

## Master 631

### Chapter 631 - 631. Risky Forging

"You want me, to work with an elemental spirit to craft. And what if this doesn't work? I just lose my life for nothing? Without the mana I force from my soul I will run out completely." The elder was stunned. To him, he was being asked to risk losing his life for zero results.

"No! He'll trap me again. Never!" The earth elemental spirit was struck by fear. It still believed that it would be the one that was forced in to a weapon or armor and trapped for years.

"Then use my mana as a test. I will be the one to burn their soul if it fails." Walker made this bold statement that made even Gil and Midnight freeze. Midnight had just started to settle down near the Mithril furnace when Walker said this. She could feel the slight tremble in his heart when he did. It was the fear of actually dying. Yet, there was more. Walker was feeling a massive determination. Determination to change something terrible in to something wondrous and good.

"I may look like a senile old dwarf, but I would never do such a thing. You are too young to sign your life away like that. So much to discover still." The elder wanted to drop everything. He didn't want to see this young adventurer give up the future he was sure to have for a simple weapon. There were reasons the elderly used the spirit forging methods if they could. Not the young.

"No soul burning. I will help, You are nice. Water spirit will need you!" The earth elemental spirit had seen that Walker was not some harmful adventurer looking to trap it. It knew that Walker was there to help and push for the best possible solution.

The elder watched the elemental spirit moved about with even more chaos and could tell that it was because of what Walker had said. He released a harsh sigh, "Fine, I will try it. Just tell me what you want me to do while I work. I plan on making a shield. I was working on a new kind of form remembering wire, but it can be taken on by another later."

The elder went to the cabinet and began to pull many different and some strange, materials. There were pieces of wood no bigger than coins. Small glass like beads that radiated elemental mana. Multiple metal ingots of the highest purity and density. Along with a blueish hued hammer which was engraved with many runes that intersected.

"This is the best hammer in the entire dwarven city. I will pass it to Grey when I die. The other materials will become part of the shield. Now watch a master at work." The elder stoked up his flame and added the small coin sized pieces of wood. They curbed different colors and released multiple elemental manas.

The flames started to change colors periodically with the wood burning more and more. "Those are from different trees that grow in high density elemental mana. I needed to pay a fair price for every piece you saw me use." The elder was still a teacher and decided to explain everything as he went. He would need someone else to remember and pass on these tricks.

Taking the different ingots to the fire the elder began to heat them so he could ford them together in to a powerful alloy. His goal was an unbreakable shield full of power and majesty. If possible he also wanted to make it so that the one that wielded it gained a strong defensive skill that would reflect damage back at the attacker. He wanted this even if it was a al or physical attack.

"I chose materials from al and non al species. They are perfect for melting in to the in ingots." The elder threw multiple materials in to the furnace and put on his thock gloves. The next thing Walker and Gil knew was that the elder had set a hunk of partially attached metals on an anvil.

"This is where speed is of the essence. I need to basic shape it and add the monster materials. Brace yourself." The elder was continuing on. Midnight had an eye carefully on Walker and did not dare to sleep. She knew that Walker would try and save the elders' life at a drop of a hat. Even if he ended up dead himself he would save someone.

Walker was not worried. He was actually insanelly impressed that so much work would be done right away. The elder was pouring mana in to each swing of the hammer. This made it clear to Walker and Gil that he would be out of mana soon.

He was about to try to learn about a mana transfer spell when he noticed the elemental spirit had stopped. "No! Don't burn the soul. I will help." The earth elemental mana began to condense in the room and Walker reached over to the cage holding the earth elemental spirit. The elder didn't stop him but cast a sideways glance.

The spirit that he had held on to for years and years was going to be released and run away. The elder had no choice but to deal with it to avoid the fact that Walker would burn his soul in the elders' place. The elder had already heard and figured out the importance of the party and was too wise to ignore the fact that losing anyone of such caliber would be good.

Gil reached out and flipped the cage open ahead of Walker, "You worry about helping the two. I will worry about helping you." Gil wasn't sure what exactly Walker was planning. But he wouldn't let his family just go it alone. If He could help he would, especially in a situation where Walker was willing to risk everything.

#### Chapter 632 - 632. Spirit Forging

In just a blink of an eye after Gil had opened the cage and Walker had given an appreciative smile, the earth elemental mana has surged. The release of the earth elemental spirit had been like a dam being broken. All the natural mana that had been pulled toward the spirit was finally under its' control and waiting to be used.

"Free!!! I can touch the ground!" The spirit was overjoyed to be out of its confinement and free to touch the earth it was made of yet again. And elemental spirit being separated from the element it was made from would be the same as someone not being able to feel their arms and legs.

"Are you sure you want to help? I won't force you." Walker did not want to force the earth elemental spirit to do anything. It had already been held in a cage after being found and that was already unfair. Asking more was cruel in its own way.

"Yes! Water spirit is sleeping. I will help!" The earth spirit stopped moving around the ground in joy to focus on what it was about to do. Walker was sure to give the elder a hard look to make sure that nothing untoward would happen to the spirit now that it was acting of its' own will.

All the earth elemental mana converged toward the folding metal and hammer in the elders' hand. There was a slight pause as the density became nearly tangible and the brown glow of earth elemental mana was blinding. "Go! Forge now!" The spirit sounded weak but it was able to move in to position to watch the elder forge.

