the rest of their life meaning; soul burning."

Walker listened intently and knew that the soul burning was a very terrible way to perish. But the dwarven forging masters had done this before and would mostly do it again to create the spirit forged weapons. "So the spirit smith or spirit forging systems might not be what we think if they cost the user to burn away their soul to make a spirit and weapon fuse together."

Walker felt that this was a huge puzzle piece when it came to the place learning this. He had a few theories on why their systems would require the fusing of a spirit and a weapon to burn away a soul as fuel. "They also kept talking about how the spirit forging process always required unique and rare

materials and often certain days of the year to work. I feel like the elves would know more but it reminds me of that lunar priestess and the forest elf rituals."

"Maybe the spirit forging process is missing a few things then? It could need more than just materials and time of year. Maybe it is the spirit that's the problem and the way they try to fuse it with a weapon?" Walker wanted to delve more in to this and speak with Gil further but he noticed that the crossbowmen and the royal guard had finished their briefing and were currently preparing themselves for the next endeavor.

"Check up on your arrows. If you can fill more with water elemental mana do it." Walker brought out a significant amount of water elemental mana crystal from his inventory. He also tossed a few towards Midnight and watched her excited movements while chomping down on them.

"Hero, the men are preparing and I will watch over the barricade. There were a significant number of slimes behind the barricade but they were forced back by your companions icy arrows." The royal guard was unfamiliar with the elf skills that came with their unique arrows and had deemed it an icy arrow.

Gil caught him while making the arrow and began to explain while Walker began to formulate a plan for when Remey got there. They would need to immediately defeat the slimes on the other side of the barricade and Walker had the firm belief that Remey had something that would help immensely. He just needed to wait for a few hours.

Meanwhile, Walker began to send the crossbowmen to get materials that allowed them to flood the entrance to the mines with water. If Remey didn't have a solution to the slime problem he wanted to continuously keep the entrance open for them to enter and escape if necessary.

The crossbowmen managed to gather some of the general populace who had volunteered to join the retake of the merchant district and set up hoses and pipes. After another hour of this, the royal guard came to report what was going on. "Hero, We have managed to prepare a series of temporary piping we use for fires. This can flood the stairs and deter slimes."

"Sounds perfect. But just because the water dilutes their bodies that doesn't mean we will rest easy. If the water evaporates then the slime cores should be able to pull their bodies back together and keep eating the city away. I am sure some small slime cores will escape our attacks.' Walker knew they needed a more concrete way to defeat the slimes.

"Then forget the water and use my potions! I have a much better way to beat the slimes." Remey had finally made it to the entrance to the mines. However, Walker was confused and curious as to why there were four dwarves each carrying small barrels behind her.

"It took me much longer to find the ingredients and read the notes on what herbs the dwarves had. But I have finally made something that should help." Remey was smug as the dwarves helping her placed the barrels down and Remey opened the top of the barrel while also taking a vial with a small slime core out of it. She was ready to demonstrate her creation.

Chapter 593 - 593. Remey's Brilliance

Hey, ummm, why are those dwarves with crossbows pointing and looking at Gil like he is some minstrel?" Remey was about to demonstrate what she had created when she realized that there were crossbowmen staring and watching Gil like a hawk.

"It's nothing. Just show off already." Gil was a little red faced but still managed to use a decent amount of sarcasm on Remey.

"Oh yeah, alright. So we have an acidic slime core. It is still acidic itself and can melt through metal. It could easily form its body again. But the question is, what happens if it meets its opposite?" Remey was pointing to the barrel of potion she had created.

"This is not acid but if you touched it you would end up burned just like acid. That means it is equally dangerous. I used a mix of herbs natural to the caves along with a few that dwarves bring in. After being mixed it becomes incredibly basic. The very opposite of acidic. When mixed with something acidic."

Remey dropped the slime core on the ground and the party watched as it tried to pull some of the bits of yellow slime that had yet to be watches away or completely diluted in the water. "The slime has its body and the basic potion meets the slime." Remey dripped some of the potion on the slime and they all saw the slime body melt away becoming clear.

The slime core melting as well was what really grabbed everyone's attention. "The slime core melts away because the slime is balanced out and." Remey slapped her hand in the clear water like substance left over by the slime and potions balancing. "We have salt water!"

"What? Really?" Walker walked over and touched the water left behind and well. After feeling that there was no burning he used his all around appraisal skill on it to be sure.

'Salt water.

An equal mix of salt and water. Created through the balancing of an acidic substance and a basic substance.'

