

Master 671

Chapter 671 Ancient Robes

The second chest was opened just as easily as the first. What Zenith revealed was a very strange robe. "This must be the robes that were mentioned on the walls. But this seems more like a shroud." Zenith held them up so that everyone could get a good look.

"Stong fire! A lot of mana!" The fire elemental spirit was the most interested in them and when Walker tried to sense the mana he noticed that the robes were radiating fire elemental mana.

He used the all around appraisal skill and stood with his jaw dropped after reading it out loud.

' Lava silk robes

Matk +18, Mdef +16, fire mana recovery

Robes made from lava spider silk. The rare ancient monster lava spiders are only known to live in and around volcanoes. Their silk constantly absorbs mana and converts it to fire elemental mana. The robes allow the wearer to absorb fore elemental mana passively from the air and use it in their skills. This robe was crafted by the unique lava smith system'

"I didn't even know that there were spiders that lives in volcanoes." Su took the new piece of information. She was confused about how anything could live in such a dangerous environment. The only monster she knew that could, was a dragon. However, Walker had said that lava slimes exist once.

"I wouldn't think that a robe would look this style but maybe this is more like the robes that were worn all those years ago." Walker felt the robe and noticed that it was even warm to the touch. The fire elemental mana was so powerful that it was even heating the air around them slightly.

"I think it looks strange, but it is nice and warm. Even if it isn't useful for you it could be an ideal winter coat." Zenith thought that this was a silver lining in the least.

Walker noticed that the fire elemental spirit was completely fixated on the robes. "Hey, let me see the robes for a minute." He took them from Zenith and rolled them up making a small nest out of the lava

silk robes. "Do you want to rest here for a bit? You still look like you want to absorb more fire elemental mana." Walker saw as the spirit vibrated in place for a moment. He could only think that it was excited beyond words.

The fire elemental spirit moved to the lava silk robes Walker had rolled in to a nest and sat itself in the middle. The fire it was made of harmonized with the robes and the pull of fire elemental mana became greater. Midnight eyed the spirit cautiously since she could feel the flames within her stir slightly. It was a strong pull that seemed to please the spirit more.

"There's also some gold in here. Ancient coins but they are just gold. We can pick it up later unless you want it?" Zenith wasn't too impressed since gold was a very common find in any ruins that the dwarves would uncover.

"It's no big deal for us. We have been fortunate to make a decent amount and even have some monster materials we need to sell so we are alright on gold. Actually, that reminds me we should stop by the adventurers guild branch here to do that." Walker had been way too caught up in things and realized he had yet to even inquire about the adventurers guild in the dwarf city.

"Really? You must have passed it a few times. It is right next to the high forge so that it is easy to find and the guild can work with those who use the forges. It just makes sense. It also means that the blacksmiths and crafters have first grabs at the newer materials that the guild brings." Zenith tapped her head to show the brilliance of the location for the high forge members.

"Leader, the third chest. It should have the staff." Su noticed Walker getting side tracked and brought him back to focus.

"Thanks. I was getting in to other things. Zenith, the honors are yours." Walker motioned for Zenith to jump back in to the stone chest opening that she was so excited for. When the last lid popped open the fire elemental mana pushed put again. However, this time Walker swore he could see a slight bit of smoke come with it.

"Wow...this thing is intense. It's like an eye." Zenith wasn't sure she should even touch the staff because of the heat it was giving off. The small wisps of smoke were another sign that she shouldn't touch it no matter what.

"This is amazing..." Walker was caught in awe at the sight of the staff. He was joined by Su, Midnight, and Onyx who were all trying to get a look at it clearly.

The staff was made from black stone. It seemed to be taken right from the deepest fires of the earth. They led up to intertwined and nearly like vines of a tree even though they were made out of stone. The small carvings all over it were fire runes. But surprisingly there were some earth runes as well which Walker believed lead to the strengthening of the staff so that it could survive the physical daggers of battle.

The large round object set in the top of the staff was an orange semi clear eye. The predator like slit of a pupil appeared to burn with flames. Walker had never seen a gem like it and started to believe that it couldn't be a gem at all and that it might be something else.

"I've heard of this before. That is an eye. A cyclops eye. One of the only other monsters known to forge and eat their prey whole. They are extremely antisocial and hate any other living creatures. They chose to step down from being a recognized race and prefer to be monsters." Zenith spoke slowly and near silent. She was remembering distant tales that the dwarves told to children.

Chapter 672 Cyclops

Walker couldn't sit in suspense any longer and used his all around appraisal to check out what the staff was.

' Cyclops flame staff

Matk +25, Def +10, Mdef +14, cyclops skin skill

The staff is hand carved from the hardest cooled lava from the deepest depths of a volcano. The cyclops eye that has been used as the power core for this staff was taken from a seven hundred year old hermit cyclops. Cyclops have a major resistance to heat and can reach in to the hottest lava without any damage. The staff has inherited the ability to absorb and withstand high amounts of fire elemental mana.