The earth elemental mana had an instant and obvious effect on the metals and hammer. The mithril hammer was covered in the glowing runes. With each swing the mana that was sent in to the metal caused the shape to alter and the shield to take form faster. The shield itself was soaking up earth elemental mana as if it was a desert getting rain for the first time. The process could shake any person whether they were sensitive to mana or not.

The elder had stopped appearing pale and even looked to be more energetic than before. He was moving much faster in the process and wasn't appearing to stop. The large hexagonal shield was shaped to perfection in the matter of minutes. Walker had not expected the insane speed of a dwarf crafting compared to the humans they had seen. The elves were even slower in comparison.

Since the elder had arms made of mechanical metal he did not hesitate to take the shield and directly start to carve runes and details into it. He pulled at some small monster spikes and began to attach them to the front of the shield causing the elemental manas to absorb even faster. "Ha! I knew that stone mantis needles would be perfect for this." The elder couldn't help but show his enthusiasm and talk out loud to himself.

The earth elemental spirit perked up a little having pulled more earth elemental mana to itself to replenish what it had used. "Faster! It will lose my touch!" The spirit knew that the effect of its skills would fade soon and that the elder needed to move faster or else the shield he was making would not be able to reach the proper absorbed elemental mana to be finished.

"The earth spirit says you need to move faster before the skill it used ends," Walker repeated the word of the spirit as fast as he could. The elder didn't even flinch as he started to pick up the pace.

The amount of earth elemental mana around the shield just grew and grew with the elder worked. The mana gem on a nearby work bench was fixed into the back of the shield along with multiple earth elemental mana crystals. They would all complete the rune formations that would fuel the shield's skill and assist in its' strength.

Walker began to notice that there were slight cracks in the elders' mechanical arms and that the sounds of grinding gears were ever increasing. The massive pressure that they were under from the high earth elemental mana density was too much and even a normal dwarf's hands would be unable to handle it properly. Yet, the elder did not stop, he sped up.

After fixing arm holds on to the shield there was a moment where all the mana in the room felt to freeze. The elder and the earth spirit locked eyes. "This would be the time I would have to force the spirit to bond to it. I don't know what to do now. But I feel like I don't need to force anything."

"Right! I don't need to become one. I can feel it!" The earth elemental spirit body of clay crumbled to the ground in a small pile. Walker could sense that its' earth elemental body was reaching up and touching the shield.

There was a pulse of earth elemental mana that shook the room. The elder looked pale yet again and one of his arms fell to his side limply. The forging process had wrecked one of his arms. The earth elemental spirit was still without solid form but Walker could sense that it was around the shield if not also inside it.

The look of worry and fear in his face gave him away. Walker thought the spirit had just went and bonded with the shield anyways. He felt he had let the spirit down and done exactly what he did not wish it to. He had created another forcefully bound weapon with a trapped spirit.

"Walker, look at the mana gem. There's something different about it. Actually, can you see the runed and elemental mana crystals? They are all different." Gil had a hand on Walkers' shoulder while pointing to the hexagonal spiked shield. It was indeed very different now. So much so that Walker instantly used his all around appraisal skill.

Chapter 633 - 633. Forging Results

Walker was still worried while he waited for the system to respond to his all around appraisal skill, what he saw pop up was enough to stop his heart for a moment.

'Earth dwelling shield (occupied)

+25 def, +20Mdef, +35hp, mana storage: 50, Earth fortress skill

This is a first of its kind dwelling weapon. This creation came from the union of a spirit and a master smith. The earth elemental mana is drawn to this hexagonal spiked shield constantly. There is a strong bond with elemental earth mana allowing an earth elemental spirit to freely bond and rest with the shield. The skill earth fortress can only be used by the wielder when the spirit is present. The earth elemental mana constantly enhances the shield's defensive abilities and even adds to the wielder's hit points through mana replenishment.

Earth fortress- 5 mana cost from shields' mana storage

The earth will form near instantaneous walls in relation to the elemental spirits activation of the skill. The walls will completely encompass the wielder. The earth elemental spirit can instantly crumble the

walls when needed. Using this skill increases defense by ten and al defense by ten. This skill is unique to certain systems that involve high control of earth elemental mana.'

Walker ever so slowly read this out loud. His breath was caught up in his throat when he spoke of the elemental spirit being able to dwell within the shield at will for rest. That meant that it could also leave the shield when it desired. "Walker?" Gil saw that Walker had lowered his face. He had cupped it in his hands and was breathing heavily.

After a few moments, Walker raised his head and showed a bright smile with only a few traces of tears. "We didn't trap a spirit. We didn't forcefully bind an elemental spirit. We didn't burn anyones' soul. We succeeded in something new. It may not be a sentient weapon but we have something amazing." His laughter started breaking away the tension. He was overjoyed that things had turned out in the best possible way.

"I thought..." Gil shook his head feeling that his shoulders were free from all the weight he had not even realized. After scanning the room Gil even found that Midnight had come right behind Walker and was still frozen on the spot without moving. She was shivering slightly.

"Sorry, I was just a little surprised. Then when I felt all the stress melt away I realized I had just risked my very being. But this...is amazing." Walker had put himself back together and realized he had let his emotions take control. Walker reached back and softly placed a hand on Midnights' head. "I am sorry for worrying you. I know that I just stopped your heart. Please let me apologize properly."