"It really is just salt water. Remey, how did you figure this out?" Walker was completely lost as to how Remey learned that this reaction was possible. To him, the only way was to use water to dilute the slime body and make it weaker. However, this wasn't a way to beat the slimes since the cores still remained.

Well, I was ditched. They led me to the alchemists' room full of a ton of equipment I had no idea how to use. There were pipes that brought fire and steam to the cauldron. Automatic stirring spoons. Other word tools to separate and to grind things down. I had no ideas, but I could read the books on the shelves."

Remey shook her head because she was still annoyed that she had been left with out anyone to show her how things worked. "I read up on the tools but found out that the tools were made to resist the different strengths of herbs that would cause them to break down. From there I found research on acidic and basic herbs that could cause metals to rust or even dissolve. Then I wondered what would happen when mixed so I started to mix. Next thing I knew I had a cauldron of hot salt water." Remey was explaining this at her fastest talking speed amazing everyone.

"So I took some bat wing leaves and a few other herbs and they created a basic liquid. From there I heated it and condensed it in to these barrels and found that it melts acidic slime cores and balances the acid out. We just need to use this to clear away the yellow slimes now." Remey stood with her hands on her hips in victory next to the barrels.

"Sounds like you had a lot to learn in a short time..." Gil was fairly impressed. He had been stuck with the crossbowmen and felt that all he had down was watch over those taking the district back. He hadn't actually done much. But Remey had studied something new and made a potion that completely eradicates slimes. He had been outdone.

"Well, I may have taken one of the guides on the herbs found in the deep caves. But I did ask permission...I just need to learn them all and maybe get a few to bring with us. Maybe some of the tools too. Actually, I want to meet one of the dwarven alchemy masters too. We need to get rid of these slimes fast. I have so much to do."

Walker watched as Remey fell in to a slight panic at the piling up to do list, "I think we will have enough time after we deal with this issue. Remey, can we use water to dilute the basic potion you made? If we can and we run the basic water mixture down the stairs we could beat all the slimes with out having to battle and crush their cores." Walker wanted to make their entrance in to the mining area foolproof.

"That should be fin. It's why I condensed it and made so much. The cauldron there was huge so I just made a massive batch. They need to restock some herbs but that is fine. Use half of one of these barrels with ten barrels worth of water and it should do the trick." Remey had been waiting for Walker to ask how he could use his with her potion.

"Perfect. Then all I need is a mana potion to replenish the rest of my mana and we can manipulate the water here." Walker said this as the royal guard came forward and handed him a low tier mana potion. They had been waiting for the opportunity. They had the feeling that the hero would need one of their items to finish up.

Walker drank the mana potion and stretched his arms before preparing to delve deeper in to the dwarf city.

Chapter 594 - 594. Clearing The Way.

"Alright, is everyone ready to release the water?" Gil had taken the lead in organizing those who would be opening water valves on the pipes.

The plan was simple, the water pipes would be opened and Walker would use his manipulation skills to hold it in place in front of the entrance to the mines. Remey would add half a barrel of the basic potion to the water making it poison to the acid slimes behind the barricade. Then when the barricade was removed then the water would rush down the stairs and destroy the slimes along with clearing a path for them to go downwards.

"Are you sure that you will be able to remove the barricade in a few seconds?" Walker double checked with the royal guard to be sure the plan could move flawlessly. If the barricade wasn't removed as soon as he released the water there was a risk of slimes or basic water harming those around.

"Yes sir hero, the dwarves can craft things to a very high caliber I am sure you will come to know. We build our barricades with hidden pins that when removed can cause them to fall apart. It will fall away down the entrance with the water." The royal guard was full of confidence in the work of his fellow dwarves and it put everyone else at ease.

"Forward!" The voice of the king of the middle echoed behind them with the mechanical clanking of fifty golems. They were lined up coming down the streets while dwarven citizens followed behind in a ruckus.

"I didn't want to send you down without a proper escort. These golems will follow you and assist in the mission to recover the mines. They will listen to you and your party's orders. This is all I can do without intruding on my fellow kings' rule." The king of the middle had been wracking his brain on how to help without overstepping his boundaries, sending golems to assist was like gifting the third king with more assistance and would be seen positively.

If he ventured downward as well it would be seen as an insult. The three kings came from the best of the best of their areas of expertise. The king of the surface exceeded the skills to properly take in merchants and send out armies and was the in charge of all surface affairs. The king of the middle garnered the peoples' trust and led them to future strength in their systems. The king of the deep caves and mines was the best of the best in terms of mining and finding resources.