Cyclops skin- 40 mana per hour

This is a unique skill created upon the forging of this unique weapon. The skin of a cyclops completely resists fire elemental mana. But spending the users' mana the user can resist fire elemental mana just like a cyclops. The user will be able to reach directly in to lava or forge fires.'

"Cyclops are nearly extinct! And you will be able to use one of their skills if you wield this and spend the mana." Zenith was beside herself after hearing this. It was just amazing that something dwarves wished they could do was possible with this staff. "Why don't we have any dwarf mages? Why are we all so caught up on crafting and digging." Zenith wanted to kick herself for being unable to use this staff.

"It sounds like cyclops are one of the monsters dwarves idolize. Not that they sound nice. I can't say I like the part about them eating their prey whole or that they are extremely antisocial." Walker didn't want to encounter a cyclops in general after hearing that.

"Cyclops are massive monsters that can eat a dwarf while. It could eat three and that is just a snack. They have been known to live in caves that pour lava out of them regularly. I even read a story about one that used to swim in lava for fun!" Zenith had many stories resurfacing and bringing her back to her childhood.

"Leader, I believe that finding a fire mage to assist the crafting of items would be best. This staff would be their tool to greatly assist a blacksmith." Su knew that Walker wouldn't use the staff since he didn't use only fire elemental .

"You might be right. It would be more beneficial if there was a fire mage of sorts that could come here and work with the elder at the high forge. That could work better and be more valuable. But I think it might be better to have them help out at the building of Genesis city. If they do then the forges there would have a better start."

Walker and Su reached the same page and decided that the staff would be brought with them to Genesis city where they would seek out someone who could use the staff and assist in forging. "Just knowing that will make some of the blacksmiths in the forge leave and go to the city you are talking about." Zenith was most likely right.

" You know, if a new city is being built then there will be a need for someone to record the new roads and trade routes." Her words were holding a little smugness. She knew that she was speaking to people that could directly give her or at the very least put her in contact with someone who would hire her.

"Are you not content in the city? Genesis city will be a little farther than a few other places." Su was worried that Zenith would regret saying this since the city was so far.

"Trust me. I am excited to get out of the city. Dwarves will often choose not to leave the city at all. My generation has many who have not ever left here to explore the outside world. I want to go make maps of more than just caves. That's why I am excited to travel the ruins. They are different than just a cave." She was standing firm with this and wouldn't budge.

Su chimed in first, "Then you will have a job. The alliance is already working on things but it will take some tie for the road partys' to join in. I can have a letter sent to our king that we are going to have a map maker there. He might ask you to join just to strengthen the relation shop with dwarves in general.

Walker wasn't going to say anything. Su had taken over and he was going to offer the same to Zenia. He decided to add on instead, "If there are other map makers available it would most likely be better to have a few to split up. I will make sure the king knows. It would be one less thing for him to worry about after all." Walker nodded while saying this. He placed a hand on the staff and store it away. Things had been side tracked but at the end of the day, they learned new things and were able to gather a valuable treasure.

"I feel like things have just got more and more interesting since you heroes showed up. First, the city is booming over the defeat of the slimes. Then I hear there are heroes doing all manner of things. I was even told today that this dragon beat the most promising golem made by the youngest golem building genius in generations."

Zenith was going to continue when Walker's attention was grabbed. "I don't know about Midnight fighting, anyone?" Walker gave a hard look to Midnight who was pretending that she had heard nothing." But if it helped in some way then everything is on the up and up." Walker could only think that Midnight must not have stayed in place while the elder and he went to look at materials. He would be having a few words with her later about the importance of staying in one place and not wandering off.

Chapter 673 Back Pack

"I guess if you are done sketching we don't really have anywhere else to go. The other stairway is collapse and it might take a long time to dig out to see if the ruin is any bigger." Walker was a little depressed that it had been so small. He knew that the ruin had given them very important knowledge and some very amazing gear. But it was just sad that h wouldn't have more to explore and look for.

"Most of the time when we try and excavate the collapsed portions of ruins it ends up leading to more collapsed places. We would end up just digging to the surface for nothing. You may forget how deep we

are underground, but for some reason, it was normal to bury the more important people deeper in the ground. The going theory is based on strength. Look at that skeleton we encountered."

Walker heard Zeniths' words and started to realize that this did seem true. Every time they had heard about the ruins, they heard about them being deeper and found by the miners in the deep caves instead of near the surface.

"I think that it is to avoid the undead that can come back. It's a good theory. The ancient peoples would have been able to protect themselves if the powerful undead were deep down and away. The ember skeleton would have done great damage to the average people." Su put everything in a logical order and summed up the theory. It was all too true and Walker wondered why this act had disappeared through the generations.