Midnight came back to life after feeling Walkers' touch. She leaned in to his hand and shuddered slightly. She thought that this entire process was about to result in the loss of her family member. The person she held the most trust in out of everyone she had ever met in her life. The person that she held most dear.

While Walker and Midnight had a moment to themselves, Gil was able to turn his attention to the elder who was still looking at the earth dwelling shield. It appeared that he could not believe what he was looking at. The look of wonder and awe was still plain to see.

"That is real you know. My brother is willing to put his soul up for bet if that shield means dwarves will come together for a better future. We may not be blood related but we are family and share more than I can say. So what do you have to say?" Gil waited for the response that was sure to come.

Hearing Gil the elder moved his working arm and looked at the other, "We really managed to live then. I can't believe this just happened. I forged with a spirit and created the most powerful weapon I have ever held...." The elder was still partially convinced he was in some form of a dream. This may not be a true sentient weapon that he and the dwarves dreamed of but it was very close to what they had strived for.

"I have been part of something that has brought my people closer to our goals. I still have more to the quest i was given. I must research more and craft more. I need you to stay, or someone who can speak to spirits at my side." Believing more that this was reality, the elder was already planning the next forging endeavors. Now that there was a new avenue to explore it needed to be done.

Walker finished his moment with Midnight and it appeared that he had made some promises to apologize to her. She was much happier and wanted to stick right by his side while he moved to speak to the elder. "First let me check on the spirit. I am sure it is tired."

Walker softly touched the shield and felt the earth elemental mana steadily being pulled in to it. This was the spirit bringing itself back to full strength after using a lot of its' mana reserves. "Hey, are you alright in there?"

There was a fluctuation in the earth elemental mana and a small clay body started to build itself on the ground. Walker could feel the mana from the elemental spirit doing this. After some time the spirit moved from the shield and back to the clay. "Yes! I have a place to sleep!" Thank you! It is better than before." The spirit seemed much more pleased. It was amazing how natural the spirits could act even though it was just trapped. Spirits went with the flow of nature and that meant that they were not creatures to hold grudges

#### Chapter 634 - 634. Unique Questing

Walker watched as the spirit flitted about a little here and there. "I can rest there! It's better! Faster mana! Comfortable!" The earth spirit was overjoyed to find such a comfortable place. Walker could only theorize that the runes carve on the shield were increasing the absorption of the earth elemental mana much more than it normally would with just the spirit dwelling within.

On top of this, the earth dwelling shield had been made using the skills and abilities of the earth elemental spirit. It was simple to say that this specific earth elemental spirit would have the easiest time to enter and dwell within the shield. And most likely the easiest time controlling the earth dwellings shield.

The elder had finished looking and accepting the shield to focus on the spirit. When he moved to fully face the spirit and lower his head the spirit flinched slightly. "Please, I am sorry for trapping you. I did not know someone could truly speak to spirits and that you were so amazing. Thank you for helping me. Please do whatever you want."

Walker was very proud to see that the elder of the dwarves was not hard headed and brutish. Instead, he was seeing the mistake for what it was and owning up to it. This was a very large step for them to come to terms with the elves and move forward. With this elder in charge, Walker could only see positive growth.

Walker could tell that the earth elemental spirit understood, "I give! But you will help my friends when they wake up and make them homes like mine!" The spirit moved to the shield calling it a home. This instantly connected a few dots for Walker.

"The spirit says this shield is its' home to it and that when the dormant spirits wake up that you should make them for them." Walker was thinking of something but having hard time putting it all together.

"Of course I will do that. I can further my peoples' dreams and make up for the wrongs I have done to another sentient creature. I will prove that the dwarves are not spirit chaining monsters." The elder stood up and thumped his less damaged arm on his chest. "Ehm, I will also repair these arms so that I may do that better."

'Race quest: Dwarves and Elves- completed

The dwarves and elves are two opposing races. They do not harbor hate but they do not work together. Due to the creation of a new alliance, they will be brought together and have the chance to become bonded.

Requirement:

Find the true path of spirit forging

Rewards:



500exp multiplied to 5000 exp.

Due to exceptional heroic actions the user has gained 2 heroic points.

Unique True hero quest

Unique hero quests'

Walker was excited to soon find out about these unique quests but was amazed to see that the quest reward had been added to. He had been willing to put his life on the line so that no one else would be harmed in his semi forced experiment in spirit forging. This had earned him the extra heroic points to increase his level. It was a heroic action to take the risk upon himself but also a dangerous one that he would remember to think about more carefully next time.

"Walker, I think you will want to hear this..." Gil was holding the bow he used regularly and looking at it in awe. Walker on the other hand was slightly lost. "I just received a quest to gather materials from the dwarven city and prepare to modify the bow...It will free the spirit and make it like that shield."

Walker's face lit up in to a brilliant smile, He could barely contain his joy for Gil who he knew was feeling more and more strongly about this bow. "It doesn't list the materials needed but says that I need to find wind elemental materials that are within the city. I need to go..."

"Yes! Go, this is what that spirit needs and what you have wanted. I won't hold you back. If you need me I will be there." Walker didn't hesitate to push Gil away. This was the best turn of events and he could tell Gil had solidified his resolve once again.