"Then I will thank you for the assistance. Please hold back. We are about to start the attack on the slimes in our path." Walker said this as he waved to Gil. The shouts to start the water were heard over the voices of the dwarven citizens who had volunteered to push in to the mines themselves. It was clear that there were many who had fled the mines as they wielded pick axes in their hands.

"Walker, Here it comes!" Gil gave Walker a signal as a torrent of water came from every pipe directed at the barricade. Walker breathed out as used his full concentration to force the water to build up in a rotating sphere in front of him.

This was the only way he could think to deal with the force of the water as it rushed to him. However, he could feel the weight pushing back at him. He knew he could not keep all of the water elemental mana in check as it grew and grew.

"Remey, add your potion!" Remey lifted one of the barrels and poured the basic potion in to the sphere of water that grew by the second.

"My slime poison is mixed in. You are all clear! Crush those slimes!" Remey backed off since the sphere had been made in to a basic potion and water solution. The size of the sphere was nearly up to ten feet tall which was close to the top of the barricade.

"Here we go!" The royal guard pulled a hammer from his belt and struck the barricade on an unassuming bump.

The entire barricade shook and cracks appeared as the materials fell away. Yellow slimes oozed out showing just how many had started to eat away at the barricade to get at the food they knew was on the other side.

Walker saw this and counted to three in his head. He was told that the barricade would fall away in three breathes meaning that was the perfect time to release all the water.

The yellow slime was letting the barricade fall through its body and began moving forward, but unfortunately for it, the combined mass it had was not enough to hold back against Walkers' attack. Walker used a massive amount of his mana to force the sphere of water he had held in place forward in to the now massive open passage way to the mines.

The water came in to contact with the yellow slimes that had combined while eating away the barricade and promptly pushed them back down the passage. There were slime cores being dissolved by the second but this was all far from seen. The torrent of water was completely forced down the passageway leaving nothing at the entrance.

"Done..." Walker fell to his knees unable to keep his breath. The mana he had used all at once would have made him pass out for at least a day before he had gained his recent levels. He could only glance ahead and view the now clear dark passageway before them.

"Now that was some good work. The mana lanterns may have been extinguished by the slimes and waters but do not worry. My golems will light the way." The king of the middle turned to the golems and the dwarves in arms behind him. "Follow these heroes and retake what is ours!"

Chapter 595 - 595. Dangers Of The Deep Caves

Remey ran over and helped Walker back to his feet while handing him a mana potion. "That was kinda cool. That was technically my first attack potion made with my alchemy skills." Remey had been infatuated ever since she saw what Trish could do with her skills in alchemy.

"I'm glad it was something I could help with. If you came out of nowhere with exploding potions I think I would have been shocked to death." Walker and Remey laughed for a moment at this because Remey hadn't even had the time to try and make such potions.

"Hey, let's go and get down t the mines!" Gil and Midnight were standing at the top of the entrance to the mines. They were both ready to head out along with all the miners, golems, and crossbowmen waiting to follow.

"Hero, I am ready as well. The stairs may have been damaged so please be careful as you lead us." The royal guard was ready to stand beside the hero that had saved him from the small slime that spelled his death.

"Then we have waited long enough. If anyone feels their shoes are being damaged by Remey's potion then alert me. We can use more water to make it safe." Walker knew that this was a low chance since there were so many slimes that had been behind the barricade. He was actually worried that the entire passage had been full, luckily this wasn't the case since the only sound coming from the passage was dripping water.

Walker took the first hesitant step in to the tunnel after being handed a lantern with a green glowing crystal. This was apparently a minors lantern that could emit light for months without the need for additional materials or mana being added. They had once lined the walls of the passageway but had been devoured by slimes or washed away by the water.

The light illuminated the steps which did show some smoothing and melting from the yellow slime being there for such a long time. This made the progress slow as Walker moved down the steps.

Gil and Midnight were following behind with the golems. The golems were made for multiple terrains and had no issue with the damaged footing on the stairs. This was just another demonstration to show off the quality of the dwarven crafting abilities.

"Can you give us a heads up of the mining areas while we walk?" Walker looked to the royal guard for the information they may need. They still had not heard much about the mining area so having anything more would be very valuable.

"The depths are where we pull all we need to craft. There are many different veins of ores that we discovered generations ago below the surface. Our people have long dug deeper and discovered natural caves that help many new treasures." The royal guard began with a little history which wasn't bad but Walker was waiting for layouts and possible dangers.