"I wonder if there were fewer priestess system users or exorcist type system users back then." Walker thought that this would easily explain why there were also more ruins dug deeper and many more undead coming back to life.

"Could be. Most ruins only have pictures or documents that have been translated showing small villages and small scale battles. There are much fewer grand cities or large armies." Zenith had some knowledge on these things since she mapped out a few ruins or caves. However, she didn't know everything because that would require one of the archivists or code breakers.

"Well, I think we have rested and learned a lot. But we should head back. There are plenty of other things to do and I am sure that one of the kings is waiting for your maps?' Walker knew that it was most likely the king of the deep caves and the elder that wanted to see what she had sketched out.

"Yes! I need to tell them all about what we found. I want them to come and look at the walls themselves but that is really if the rune based system users allow them. Whenever we find a rune in a ruin they get a little possessive. Oh, and can you take the chests back with you? I know you have that spatial like my back pack." Walker nodded and stored the stone chests away.

"What did you mean about your back pack having spatial ?" Su beat Walker to the question.

"Well, I received a quest to create it using certain monster parts. After I did I was required to leave it in a pitch black cave filled with cold water for one week. I guarded that cave against any possible light like it

was the end of my life if I didn't. The result was a map bag that could store my maps, ink, quills, charcoal, really any of my tools. Weight and size doesn't matter. It's very useful. I just wish I could store food and potions in it. But it is limited to map making materials."

Walker was comparing it to the methods Gil needed to follow to get his quiver that could store near endless arrows. The two items were specific to their systems and would help them make the best of them. "Sounds like you will be able to travel pretty much anywhere and be able to gather the information and create maps." This was another positive aspect of having such a spatial item.

The group continued to chat a little as they headed back the way they came when Walker realized something, "Should we deal with the skeletons that are making noise in their stone coffins? They are trapped there so I don't think they are a danger, but it still feels weird to just leave them." As much as he said he didn't fear leaving them, Walker did have a slight worry that they would somehow get out and harm someone.

"No, they should be fine. When the archivists and others come there will be guards that are required to come. Normally I would go with guards as well, but they are busy with the reconstruction and slime hunting. I just didn't want to wait and had the opportunity. I couldn't just let it pass me by." Zenith looked at Su who had rescued her and presented the perfect opportunity for her.

With the word from Zenith, they continued on. Onyx had taken a spot on Midnight's back and was vigilant as ever when they reentered the rock horned vipers' nest. "Brother, things have changed. It looks like more were fighting. Some are even defeated."

The sight was a mess of rocks and three rock horned viper bodies on the dusty floor. The mutated rock horned viper was coiled in the middle of them with its' head held high. It was scanning the next for more challengers since it had been teamed up on for the nest it had guarded. Now it was certainly the most dominant of the nest and none would dare oppose it.

"We should lay low. I don't think we should defeat it if the breeders are going to come here. We can sneak out wa-" Walker heard the crumble of stones and realized Zenith had tripped over a crumbling stalagmite. The mutated rock horned viper did not even hesitate in its' actions to attack them.

Chapter 674 Rocky

Su did not hesitate. She stepped in front of Zenith and raised the earth dwelling shield. The mutated rock horned viper tail slammed in to it and barely managed to move her feet in the dusty cave floor. "Ha! That is nothing!" Su tainted the minster and held its' attraction whale Midnight grabbed Zenith with her mouth and pulled her up.

"You guard Zenith and get her out if here. Onyx, cover their escape." Walker gave the orders and used the multi buff skill to boost them up before they rushed away. The elemental spirits had cowered around them avoiding the fighting which they didn't seem to light. Walker wanted to jump in to the battle but was worried about the fire elemental spirit which had curled up in the nest of lava silk robes he was holding.

Su blocked the mutated monsters' tail again and a small chip of stone and quartz fell off. She was worry that if she used the shield bash skill it would harm the monster or even worse defeat it accidentally. If that happened the breeders that came would suffer losses and they would have hurt the dwarves in the long run. She was not so weak as to let this happen.

Walker saw what Su was avoiding and felt the same. He didn't want to cause the monster any harm and knew that the rock horned vipers would not have attacked them if they had not been fighting amongst themselves. They were the ones that had invaded the rock horned viper nest in the first place.

"Su, I am going to try and manipulate the earth to trap it for a few moments so we can leave." Walker's plan was simple. He would manipulate the stones and hopefully trap the mutated rock horned viper long enough for them to leave. If things worked out well then it would stay in the nest and would not follow them.

Su just taunted the monster again while blocking another hit from the tail. She flinched as she saw another piece of the monster's stone and quartz fall off to the ground. She knew it was hurting itself to continue to defend its' nest and territory.