The elder was surprised and showing all his emotions out in the open. "I must prepare myself. My arms were too weak. I was complacent and did not improve my own body. How pathetic. I need orichalcum and sea stone. Ahh, I'm going to the treasury!"

The elder jumped up and Midnight followed behind him since she was interested in seeing a treasury. Walker had the feeling that this was because she was thinking about the potential mana crystals there she could snack on with the elders' permission and started to follow.

"Ah! Take that shield with you so the spirit can come. Actually, take that shield. It will be my gratitude for showing me the right path. Also, if there is anything you need crafter you can request it of me at any time." The elder had stopped realized that they would be leaving the shield and the spirit alone and didn't want to continue his mistakes from the past.

"Yes! Adventures! Show me the world!" The earth elemental spirit was getting just what it wanted. It had been trapped and now with freedom, would see the world as it desired. Walker was amazed that such an item would just be given to him. But inside the cabinet, the elder had taken the cake from there were many dormant elemental spirits. There was sure to be even more that wanted dwelling items like the earth elemental spirit from the elven city.

"Thank you, I can promise that wherever you decide to go you will find adventure." Walker made this promise to the earth elemental spirit knowing that the world was once again open to it fully.

#### Chapter 635 - 635.True Hero Quest

Walker back tracked and picked up the earth dwelling shield finding that it was exceptionally heavy. The weight really spoke to the immense defensive stats it could give. This item would make whoever wielded it much more powerful.

He was sure that there were other shields that were more powerful just based on pure defensive or pure al defensive strength. Yet, having a combination of both to be so high along with the benefit of adding health points, it was exceptional.

Furthermore, the shield added a skill that the user didn't need their own mana for. It used the mana that the shield stored from the spirit dwelling within. It was also a skill that the user didn't need to activate. This meant that the wielder would have another pair of eyes guarding their back to activate a defensive skill to potentially save their lives.

"Gil, if you see Su make sure you tell her she needs to speak to me." Walker wanted to speak with the spirit and introduce it to Su. If the spirit was accepting this could be a third shield added to Su's repertoire. The two she had were perfect for her. But this would be a shield that was ideal for single opponents. Her other two shields were ideal for groups and traveling.

Seeing that Walker had picked up the shield the earth elemental spirit rushed around his feet. It was glad to be leaving the room it had been in for so long. "Water spirit should get a home too. It should have friends. Every spirit!" The earth elemental spirit was ranting about wanting Walker to make dwelling gear for multiple spirits even though he only had one which was dormant.

Like thunder crashing in the sky, Walker was stopped in his tracks. Many thoughts were crashing through his mind. "What's wrong? Is the shield damaged? Is there a flaw? Tell me." The elder had believed that Walker had stopped what he was doing due to some problem with the earth dwelling shield.

"No...I just had a thought that put everything I have wanted together." Walker pulled the water elemental spirit out of his cloak again and looked at the dormant ice like state. "The earth spirit said I should make a dwelling item for this spirit and get more so they can all be friends. I have been trying to gain materials to make a staff with an affinity for every element since I can use every element."

The elder was understanding what Walker was saying, "So you wish for me to help you build a staff that all spirits can dwell within?" This question made the earth spirit stop and look quizzically at Walker.

"Why all at once? Just find a nature spirit. Grand spirits come together and make nature spirits. They were like me but not earth. They can come together to be a nature spirit. Every element!" Walker felt his eyes being opened. Elise had spoken of spirits combining and losing their consciousness to form a new one of multiple elements. If every element was combined together then it would make a nature spirit of the highest tier.

'True hero quest- chain quest: The ideal al staff

The true hero has long found that they are missing their right hand. The path of true spirit forging has finally been discovered and the world cheers to see the growth of all. The true hero is able to converse with all elemental spirits and is able to unite them together.

Requirements:

Gather one high elemental spirit of each element.

Gather unique materials that have no elemental weakness

Rewards:

Insight on the way of natural elemental order

Next link in chain quest'

Walker was the same as Gil. He just looked at the dormant water elemental spirit and at the shield. This entire experience had unlocked so many things for him and given him a direct path to something he desired and was sure to need in the future.

"I will be needing to see if you have any other high elemental spirits. I have a quest to gather one of each element. I also need to look for any materials that you might have that don't have an elemental weakness." Walker spoke in all seriousness. This was a major development in his life that wasn't directly related to assisting a kingdom.

The elder wasn't fully sure what had happened but was able to grasp that Walker was following a quest like him. Midnight was also slightly confused but knew that she was still on the way to somewhere that might hold many snacks and that was all she wanted. She was nearly drooling thinking of the earth elemental crystals she had not been able to snack on often that were sure to line the walls of a treasury. The dwarves must find many while mining.

"Then we will still head to the treasury. None of the kings have a right to tell me what I can and cannot take OR give away. That is a respected right of the eldest and most capable dwarf in the kingdom. That is why so many strive to reach the height of what they can do. If they become the number one then they have any resources they wish." The elder was not modest in explaining this.

"If that's the case I will not hold back. But I don't expect to take things for free. I will give what you need and I am willing to share what I find in the future. I am sure to find many strange materials and unique items that you might be interested in." Walker was already planning to bring things to the dwarves when necessary.

"Oh, is there an adventurers guild branch here? If so I can ask the guild to send things through the guild." Walker realized he had never inquired about a guild branch here. The reason being that other things had been on his mind. Now was the first time he had thought of it actively.