"The mines are complicated. They have a maze like layout that not many know of. There are many caves and tunnels that have been carved out by miners in secret while they attempt to find something precious. The surface and the mines are more closely related when it comes to dangers."

"They main district where most of the miners rest and the materials stored before they come to the merchant district is also where they are processed and cleaned to a degree. On top of this, there is also the safety that comes from the many golems and miners there. That means less worry about steel skinned worms, natural golems, natural undead, sometimes a troll or a cyclops when we dig closer to the surface or a natural cave, oh, and not t mention the monsters that live in still cave water."

Walker was slowly taking this all in. This was much more than he had expected of the underground. The underground with the elves had been nothing compared to this. Having the tree roots from their cities' tree had been a major blessing since the mana it generated must have deterred some of these tough to beat monsters.

"There are also cave in dangers, it is better to use less dangerous that may cause explosions or damage supports on tunnels. Many dwarves have been lost to accidental collapses." Walker was very glad to hear this. If he had not been warned he could have used a spell that caved them all in.

"I will need to restrict my arrow usage down here too." Gil was speaking out loud while organizing his quiver slightly. He wanted to make sure he didn't use any of the fire based arrows since they had the highest chance to cause an explosion.

"Also, be warned about the air. If the air is ever still retreat from where you are. The miners work hard to get fresh air to flow constantly down in the depths. But there are natural caves and abandoned areas that have toxic air build up." The royal dwarf could go on longer with many more small daggers but saw that if he did he may scare the heroes away.

"Then I will have to be prepared to manipulate the wind elemental mana. If anyone feels light headed or notice the air is still, warn me." Walker said this while summoning his inner strength. He knew there was more to worry about but for now, he would take what they were told and what they came across as it happened.

"If we find any still water, besides monsters, I want to check for herbs. There are algae that can be used from some detoxifying potions which use such herbs." Remey was looking at the upside of the mines since she could do many things with this algae.

"We can keep an eye out, maybe we will find some rare ores and monster materials too." Walker followed Remey's lead as they began to hear the sounds of shouting and fighting.

Chapter 596 - 596. Right To Battle

"We should probably move faster. It sounds like there is a lot of fighting up ahead." Walker turned for a second and yelled behind him, "Prepare for the battle ahead. We will assist the miners!" The dwarves and golems behind thumped their chests in response.

"I can't do too much when it comes to breaking them so I will be supplying any water attacks you use with my potion. I will also find someone in charge that can start to direct water at the slimes. Maybe there is some kind of holding pool that I can add my potion to so that the water they use can be a weapon against the slimes." Remey had the best idea for the situation they were in.

"I agree, you shouldn't be risking your safety against the acid in the slimes. I think weaponizing the water against them is best. Gil, I will need you on the look out for the larger slimes that we may have trouble with. Midnight, do your thing. I want you to help those on the edge. Remey, pass me some of the potion please." Walker stored away one of the barrels of the basic potion while the others fell in the line.

The royal guard took the lead of the crossbowmen and they moved much faster down to the mining area. When Walker reached the bottom he saw an expense in front of him. There were multiple carved stone buildings with dwarven machines coming out of them. They were all stopped and many gears were half eaten away by the slimes. This was a huge stoppage for the dwarves who would normally run their mining operations all day every day.

There were multiple slimes that had melted in the puddles of water which caused dwarven miners to rush out of the stone buildings and begin battling them. "Let's go and help them!" Walker rushed forward with his hands free to create a frost whip. He knew that the ice needles he could fire from it would be the best use in the situation. He would be able to use the needles to freeze portions of the ground and make the slimes dilute their bodies or even melt them completely.

"Who are you!? Get outta our mines!" One of the dwarves in front of Walker realized that there were those that were not miners or dwarves around and reacted instinctively. They did not usually allow any others in to the mines, especially at this trying time.

"I am one of the heroes here to assist your people. The king of the surface and the middle have both sent me here. Now, look at the help we have brought after taking back the merchant district!" Walker gestured to the golems that were spilling from the passageway to the merchant district.

"Ha! Boys! The fight is on and the mines will run soon. Crush these goo blobs and get back to work!" The voice reverberated off the cave walls making the mana vibrate slightly. Walker could tell it was some form of skill that made the words echo everywhere.

However, the sound was not what was most important. It was the fact that every dwarf in the area seemed to become more energized and begin to move quicker. "Nice skill. I think I should help as well." Walker used his multi buff skill sending a wave out that added even more boosts to the dwarves and even the golems fighting.

Walker was surprised for a moment that the dwarven golems had even been buffed by his multi buff skill. It was a good thing to know for the future since Walker was planning to meet the golem craftsmen in the high forge.