Walker on the other hand was using his grand elemental manipulation. He was thinking about the blue ivy that Alma could control. He willed the earth to form stone vines just like the ivy. When he had gathered enough of the earth elemental mana he pushed the stone vines to entangle the mutated rock horned viper.

This caused the monster to thrash around and Walker to create and strengthen more stone vines. "Leader, we are retreating." Su pulled Walker while keeping an eye on the other rock horned vipers that were hiding from the raging monster nearby. Walker created more and more of the stone vines since the mutated rock horned viper broke them constantly.

'The skill rocky vines had been taken from the sculptors system. The skill rocky vines had been automatically learned due to user actions.

Rocky vines- 3 mana cost

Depending on the rocks used the vines are stronger or weaker. The vines are able to be manipulated and created from any form of rock. These are often used as artistic pieces but can have unique battle applications depending on the user.'

As more of the stone vines sprouted and wrapped around the mutated rock horned viper's body, Walker and Su began to run out of the nest and through the tight passageway they had come in. Yet, Walker noticed a few bold rock horned vipers going after the trapped viper. He instantly released it and pushed forward with all his might.

The freedom the mutated viper gained was met with a severe battle that knocked the three regular horned vipers down. They had lost their chance to defeat the mutated rock horned viper and watched as the mutated viper slammed its tail on the ground to assert its dominance. It had completely forgotten about him and Su.

"Are you sure they will be alright? That was a mutated rock horned viper. They are more dangerous than a regular rock horned viper." Zenith was pacing with shaking nerves. She was fearing the worst had happened and that Walker and Su would not be returning.

"As I said. They will be fine. My brother and sister would never let themselves be beaten by anything. Su can withstand attacks from anything and my brother will think his way out of any problem." Midnight and Onyx puffed up their chests in pride as they had both added the praise of their family.

Zenith barely heard them over her running until there was a small sound of falling rocks from the cave they had come from. Walker popped out and soon so did Su. "Hey, thanks for waiting. That was weird huh?" Walker attempted to brush it all off but Zenith dashed forward to examine Su and Walker for any possible injuries. "You're fine! Completely fine." The stress and worries washed away.

"Leader and I took longer because we did not wish to harm it. If we did it could have been defeated by the other rock horned viper. It was breaking off parts of its tail on the shield." The earth spirit had materialized from the shield nodding and pointing to the shield dramatically.

"It was definitely harder to hold back. I needed to make vines from the rocks to hold the viper in place. But I got a new skill from it so I think that is pretty nice. It was fighting some of the other rock horned vipers though, so I hope it will be alright." Walker was already reading the skill description with interest.

"Learned a new skill? Hard to hold back? I just..." Zenith lost her words since she had not expected such a reaction in any form. It was all a little too much to process at once on top of the other knowledge she had about them.

Chapter 675 Become More

Walker and Su were a little amused by Zeniths' awe and trouble accepting the fact that they had just had a little trouble with the mutated rock horned viper. Su also gave her a knowing pat on the shoulder when she was hit with the fact that Walker spontaneously learned a new skill. After some time she began asking a million questions which led to them telling her multiple stories from their travels on the way home.

By the time they returned to the deep caves Zenith had fallen silent and was thinking very deeply about what she would do in the future. She had been offered to come to assist with the Genesis city building and that she would be able to explore and make many maps. She knew if she did this it would be following her personal dream and from the sounds of it, following the best path for her people to rise even higher.

"I have decided. I will join the effort to build your city. I will make trade maps and even use my favors with the kings for my work so far to get them to send golem guards with me." Zenith burst out from thought just as Walker was about to interrupt her thoughts and ask what there was to do now.

"Oh..ummm, that's great." Su giggled seeing Walker surprised by Zeniths' sudden reaction. "I will let the rulers know that someone from the dwarves wants to come and join the endeavor. I just hope that the summit can be held sooner since I have a feeling that there are more and more people coming together." Walker had the sense that the summit would be sooner than expected since everything was running so smoothly.

"Perfect! I will go and report now. I can walk you up after. Well...I might be busy for some time. Can you walk back yourselves? I'm sorry." Zenith looked a little sad to be leaving them alone but she knew that she would be dragged in to a room and questioned to explain every single sketch and map she made of the areas. It was always a long and tiring process but necessary for the safety and development of the ruin excavation.

"We are alright with that. Leader and I will talk with the spirits on the way back. Midnight and Onyx will most likely run forward and wait for us at the top. Good luck with your meeting." Su bid her farewell for now and Walker did the same. They headed off while Midnight and Onyx lived up to Su's prediction rushing off to the top of the stairs that led to the merchant district.

"You and the earth spirit had some bonding in battle today. I'm happy for you two." Walker saw that the earth spirit had started to rest on the top of the earth dwelling shield which Su had strapped to her back. It was the perfect place for it to rest while enjoying the walk back.