Chapter 636 - 636. Golem King

"Of course we have an adventurers guild branch. If we didn't we would lose valuable access to monster materials and trade routes. We have them guard many of the merchants we send out and many that come in. They normally come to the city in droves but lately we have not allowed them due to the issues we face. Not that the issue will exist much longer. We should be back to normal operations within the month from the things your party appears to have done."

The elder had taken some details from what they had told him and began to assume the issue with the slimes had been more or less erased. He wouldn't doubt the party at all since they had been able to assist him in changing something that had stopped the dwarves' dreams for so long.

"Then that will be perfect. I can have the guild bring the materials I find that you can experiment with. I can also have some sent to grey." Walker furrowed his eyebrows, "Why did you make Grey go and craft golems when he first brought us in?"

"That? He is always slacking and working on his experiments with monster or animal golems. He forgets that his job requires him to make golems for the city and army. Not that any would force him anymore. But I wish to see him more than live up to the expectations. I have a feeling he will make something amazing though. He wants a sentient golem capable of its' own growth."

The elder was guiding them down many corridors that seemed to be leading underneath many buildings. The passageways were not populated and somewhere in between the pipes from the furnaces and the forgeing floors. It was somewhere only a very experienced smith would know how to use.

"Have you ever heard of the fairytale the golem king? It was written based on a dream a master golem builder had. He found a writer system user and had them create it. It's one of the most popular children's tales in the kingdom, sadly there is no truth to it. But there are those who wish to see truth come to be." The elder spoke as if he was reminiscing on old times.

"I can't say I have ever heard of the story. A golem king sounds interesting though." Walker wasn't sure where this conversation was going, but had the feeling that this very story was an inspiration to Grey. Especially since Grey wanted to make a golem with sentience.

"It is interesting. The story is mostly about a dwarf that creates a golem through mysterious forging methods. The golem is the average golem. Nothing bulky and very dwarf like in appearance. As the story is told the builder constantly tries to make it better but perishes in the process. Yet, the golem never stops moving even without the mana supplied to it."

The elder paused as he opened another door to another passageway. The path they were taking was tougher to traverse but was much easier for the elder since he wouldn't be stopped by the other dwarves. "The golem can gather its own mana and one day breaks its leg off. Instead of just stopping and awaiting repair it grabs tools and fixes itself."

"Even more, it started to build another golem from the leg that broke off. Then another and another. By the end of the story there is a sentient golem that has built an entire gear city. There are golems that can do anything along with. It is an entire city just full of golems made by golems. All exactly like us."

Walker thought that this was a very interesting tale. It was something that only someone who truly cared for golems could imagine. "I can't imagine what an entire city made by and for golems would look like. But I am sure it would be an amazing sight."

"It would be, but if it ever comes to be, then what of the dwarves? Would we still mine? Would we still forge? Or would a sentient golem even be possible? Personally, when the fairytale comes up, I would prefer a tale of golem and dwarf coming together. Exactly the same as the spirit and dwarves will soon be doing."

The elder saw a different view in comparison now. The fairy tale was a great one to inspire golem builders and infatuate children. But if they were together Walker could see a different future. If he was understanding the elder correctly then the dwarves might be able to work with golems on a way. Potentially riding and fighting next to the monster like ones. Sharing jobs or careers with the golems developed for crafting. They would be more like extensions of themselves than just mindless creations.

Walker had fallen in to deep thought about this and how the golem building path would need to change over time. However, the introduction of spirits was a wild card. There was no precedent for what might be possible. Not only that, but there were also different tiers of spirits along with battle spirits that could potentially dwell within a humanoid golem. It was too much to theorize on.

"If you stop like that in front of the side door to the treasury then you will be left behind." The elder had brought them to a dead end. The only thing that stood out were the multiple gears that appeared to make up the wall in front of them. "Well, ya didn't think that it would just be some wooden door with a knocker, did you?"

The elder showed great amusement on his face while Midnight and Walker just started at the slowly clicking gears on the wall. Every once in a while a small puff of steam would come from between them. The elder himself started to push and adjust these pieces causing the rotations to change.

#### Chapter 637 - 637. Egg Eggs Eggs

As the elder pushed and changed the different gears Walker was left to wonder how and what he was doing. Nine of the gears directly fit together before but as the elder changed them more and more started to move in sync. Before Walker could fly understand the intricacies of how the gears all came together they had become one massive moving wall.

"Now that that is done, we can enter." The elder n sooner spoke and the wall began to open. With every turn of a gear, the door opened a little more. It only took a few moments to open up to a very large room with multiple others attached.

Midnight was bouncing around in place after seeing the entire wall had opened up to a display room for ornate armors and weapons. "Come on in, we have everything organized by item and rarity." The elder casually strolled in to the treasury like this was just a walk down the street.

"Is this really the first room? Everything in here looks like it should be on display on a castle or museum." The armors were more than carved with runes. They were inlaid with multiple high elemental crystals and mana gems. Walker was sure that these were the best of the best the dwarves had ever made.

"These are mostly decorative. We could never bring them in to battle. Sometimes the best items become just display. If you think that is something amazing you should see the next room over." Following after the elder Walker found that the next room was the most shocking he could find.

"Monster eggs! These are all monster eggs!" Walker and Midnight were caught in awe. There were labeled and documented monster eggs on shelves along the walls.