Realizing this was not the focus of their current quest though. They needed to get rid of the yellow acidic slimes frost. Walker whipped the frost whip in to action and fired off the icy needles. They impacted in front of multiple slimes freezing the basic water below them. These puddles were mostly Remey's potion and water mixture but were quickly becoming all salt water.

This meant that the slimes were avoiding the puddles making it easier for the dwarven miners to crush their cores. Walker witnessed multiple pick axes pierce through the slime bodies and pierce the cores with precision. This only spoke to the great skill that the miners had when it came to their mining.

Gil was doing exactly what Walker had asked of him. He had found some of the medium and large slimes that the dwarves couldn't fully pierce with their pick axes or crossbow bolts. This was causing them to lose their tools and ground in the battle. However, Gil was sending the water elemental wither spike arrows out one after the other. There was a constant stream of attacks from his point of the battle.

The arrows caused many ice crystals to pop up and cause the slimes to dilute while melting the ice crystals. This broke down their bodies enough so that the dwarves could easily pierce the cores in one or two swings. The rate of defeat when it came to the slimes was always increasing.

Whenever a slime neared Gil they would be ambushed by Midnight from the shadows, her claws shredding through the slime body and tearing the cores apart. She was being careful to run through the puddles which washed off any of the slime body left on her claws and keep her scales from taking any damage. Walker only glanced at her for a moment before looking for Remey.

He was glad to see Remey had made it to the larger stone building where there were multiple miners rushing in and out. Her yelling could be heard for a second before a stream of dwarves rushed out in to the battle making it easier for everyone. Walker knew that Remey had just taken charge and sent out more dwarves, he just hoped that she was able to get the water attacks ready since the barrels of potions she had were the key to defeating the slimes.

Chapter 597 - 597. Voice Of A King

Walker spotted a large slime that had an ice crystal and a dissolving wither spike arrow in it. Gil had managed to strike it and do damage but the slime had been too large to be defeated after. It was currently slowly losing pieces of its body as it moved to try and attack the nearest golem.

Walker lashed out with his frost whip shooting more of the ice needles at the ground in front of the large slime. The ice froze on the ground causing the slime to be temporarily stopped. The ice had formed sharper crystals on the ground stopping it from moving but not getting close to the core.

"You lazy dwarves. Move your sorry bodies and grab the fire hoses. As I the king of the deep caves orders, turn these enemies in to the dust beneath our boots!" The shout shook the caves around them and every dwarf appeared to become even more powerful as they retreated and rushed in to different buildings.

"You're the hero leader that blunt girl said was out here? You may be using water to attack but you don't seem strong at all." The dwarf that spoke and had yelled was the most muscle bound and strong dwarf Walker had seen yet.

The dwarf wielded the largest pick axes he had ever laid eyes on. The two were easily held in each hand by the dwarf making them appear to weigh nothing. The boots and heavy metal gear were perfect for knocking aside the rocks that would fly up with every strike of these pick axes. The dwarf himself had no facial or head hair and instead had an intricate rune pattern tattooed on him.

"Think I can use something other than water then? Would lava be too much?" Walker was annoyed but also felt that the words of this king of the deep caves were echoing through him.

"I don't care what you use. Those who fall under me work for their lives every day. If you are here to help then you will work too. Use everything you have and hold nothing back. I wouldn't have listened to that girl otherwise. Her punches were straight and true, a good kid for sure."

The dwarf king of the deep caves was flexing his neck. Walker didn't even pause after hearing that Remey had punched him. To be fair he knew Remey might act this way if there was a dwarf that pushed her, but he couldn't have expected her to punch a king.

"I will show you some heat then, I hear dwarves are strong enough to tolerate it." Walker used his lava fissure skill and the ground began to shake. He was able to manipulate it so that the cracking ground was not too destructive but it was still large enough to allow the large slime to fall in.

The lava was not present right away but in a few moments the heat became clear and the lava burst in to the fissure. Walker manipulated it to burn hotter and hotter until the large slime had started to flex in to many different shapes trying to escape. The slime tried to thrust parts of body back up but failed due to the heat burning away its body constantly.

As soon as the core was visible it cracked and fell in to the lava itself. "I have more though!" Walker felt that his mana was running low but refused to stop. The golems were still holding back the slimes and Gil was nearly out of arrows at this point.