"You don't even know how it feels...or maybe you do better than anyone. The earth elemental mana is all around us here and it feels warm. It's like I'm home. The darkness elemental mana is similar but that was there since the class upgrade and I never knew that it was like that until I had this comparison." Su was still amazed by the feeling of the manas around her.

"I can feel it with my elemental manipulation and other skills. But I can feel them all. I don't know if I really have an affinity for all of them or if I can just sense them. Regardless it is a very good feeling." Walker could tell the elemental spirits were interested in this because even the fire elemental spirit that had been resting and absorbing fire elemental mana had focused on Walker now.

Walker was about to continue when he noticed that the darkness elemental spirit that had been hiding in Su's shadow along with the earth spirit that had been in the treasury were in front of him blocking the path. They obviously wanted him to stop which they did. "Is there something wrong? Do you two need help?" Walker was worried that the spirits needed more mana to stay in their form since they had been in the treasury lacking the mana for some time.

"No." The darkness elemental spirit spoke softly. Walker was very surprised it was the one speaking. "We will join you. We wish to see the world and become more." This was a shock. Walker wasn't sure he would get spirits to join him just yet since the fire elemental spirit had chosen a dwelling item instead.

"Are you sure? The staff I am making will most likely require you and other spirits combining to become another spirit. I know what that means for a spirit and I know that there are reasons spirits do not do so." Walker recalled the fact that spirits would lose their consciousness and create another when fusing.

"We will join you! We want to be part of what you do." The earth spirit responded happily. The two spirits had seen and felt what Walker was trying to do and what his goals were. They had been listening carefully while they told Zenith stories and had judged Walker to be deserving of their loyalty. So much so that they would fuse in to whatever spirit he needed. They had been moved beyond their

consciousness that had been trapped for years. This was also a small way to repay him for the freedom they would have for the rest of his and their lives.

"Then I will thank you in advance. I know it means a lot for a spirit and I look forward to learning more about each other in the future." The spirits were very happy to see how touched Walker was with their decision and that he understood how valuable it was to them.

Chapter 676 Thinking About Spirits

The remainder of the walk back to the merchant district the other earth spirit and the dark spirit were stuck to Walker like glue. They were very happy that he had accepted and was even showing some joy himself about them joining him. In their minds, they didn't care if they would fuse and lose their consciousness for another. They just wanted to be part of the wondrous journey they had listened to. Their time in the treasury had made them yearn for more.

They two had attempted to convince the fire elemental spirit to change its' mind and join the but it turned out that elemental spirits were more stubborn than Walker could have imagined. The three had begun to influence the mana around them in their arguing prompting him to end their conversation himself.

Su and the earth spirit that was balancing on the earth dwelling shield found this interaction hysterical and proceeded to laugh themselves. Walker wasn't sure how Su was bonding so well with the spirit since they couldn't speak to each other. However, he had the feeling that the earth spirit not only resonated with Su's new elemental affinity but also the fact that they both seemed to want to protect things.

This made Walker consider it the reason that they bonded in the first place and the reason Su had gotten the quest. They may have forged a shield but that was not some guarantee that Su would use it. He had been lucky that the elder had given it at all. Yet, the elder seemed more interested in the experimentation of the spirit forging process than anything. It was logical since he would be able to make new gear as long as the materials were there.

This made Walker think even further about what would happen with the wind spirit and Gil. The bow was a spirit forged weapon that had cost a soul. Bonding this out had shaken Gil let alone the party. Now that Gil had been feeding it mana and bonding with it, there was more.

Walker recalled the time Gil had said he felt as if something had rolled over and the bow had more power. There was also the fact that the bow had a skill to turn wind in to an arrow. Gil had used it and even combined it with other arrows.

The spirit and Gil already had an unspoken bond. It was able to exist even though neither had seen the other and was already powerful enough to share their emotions and strength. There was also the question of the strength of the spirit.

If the wind elemental spirit had been absorbing mana for years but it had not gained the win elemental mana it needed for anything. Walker had the feeling that it was because the mana had not come from a living being. The strength of the wind spirit could be either weak due to this or powerful because it still had stored mana but not the right kind.

"Walker. Where are you going?" Su had snapped Walker out of his daze. "I asked you a few times but you kept walking so I just went along for a little. We have made it all the way back to the high forge and you were about to walk inside." Su had a worried expression in her face because of Walker.

"Sorry, I was thinking about the elemental spirits. I am thankful for the new companions who could help me with my quest and join us on our journey. I am excited to see what dwelling gear we can make for the fires spirit here. The fact that you and the earth spirit are very close in personality and look to be fast friends...And Gil and his wind spirit in the bow. I wonder about that too."

Su immediately understood why Walker was so hard to pull him from his thoughts. The looks she gave him also showed that she worried about Gil's bow and elemental spirit partner. They didn't know what would happen if the spirit decided it wanted to leave when the bow was modified and it had the appropriate mana to move like a normal spirit.