"We have stone and steel mole eggs, rock horned viper eggs, a few cave spider queen eggs, we even have a section of gremlin eggs. Not that anyone would ever want to hatch a mud gremlin since all they do is make muddy holes in the ground to trap animals and dwarves." The elder was shaking his head.

"I'm surprised you guys don't have any albino or plain old glowing mole eggs." Walker had searched the shelves and seen many monster eggs for nearly every species of monster he had been told about in the caves. There were even a few he had not heard of or that he had heard were extremely rare.

"You've seen a glowing mole around here? They never come near here because they like mana rich areas. We can't even mine where they live since that is elf territory. Those tree roots are too tough to cut through to get to anything." The elder shook his head in disappointment before stopping and looking at Walker much more confused. "Did you say, albino?"

"Yes, my party and I have an albino glowing mole egg. We were lucky to find it after we helped the elves clear out a crystal mine they were nurturing." This opened the elders' eyes greatly.

"The elves mine too? They nurture crystals underground? Wait, no, you said albino glowing mole egg. You know that albino minsters usually have a unique skill of some kind. We have some monster tamers that would pay years of their lives for a glowing mole let alone an albino one." This was a little of a surprise to Walker since he had not

"Well, we did keep it with us to find it a proper home. Maybe we should look for these tamers later." Walker said this more in his own thought but it excited the elder even more.

"Then you should visit the tamers guild branch here. They always complain that we only come to them with jobs to hunt down new mines or to guard an area with breeding or nesting monsters. Having someone bring them something rare will be a nice change." Having said this the elder started to walk along the walls examining the eggs. "Some of these are found while mining and others come from the nests the tamers guild members guard. Others come from the pets in the city."

"I'm surprised that there are so many here in the treasury. Is this normal? Or are there more in the tamers guild area?" Walker was trying to figure out if these eggs were just put here for display or safe guarding. If they were for display he felt that it was cruel to the monsters that have not been born yet.

"It's safer for them to be here. We started to guard them in the vaults after a younger dwarf unlocked a tamers system and accidentally contracted twenty rock horned pythons at once. He had no control over them and we had a tough time keeping them in control while he learned." This made sense. Walker could see how such an instance would influence how they stored the eggs.



"Now, what was this about elves mining too? I thought they just lived in their trees and nothing else?" This was another piece of information holding the elder from moving forward. He couldn't get the thought that dwarves and elves might be closer than he believed.

"Yes, they mine elemental mana crystals underground where they can influence their growth with whatever elemental mana they need. It is fairly intricate since they also have their crystal craftsman underground between the tree roots." The elder appeared to be shaken. The dwarves relied on trade and mining to find elemental mana crystals. Finding certain ones was very rare since they only found ones with elements that aligned with the underground.

"Well, I think that the dwarves and elves will have another thing to talk about. Not only trading with them but just mining in general. It might be wise for them to send some of their elves here to explain crystal mining and your dwarves can explain mining in general since I didn't see much else for mining activity there." The elder was sold on this as Walker spoke and took it as a promise. The three moved on as Midnight had grown impatient. Walker knew it was better not to stay around monster eggs before she claimed them all as siblings.

Chapter 638 - 638. Emerald

Walker was reveling in the fact that there was another set of topics that the dwarves and elves could come together to bond over. It was hard to believe that they would just be able to overcome the spirit forging since this had caused them tension in the past. Even more, Walker was thinking that runes would be a very good topic to discuss. The dwarves used them for armors and learned them to bring in mana to the gear. The elves used them from their natural experience and used them in a similar way.

Midnight was smelling the air continuously making Walker understand that there were elemental mana crystals in the next room. She had a nose for the things she liked to snack on and he wasn't fully sure if it was just a way for her to sense mana or if she really smelled them.

"This room may not be as interesting as monster eggs, but these are the elemental mana crystals the kingdoms have mined or traded for. We hold on to the rarest and highest tiers so that we can use them for important forging. Many of the golems and unique gear made need dual elemental crystals." This was an interesting fact for Walker to learn.

"I see that there is a lot of steam used so would it make sense that there are a lot of the water and fire dual elemental mana crystals used?" The elder nodded his head in response to Walker's assumption. He was glad to see that the intuitive strength of this hero was strong enough to put all the pieces together without explanation.

"Midnight, remember not to eat anything without the elder giving you permission." Walker saw Midnight try and rush ahead and quickly compose herself after his words. She was getting too excited about the potential of food and couldn't hide it from anyone.

"She has a taste for elemental mana crystals already? I thought that would come when she got older. Maybe it makes sense, she does have very well developed scales." The elder was looking closely at Midnight's scales which she began to proudly show off.

"I have only see earth dragons before. The ones that visit us occasionally are used to being underground. Those from the mountains usually prefer the sky to a degree. It has only been a few decades since one last visited but I will remember them every time. The swords we crafted for the golems to wield. The hammers we made." The dwarf speaking highly of dragons completely distracted Midnight.

"Midnight definitely would like to hear more about the visits. She hasn't been able to meet many of her own species and it makes her curious about them." Walker explained the piercing gaze that Midnight was giving the elder bringing the elder to laugh heartily.