Walker sent some of the lava lances flying from the lava fissure. It cost him less mana due to the existing lava which allowed him to use more at once. The lava lances he sent flying from the fissure pierced

through another large slime causing more damage than the ice from another of Gil's arrows. The burning scent covered the area as the lava cooled while in motion and pierced the giant slimes core.

"All golems retreat and make way for the hoses!" The dwarf king called out and the golems headed his orders. Gil and Midnight rushed to meet Walker along with the crossbowmen and the royal guard who had taken minor injuries so far.

The miners had placed down their pick axes and looked to the slimes that were left in the immediate area. The raised large hoses that could easily make any fire die out and opened valves.

Water mixed with a full barrel of Remey's basic potion drowned the slimes around them causing almost all of them to dissolve and melt away. The lava fissure rapidly cooled and turned in to a pool of basic potion water.

Walker retreated with the others farther back along with the dwarven king of the deep caves. "I liked your fire better than your water. It was much more like a forge than ice. Stick with it and I might let you stay around longer than this fight." The king turned and entered the same stone building Remey had gone in.

The basic water had ended all of the struggles and the golems were face toward Walker awaiting orders. "All golems, patrol the perimeter for more enemies. If any are found sound the alarm!" Walker's voice was enough to cause all the golems to move out and the remaining dwarven miners coming from the passageway to rush to the mining base.

Many of those with hoses stopped the flow of water and carefully looked over the area for any remaining cores to crush. "That was a loud welcome. But I think we still have a lot more to do." Gil looked around at the base of operations and out at the massive expanse of caves. It was clear that there were many passageways and mines that would need to be cleared. They wouldn't be done with this as fast as they hoped.

Chapter 598 - 598. Sarcasm

Walker felt that all the air had just been taken out of him, he looked at the chaos as dwarves rushed to check their loved ones along with those that ran to search for their precious materials. Many of those who had run had left behind their life's work or the things they had spent their life mining for while others had been separated from family.

"Think you can walk to meet the king of the deep caves? He seems pretty hard headed compared to the other two, but their attitude just seems like it's that way." Gil hoisted Walker up to a proper standing position and threw an arm around his shoulder to stabilize him.

"If I can catch my breath then I should be fine. It seems like I keep using mana faster than I can get it." Walker shook his head and steadied his feet. Midnight was looking at him with worry since she felt that he was on the verge of collapse.

Gil whispered close to Walker's ear, "You could have tried that demon title skill you got, right?" He wasn't sure if this was something that Walker would have wanted to be said out loud.

"No, it would have left me with a single mana. I do wish I could have used swords and stuff though. The I have a lot of skills lately for dual wielded swords, and the slash zone would have made quick work of them." Walker shook his head because he was annoyed that he had been so limited.

"But you could use your new lava . It looks like they won't mind if you go around making some dangerous pits of fire and molten rock." Gil was trying to keep things on the bright side since he knew that Walker was kicking himself. The interaction with the king had put Walker off his game.

"You're right, I should be able to use those skills. If we encounter a larger slime the lava fissure is able to swallow it whole and then I can make lava lances to take down the others. I should have used the lava as soon as I came down but I was worried about others around me even though I could control it. Gil, I have a lot to work on." Walker was solemn as he thought about the way he had fought.

"We all do, but that means we have a lot more strength just waiting to be shown off." Midnight huffed along with Gil as Walker stepped forward and let Gils' arm fall off him. He breathed slowly and stood taller. He knew that worrying over how the battle went would just waste time. He had the third king of the dwarves to meet.

Gil watched Walker take a stronger stance and was glad to see that he had managed to shake him out of his own head. Gil knew that Walker often got caught up this way and had long adapted to situations like this, but it was still worrying to see just how much it affected him.

Walker became more composed with every step until he came through the opening of the largest stone processing building. There were many work tables and tools used to identify ore quality and examine other things found while mining. The long machine that was attached to the roof appeared to be able to take the dirt from inside and out behind the building.

"Walker! Over here." Remey yelled for them to come over to where she was standing with the king of the deep caves. "I was able to get in here and force this guy to let me near their water storage area. They have a ton of water for when the machines get too hot so I just dropped a barrel of my basic potion in it and told them to spray it at the slimes."

"Yeah whatever you say girl. Whatever you put in the water worked so I will let you stick around. If you want a job you can have it. So, what else are you here with troops for? Did that people pleaser finally decide to help out? Isn't he afraid he will lose all his golems and that surface dweller won't give him more to play with?"

The king of the deep caves appeared to be the most hard headed and blunt of all the kings. "The surface hunting the slimes and dealing with the steel skinned worms forced there due to the slimes. The king of the middle was able to take back the merchant district with our help and we will be able to take back the caves as well. That is why he sent golems." Walker summed things up as best as he could since the kings all seemed to prefer short and sweet.