'Unique quest- Changing the fate of a spirit

The arcane marksman has carried a bow since their early journeys. This bow had become bonded beyond normal means to the arcane Marksman Gil. As the leader and family of the arcane Marksman Gil, lend a hand and free his bonded partner; ancient named wind spirit.

Requirements:

Assist in the modification of the arcane Marksman Gil's bow

Rewards:

All party members gain a spirit type skill.'

Walker blinked a few times while Su did the same. They both were not sure what to think when Midnight nudged them both reminding them that they were standing unmoving in front of the high forge. She gave a huff and pushed them toward the entrance. "Sister and I received a quest to assist Gil in modifying his bow. Midnight will breath the fire while I communicate with the elder so he can hear over the forge flames and hammer."

"I need to help as well. He needs someone to keep the earth elemental mana away from the area. With my affinity, I can help the earth spirit direct the mana." Su had received a more specific direction than Walker and so had Midnight and Onyx.

"I need to help as well. But we are going to get a spirit type skill. Do you think...actually, I have no idea what it could be." Walker was stumped and generally in awe. He had not expected to receive such a quest and only thought that it must be because Gil had acquired the materials he needed to modify the bow. "We should go inside." Walker was met with Midnight giving another huff and pushed him even faster. She was trying to get them moving the whole time and had run out of patience.

Chapter 677 Metal Bones

Walker gave in to Midnights' pushing. He wasn't sure why she was reacting so strongly. He thought that it might have been the fact that she just wanted to help Gil faster. But then he heard the rushing of dwarves and the chaos.

"Grey requested folded steel. Folded!"

"Cut those wires and braid them you fool!"

"You think steel vines is strong enough? Use giants hair!"

The calls for materials while dwarves worked was constant. Su and Walker came in to a much more chaotic scene than they had before. Midnight had pushed them directly in to the ones making parts and preparing materials for Grey. "Brother, They are all receiving orders from Grey's work shop." Onyx started asking around and easily found out what was happening.

"Then I guess we are going to Grey's work shop so we can see what's going on." Walker was sure there was more than he thought but also remembered that he was making a dragon style shedding golem.

"Leader, they just brought some metal plates that look like scales. I believe Grey recruited many to join him in creating the golem for us." Su was very shocked to see how well the dwarves were working together. They may have been arguing and shouting but they were also making a tremendous amount of progress.

Walker was also trying to make sense of this. He was actively watching two dwarves fight over what tool to use for whatever task they had. Yet, they were still working at the same time on another thing. It was a multitasking skill that seemed to be pushing their progress through the roof.

After dodging through many moving parts and dwarves the group finally made it back to the same work shop Grey had been in. However, the room had been cleared out and there were tools on the walls set up for an easy grab. The middle of the room had a slightly raised pedestal and wires on the ceiling holding up parts. Grey was moving around attaching parts together while using a tool with fire elemental mana crystals attached.

The parts he was putting together were metal bones. Metal bones in the shape of a dragon's. "You're here early. I thought that elder said you were out. Whatever, these are the bones of the golem I am making. They will hold the gears and then eventually withstand the weight of the layers of scales. I was thinking of putting some of the fire elemental crystals in the throat so that it could breathe fire properly." Grey was talking without looking at them. They had no idea how he had known they were there.

Midnight was the most interested in the skeleton of metal bones. She had seen some of the books Walker showed her and it had interested her a lot. She had not known that there were books that told just about dragons and humans and other monsters' anatomy. She had also been intrigued by some of the different breeds of dragons in the world and had made a silent promise to herself to meet as many as possible in her life.

"I also want to make sure that there are retractable spikes for the tail and that the claws can be retracted as well. I used that on a lion golem a few years ago and it was very useful for avoiding damage to the floors." Grey was more speaking out loud than anything. However, as Walker looked at the walls he found an entire spot of blueprints.

"These are all so amazing. I didn't know you had to make a completely different design just for the joints between the legs and the body." Walker was feeling that he had truly underestimated how little he knew about golem building.

"I need them for everything. I need to see and have it perfectly put together. If even one gear is slightly out of place the entire thing could size up or worse, break in to pieces. You look like you don't think that can happen, but I swear, I have seen golems topple over and turn in to a pile of useless parts because something wasn't the right size or shape." Grey had paused for a moment to give Walker a confident look before grabbing another tool and fixing some small gears to a few places on the metal bones.

"You were all able to make this much faster than I expected. It is a great testament to how skilled dwarves are." Su had come to this conclusion a few times but felt it was best to say it out loud.