"Well, stories do I have to tell. I used to be a lot more of a gear head than I am now. I nearly picked a fight with a dragon once. It was the strangest dragon I have ever seen. It was an earth dragon but its' scales were all green. At first, I thought it had weird scales and in a heat illness I said it looked like tarnished silver."

The elder paused for dramatic effect, "Next thing I know there are green flames around me and the dragon is proclaiming itself as an emerald dragon. It had eaten enough emeralds that its' scales became emerald. With the light from its 'flames, we were all able to see the truth. Go figure that very dragon was here to help me forge an emerald sword for its' mother." The elder was looking back at his younger self in wonder.

"Heat illness?" Walker was uncertain of what kind of illness heat illness was since he had never heard of it.

"I forget you aren't a smith or crafter. Most blacksmiths will fall prey to heat illness if they aren't careful. Lack of water and some excessive heat are the main causes of a smith becoming ill. They will act almost drunk as their brain becomes too hot. It has taken some of the best forge masters to their beds for weeks." Shaking his head the elder walked in to the opened room of crystals.

The rainbow of elemental mana crystals made Walker speechless. He could feel the density of elemental mana coming from them and was overwhelmed. Meanwhile, the elder was still speaking unaffected by the sight he had seen many times in his life. "The emerald dragon eventually forgave me for my comment since I had worked hard enough for it to earn some respect. The emerald sword was going to be ceremonial for his mother to symbolize his respect for her."

"He later explained to the naive younger me that an ancient dragon like his mother was able to change in to two different forms. Of course, I was amazed at the time. I already thought a dragon to be spectacular. But hearing that they could take on a humanoid form similar to a demi-human, well, it was a lot for me to handle at the time. It also explained why a dragon would be interested in a sword."

Walker had also heard this and nodded along since he was still trying to find the words to speak about the elemental mana crystals he saw. There weren't just a few. If he could count them the entire large room housed thousands. Not just this but they were some of the highest quality he had ever seen in his life.

"You can have free rein over the lower tier crystals. We bring those in by the hundred if not thousands each day. Just leave the mid tier and high tier for those who will forge with them." The elder spoke to Midnight who eagerly rushed off from where she had stood listening to the elder about the emerald dragons. Her hunger had won out.

#### Chapter 639 - 639. Arms

Feeling that he had been learning a great deal, Walker closed his eyes for a moment to organize the things he had learned. The elemental mana crystals could wait for just a moment.

He was glad that he would be able to meet some dwarven tamers in a branch of the tamers guild. It would be a very interesting and informational way for him to become closer to the dwarves and also to the tamers guild. He would also have a very good chance of finding a tamer that could properly care for and raise the albino glowing mole egg that was still dormant in his inventory.

The knowledge of dragons was also interesting. Walker already knew that dragons scales reflected what they ate most. Since Midnight was eating multiple elemental mana crystals then she would have a very unique kind of scale. This wasn't a surprise though since she was a dragon champion and that was a reason she could eat them all in the first place.

Knowing that the dragons had a bond with the dwarves was a very valuable piece of information. The ancient dragons were very hard to speak to or even get in contact with. This meant that the humans, elves, and demi-humans had never truly formed a bond with them. Having the dwarves to possibly offer a good work about the alliance could shape the future slightly differently. But time would tell if this was even possible.

"So, what do you think? There are some amazing specimens here. Some that could be perfect for what you want to craft." The elder pointed at the higher shelves where there were multiple grand elemental crystals. These were mostly single elements but there were others that were dual or even triple.

"I have some multiple elemental crystals already and I was going to try and get more. But there's no way I could take something so valuable." Walker knew that these were incredibly valuable to the dwarves and if he took them it would be a hit to their people.

"Then I will just grab one of each." The elder started to gather one of each other the grand elemental mana crystals. Before Walker could even stop him he had placed them in to a bag hanging off of his limp arm. Walker was still concerned about this but the elder had yet to say or do anything about it.

Midnight had gathered a small pile of low tier elemental crystals and laid down with them in the middle of the room. "Feel free to rest here and enjoy yourself. I am going to take this one to the more unique materials and the hall we keep elemental spirits in." Midnight gave the elder a soft huff and bowed her head in gratitude for the elemental mana crystals. She was happier than a kid in a candy store with unlimited gold to spend.

"You know, you have spoiled her more than my mother has in less than an hour." Walker shook his head as he followed the elder.

"I am old. I am allowed to spoil the younger generations when I am not teaching them." The elder showed a hard look making Walker understand that there was much more steel hiding within him than he showed now.

"I can't argue with that then. I guess I will need to accept it." The elder smiled and showed the deep wrinkles from years of squinting at fire and hot metals.

"Come this way. I have a personal room here with spare arms. I can't believe that they would never break. I just think I will need to finish the mithril or oricalum ones if I want to continue on the spirit forging path now." Hearing this was another surprise to Walker. It was amazing that the elder had made one pair of arms but having multiple was even more amazing.

There was a door in this hallway that had a few markings. The elder pulled a key and unlocked it showing off that it was for his personal use. Within were many hammers of different quality and materials. Among some damaged armors and helmets, Walker found that there were even more materials that seemed useless but for mementos from the past.

When Walker saw a wall full of holders he realized that there were intricate arms made of many metals and rune carved variations. These were the sets of arms the elder had made for himself for when he was in need of a new pair.