"Good, then go do that. I would say it will take fifty to sixty years to get to every inch of known caves. Then another two or three for all of the discovered and mapped natural caves. And then for those, we don't know maybe a hundred or two hundred. Then you can move to those that connect to the surface and everywhere else."

The sarcasm that was in the king of the deeps voice was easily the strongest Walker had ever encountered. The sarcasm Remey had used was nothing in comparison. "Well, we did bring you a basic potion that our alchemical brawler made to help you with the slimes. If you just want to deal with them yourselves we can let the golems get eaten along with all your ores so they go to waste. I am sure that is for the better." Walker was plain and blunt looking at the king.

"Huh, you do have some back bone then. Good, a weak hero is a useless hero. We can't flood the entire cave with water mixed with your potion. Tell me a better plan." The king flipped the script and began speaking as an equal to Walker instantly. It appeared that his harsh words were only to test him.

Walker was slightly stunned at the change from the king of the deep caves but understood that he had just been tested. He took a moment to readjust his thinking and decided that there were a few ways to stop the slimes in their tracks. "Remey has the formula for the potion and we can provide it to those who can make it consistently. I am sure the ingredients can be harvested and even grown in the caves, right Remey?"

Remey turned her head surprised that she had been included so soon, "Yes, the rarest ingredient is the batwing leaves but they could be farmed down here in the mining area." She knew that they were possible to farm with the correct environment and attention. Since the dwarves were always underground it would be ideal to farm them.

"The potion can be diluted well in to the water and stored. If there is a way to make an easy to carry bag or pack that can spray it then it can be carried by miners to deal with slime when they are found." Walker knew that this was not a long shot since the dwarves could put their minds together to create something like this.

"Sounds like you want the firefighting gear. Let me get a pack." The king stood and walked to the opposite side of the large stone processing building and pulled a heavy looking pack off a shelf. "Here is the water tank and the gauge we made to check it. We use this part here to add air and force there to be pressure. Then this hose is attached to a trigger and sprays water."

The king of the deep caves demonstrated this and also how well it fit on anyone's back. "It slows some of the miners down but there are often small fires in the machines or even parts that need to be cooled constantly. Not to mention some materials we mine can catch fire with a single spark."

"If that holds up to the basic potion then it will work perfectly. We can start filling them now." Remey rushed off to recruit some miners to begin doing exactly that leaving Gil and Walker alone with the king of the deep caves.

Walker wanted to find where Midnight ran off to but had the feeling that she was getting in to some trouble and if he went to get here now he would be caught up for a while. "We have a particular dead end cave that had a very high concentration of silver ore that we were very excited to mine, that is where some very large slimes have come from. Want to take a shot at it?"

The king of the deep caves was particularly worried about this cave. It had been a massive discovery but had been abandoned as soon as they found it. There were many instances where the dwarves needed the silver to make their weapons or certain parts of the golems. Having more would only help their people. But the slimes had grown out of control and made the cave too dangerous.

"We thought there was such high density silver there that a silver golem might spawn from the place. If it had that would be the first in the last fifty years, a very good material I promise you. But now we can't even get near it," The king was showing a slight shake of anger at this.

"Large slimes keep coming from the cave?" Walker was worried as soon as he heard this. If the cave was a dead end and had nowhere to go then it would only make sense that the slimes that left the cave would have piled up then left. If they were large then they had to be from an even larger slime.

"Don't tell me there is a massive slime here too." Gil held his face in his hands knowing the danger that came from this.

"Massive slime? I take it you have faced one before? What was it like and why do I have the feeling that it makes you two wish you didn't have to deal with it?" The king was intrigued but also unhappy to see Gils' reaction.

"The massive slime we faced was purple and caused decay everywhere it went. If the slime is yellow this time then it can melt a lot of things with acid much faster. But what we are worried about is that it went even further than massive. How long has it been left alone?" Walker felt that they were speaking about something much more dangerous than they had expected.

"It was one of the first places the slimes were spotted. Then all hell broke loose and we have slimes coming at our store houses and equipment rooms, and our processing facilities." The king threw his arms up in exasperation.

"I bet the slime controlling the others is down there. And I have the feeling it might be passed a massive slime now...it might have become a lord slime..." Walker was hard pressed to say it out loud. He knew that a lord slime was written as the absolute top of a slime species. They could condense their body and use it in many destructive ways. They would also have the most potent traits of their specific species.