"That may be. I had to yell a little to get everyone in gear. But show a dwarf a good blue print idea, and you will have them rushing to help and say they were part of the next breakthrough. A dragon golem will do that." Grey had not admitted that a dragon golem had not been made in many years due to the past failures. However, this time they had a younger dragon modeling for them. They could see the ways the dragon would naturally move. This allowed them to get the golem to move more fluidly as well.

"So instead of having just you and maybe your apprentices, you have managed to get the entire high forge in on this golem. Is that really alright? I know you said it would be for us...but now that seems selfish." Walker had already made the assumption that the dwarves would be unhappy if they saw the golem left with others.

"Ha! No, they want it wherever it will be shown off the most. With a hero who could pull it out of spatial and show it off to every kingdom? They loved that part. Why do you think we have so many merchants that come here? Just for materials? No, we love the attention what we make gets." Grey stood there hands on his hip absolutely beaming.

Chapter 678 Golem Home

"By the way, do you know what happened after you all left that old man here? He came and he started to raid my materials stash. I had a bunch of things all set up for when I would need them. They're gone now. He said spirit forging this and spirit forging that." Grey did not look very happy at all after saying this.

"Well, I am sure he told you that we managed to spirit forge a shield but the better the materials and a spirit is needed." Grey finally had looked at them enough to see that there were elemental spirits around Walker and Su. He had not expected this and was now a little lost on what to say.

"No he did not! That old secretive...I swear, he only said that he was working on spirit forging. But if it's successful then why am I working on this? I could be making a sentient golem now!" Grey had misunderstood what they had succeeded in.

"No sentient weapons or anything yet. We managed to make a dwelling weapon for the spirits. The elemental spirits can help the forging process by providing elemental mana. Instead of burning a soul, it makes a weapon or item that a spirit can dwell within." Walker could see that Grey wasn't fully understanding just how great that was.

"That means that the spirit that dwells within the weapon can leave." Walker gestured to the earth dwelling shield and the earth elemental spirit showed off. "Then it can fill the mana crystal with elemental mana depending on the kind. Even more, it can act independently and activate the skill that comes with the shield using that mana. Su, want to show off?"

Walker knew that the floor was tough enough and since the area had been cleared it was no problem demonstrating. "Yes, I know the spirit likes to show off just how great its home is." Su readied herself, "The spirit can activate the skill while I am distracted. If I have an enemy in front then the spirit can activate the skill behind me." The ground shook and the stones jumped up creating the fortress to protect Su.

Walker took back over, "The spirit can also end the skill at will." The stone wall that had just jumped up crumbled and fell back in to the floor. "That should give you a better idea about what you might be able to do with spirit forgoing. But in theory, the sentient golem you want to make might just be a golem controlled by an elemental spirit. But that could be better."

Walker saw a light flicked in Greys' eyes. "You're saying. That if I swerve to spirit forge a core for this golem I am building. That I might be able to let a spirit dwell within it and control it?" Grey was nearly shaking with excitement. Walker wasn't sure if he was looking at a dwarf that was many many many years older than him or a child about to go to the candy shop.

"Mine! I want that. I will do it!" The fore spirit that Walker had been holding in the nest of lava silk robes chimed in with a loud shout and pulse of mana. "You will let me right? I can be like a dragon. I am fire. It will breathe fire. It is perfect for my home!"

The elemental fire spirit was beside itself with desire. It wanted to be able to control the golem, yes, but it wanted more than anything to be able to show off fire as it did so. Since there was this possibility then it would be many times greater to control a dragon and show off the strength than just be part of a sword or armor.

"The fire spirit says it wants to do just what we were speaking about. I guess I put some grand ideas in its mind." Walker laughed a little not expecting this reaction. However, it was a good one. This was a great start for Grey and the golem he was meticulously working on.

"Where is that elder. I am dragging his wrinkly dwarf butt over here now!" Grey started to scramble toward his masters' room when he noticed that Walker, Midnight, Su, and Onyx weren't following. "What's wrong with you? We are about to start on the greatest golem ever made in the kingdom! Those bratty genius kids that think their new ideas are so great will learn what it means to tangle with experience."

"Midnight, I think you started something pretty crazy. You modeled for a golem that is now going to be a dwelling item all on its own." Walker looked at Midnight who was just prancing along proud of what she was part of.

"It's happening? We are going to make my home." The fire elemental spirit was a little worried that they were not going to do so but Walker just gave it a look and smile telling it everything it needed to know.

The dark and other earth spirit were interested but were still clinging to Walker. They were excited about their own future adventure and were just waiting to be part of this one.

When they managed to get to the forge the elder was in they were met with tables on the walls leading to the door. There were materials that they had never seen along with materials that were most likely worth more than the mansion they now lived in.

"Finally! I thought you guys were going to be busy forever. I got to the second link in my chain quest. I gathered a bunch of materials for the modification of the bow. Did you know there is gold that has high wind elemental affinity? I learned a ton too and even met the crossbow crafter." Gil was organizing the materials that would be used for the modification of the bow and looked like he was ready to fight the world.