Walker was shocked to see the elder place the bag of grand elemental crystals down and move a few gears on the broken arm. The sound of it hitting the ground was terrifying since all that was left was a metal section glowing with mana on his shoulder. Before Walker could fathom how this worked the elder attached a dark green arm and then detached the other and replaced it with the opposite green arm.

"That is much better. I hated only having one arm that worked. These should hold up better if I test more spirit forging. But for now, let's go and see those spirits." The elder was casual and picked up the bag of grand elemental crystals.

Walker was at a loss for words and meekly followed. When the elder locked the door behind him he handed Walker the bag of grand elemental crystals. You can carry them. I realized that it is easier to just have the person who I am giving them to carry them." Walker couldn't argue this and just smiled weakly while he stored them away. The earth elemental spirit had been quiet while resting within the shield but began to stir as it felt the fellow elemental spirits as they approached another room.

"This is the hall of spirits. It is where we house most of the dormant elemental spirits we have procured and some of the active ones. I think...we will have a hard job of making amends here." The elder was worried about how the spirits would react but held his breath in hopes that Walker would be able to speak to them.

#### Chapter 640 - 640. Freeing Spirits

Walker was glad that the first thing he saw wasn't a room full of changed spirits but instead a small room with many dormant spirits. Most of them were earth elemental spirits that the miners had found

while working but there were some of every element that the dwarves had purchased or found elsewhere.

"These are the spirits we have. No one else should have any anywhere else in the entire city unless they were just found. The only room that is equipped for spirit forging is the one I was in and no one else has been there in years."

Walker felt more at ease knowing that there was nowhere else in the city that could be attempting spirit forging. This meant that the spirits here were safer than he had imagined they would be. "Friends! More Friends!" The earth elemental spirit was rushing to each of the dormant spirits whispering to them to wake up. So far none of them had reacted but Walker knew that eventually, one might.

"We have some already active spirits held up ahead over there. You may want to speak to them." Pointing forward the elder held himself back. He didn't feel like he had any right to be part of the conversation Walker would have.

Walker had been carrying the earth dwelling shield with him the entire time and the weight had been pushing down on him. However, when he made it to the three cages spirits the shield seemed to lighten a little. There was a decent amount of earth elemental mana and Walker saw that one of the spirits was also an earth elemental spirit.

"Hey, want to come meet another earth elemental spirit?" Walker called to the earth elemental spirit who was whispering to the dormant ones. The spirit rushed over and nearly threw itself at the cage with the earth elemental spirit in it.

"Friend! Come out and Play! Look at my home!" The spirit was trying to pull the cage apart and Walker reached down to open it releasing the silent earth elemental spirit. It was looking around lost before the earth elemental mana rushed towards it and brought more detail to the clay like body. Soon the two spirits were dancing about with each other conversing rapidly.

"Would you two like to be free of those pesky cages as well? I can explain how the dwarves are changing their ways and you can decide if you want a home like that earth spirit has or if you would like to leave?" The fire spirit that was next to a darkness elemental spirit both seemed silent and slow from lack of their elemental mana. But soon Walker caught them moving their heads to signal that they wanted to be free to hear him speak.

The darkness elemental mana surged towards the dark elemental spirit causing it to dive in and out of the shadows in joy. The fire elemental spirit followed the same surge of fire elemental mana and consequently caused multiple little sparks in the air in joy. The two were much happier being free from the cages than they had been while trapped.

"Now, the dwarves didn't know you were able to speak or sentient at all. They believed you to just be the key to crafting sentient weapons. Unfortunately, they were following the wrong process and they were burning their souls and trapping spirits. This was their mistake." Walker saw the three newly freed spirits slow down and focus on him.

"I worked with their elder and this earth spirit here to change the way things are done. Now there is this shield made with the help of this earth elemental spirit and the dwarf elder. It is called the earth dwelling shield and it is a place an earth elemental spirit can rest if it desires. But it is not bound and trapped within it."

The earth elemental shield proceeded to enter and leave the shield a few times to prove to the three that this was all true. Even more, it began to tell them that Walker was their friend and that they could leave and explore if they wanted. The fire elemental spirit approached Walker first out of the three.

"The other spirits? What will happen?" This was a respectable question to ask. Walker knew that this spirit was putting the dormant spirits first before itself.

"They will be here until they wake up. When they do they will have the same choice. I plan to have some elves come here and assist the dwarves. Naturally. That is if they join the alliance the elves are part of. But at this point, I would say they will." Walker was almost sure that the dwarves would be unable to turn down the extremely beneficial alliance.

Hearing this the fire elemental spirit moved closer to Walker and examined him. "How do you speak spirit?" That was also a good question to ask since he was obviously not a species that could normally speak to spirits freely.

"I learned while with the elves. I met a certain elf that had spirits that dwelled within her and they talked to me so much that I learned to speak to every single element of spirit." Walker paused and looked to the spirits, "I am actually recruiting spirits that would want to join me on my journey. I have a quest to find one of every element to join me. That is an option for all of you. I also have a dormant water spirit with me." Walker showed the three newly released spirits the dormant water spirit.

"Spirit guardian?" The dark elemental spirit thought that Walker had the spirit guardian system since he was able to carry a dormant spirit.

"No, my system lets me have most of the skills though, and more." Walker waited as the spirits became energetic and talkative with each other. They all wanted to consider the things they could do now and where they could go.