This meant that the yellow slime lord would have the most toxic and acidic body possible for all the slimes and be able to fight the best using it. Simple water and basic potion would not easily defeat it even if it was completely submerged. The party would need to destroy the core no matter what. The only problem was that its core would be stronger than the other slimes due to its strength. The lord slime was incredibly dangerous.

Chapter 600 - 600. Fire Fighting

"Slime controlling the other slimes? Explain this to me." The king of the deep caves gripped one of his pick axes harder making his knuckles show white. He had thought that this was some form of new monster that had been birthed due to the slimes not having proper food and evolving over time to eat the ores like the steel skinned worms had.

"The elves faced a purple slime. It decayed their forest and caused severe harm to them but in the end, we showed up and assisted them in defeating a massive slime with the minimize skill. One of my party members discovered a colorless slime that is used by the slime breeder to control the other slimes. This is why they attack constantly instead of mindlessly eating."

Walker saw as the king of the deep caves' face grew more and more red. He had been willing to accept the ways of nature since the caves were brutal and unforgiving. However, having someone attack their caves and livelihood infuriated him.

"The slime breeder is thought to be a demon spreading chaos for unknown reasons. But we have yet to track them down since they use the colorless slimes to send their orders. But the demons have been under the command of a so called demon lord along with generals. However, the Genesis alliance will strive to rescue the oppressed people and remove the corrupt from power."

Walker threw in the last part to continue to build up the seed that the Genesis alliance is the way to go. "I could care less about some alliance. I will have the demons head for their attacks on my mines! Any who dare cause us trouble deserves death. I want that mine and I want it now. How long to prepare?"

The king of the deep caves was done waiting for results. He wanted to have things settled up now. There was no more waiting and fighting, just reclaiming what was theirs. "If we can defeat the colorless slimes the other slimes should return to a normal state of mindless wandering and eating. They will be much easier to defeat. We also might be able to gather more information on where we can locate this slime breeder."

"Normal state? These slimes were created to cause trouble and destroy the mines! How is that normal?" The king was not happy to hear that they would still be around but had somewhat been calmed knowing that they would be easier to defeat when the slime controlling them was defeated.

"There is a chance they could have existed in nature and no one knew them or that they were going to evolve that way one day. But from what we know right now is that they were created by the slime breeder. Remey did say that the acid slimes may have a use in alchemy to prepare certain ingredients to make better potions." Gil did his best to chime in with some silver linings.

"You think we care about the alchemy uses of such pests? If there is no use if forging or mining there is no worth in it." The king of the deep caves held stubbornly holding to this ideal.

"Actually, wouldn't acid have a use in forging? I am sure there are ores that are tough to shape and cut and might be resistant to acid. So wouldn't acid become useful in the processing of the ores before they are made in to ingots?" Walker had been looking around the processing area and located many tools for cutting away stone and other metals from the ores so they could be sent to the merchant district for forging.

"That..." The king of the deep caves was about to refute this when he realized that Walker might have a point and held his tongue. He knew that if he went back on his thoughts now he would come off as undisciplined. "We will take back the silver mine and deal with whatever is spawning the slimes. Then we will consider alternative uses."

This was more than Walker and Gil thought they would get. "Hey! Come over here and check out what we are setting up." Remey popped her head in to the processing building to yell and gain their attention.

"I bet Remey has some of that fire equipment all set up. It probably needs the kings' approval before being used." Gil was trying to get the king to feel he was a little more important to this process so that he could go out and inspire his miners to fight back more. It also was a way to get the king in to a better mood before the party committed to another battle fully.

"Let's see what that girl has made up for us. I have high hopes for her in these mines." The king appeared to be very stricken by Remey because of the impression she had made and the work ethic to create tools to battle the slimes. As far as he was concerned she was acting more like a dwarf than some of his men.

"I managed to recruit three of the blacksmiths from the merchant district that came down looking for their family members. With the help of their family, we have ten of these fire fighting tanks we filled with basic potion mixture. And even better, it can be used by anyone who can pull this little trigger and push this pump. But, they told me that these five volunteers here, are firefighter system users."

"Ha! I was hoping that you would step up. Firefighting dwarves becoming slime defeating dwarves! What a day." The king had always thought of the fire fighting system dwarves to be nearly useless but for keeping the gears cool. However, now he saw them as a much more valuable force.

Naturally, the firefighter system dwarves had jumped to show off their strengths and refused to allow the slimes that had endangered their families to remain. Overall they showed that they were ready to wield these new weapons and start hitting back for a change.