Chapter 679 Golem Core Forging

"Gil! When did you get here? Are all these materials the ones you have found to modify the bow?" Walker couldn't imagine that every single material would be used. There was just too much. If they were all used Gil would end up with a bow that was ten times as large as any bow was needed.

"What? No. I have the ones I am going to have used in the forge already. There are only a few but I managed to get a bunch of them and was already guided by the crossbow crafter. He helped me make a new string for the bow out of the gliding spiders' silk that lives in the mountains. I need the help of the elder here to modify the metal base and add other materials and a few runes."

Gil seemed like he already knew everything he wanted with the bow. He also looked like he had learned to differentiate the regular materials by their elements. Something that he had most likely begun to develop without thinking due to his creation of different elemental arrows.

"Leader, Midnight, and Onyx, as well as myself have received quests to help you. The modification should free the spirit and make you two much closer in bonding. We are really hoping for the best." Su was shown her curiosity a little more than before. Walker could only imagine what she had in mind for the future of Gils' bow.

"Do you know how hard it is to forge a core like that!" The group looked toward the entrance to the elders' forge after hearing the elder yell out in frustration.

"And I think Grey just told the elder what he wanted to do for the core of the dragon style shedding golem." Walker had a feeling that it was best that they had not directly followed him inside. They could have ended up as targets for the elder as well.

"We can't just leave him. The spirit is going to be left out of the conversation." Su reminded Walker that it was important for the spirit to be there and decided that he should enter the elders' forge as well.

The sight they came in to was Grey begging the elder to help him carve the ruins on to the core that he was going to use as the base for the golems' core. "I will have a golem made that is controlled by a fire spirit. It's the same as a sentient weapon bit better. The spirit according to them will be able to leave the golem so it can be controlled or just act as it is designed." Grey was arguing his case while the elder poured over written ideas and blue prints of bows.

"You want me to use hours to carve the runes with you then hope that it works. You know that adding this many runes to a golem core has never worked." The elder was very knowledgeable on what had and had not been done to cores.

"I will help! I will help!" The fire elemental spirit flew to the air and was moving around the two arguing dwarves. The fear that Grey had had before was completely gone. He was nose to nose with his master and the elemental spirit was on his side.

"The spirit says that it will help. I think that will mean you guys will have more than enough mana." Walker looked but found that the elders' thoughts still hadn't changed.

"It's not about the mana so much as the core. The core can only handle so many runes before it won't work anymore. If it overloads then the golem could never work or worse, explode." The elder had seen this happen before and injure young golem builders just learning to inscribe their first cores.

"Is it possible to add more to the core? There is a great many materials outside. I'm sure that some could be added to boost the strength of a golem core." Su wanted to think on the best train of thought and push for a new discovery instead of just dropping the idea.

"If Grey can find that material and a way to do it. I will help. Until then. I am about to try and modify this bow here. I received a quest that I can not refuse. I will gain the basic spirit speak skills." The elder wanted the skill to speak to spirits very badly. If he was able to gain it then he would be able to work on more and more spirit forging projects with ease.

"If that is what you are trying to get then I could offer to teach you a higher communication skill. I have a title called educationist. It would let me swap information with you. You would be able to try and learn the skill I have to speak to all elemental spirits. You would have a week to learn it though so it may be better for after we leave for home." Walker realized that the party was still there just for spirit fogging. They had already accomplished multiple goals and quests and the remainder was just to work on gear.

"You have another title?" The elder was again shocked. However, the party was used to people reacting this way.

"And another or so. That's not important. I think that working on this core for the fire spirit will be a worthwhile decision." Walker spoke these words and watched the elder and Grey grow wide eyed.

"I received a quest to help create a new golem core for the heroes golem"

"And I received a quest to make the new golem core and the new golem for the heroes."

The elder spoke and was followed by Grey. Naturally, they were both excited to continue their research. It was a surprise that the heroes could cause quests but they had already heard of this when the elf city had unveiled itself.

Chapter 680 Stoke The Fire

Walker knew that the quests had a chance to show up if he pushed a little and supported what they wanted to make. He also knew that it wasn't the fact that the elder had not wanted to make a core for the golem. Instead, it was the fact that the elder had known it would not work. The thing was, if it would not work, then why would the world give them a quest? This was a huge reason that they should persevere and create a core.

"Alright, I will need the core, the pure ash, five fire elemental mana crystals, and I think the fire stalk will be best."

"Fire stalk? Why would you waste time with that? Just use the ember seeds instead. They grow in to the same plant and are more potent." The elder and Grey immediately started to argue about materials. The only positive fact was that the materials were all spread out outside and they rushed that way to show each other the best ones.

Walker was curious to see what all the materials would be to modify a core when he noticed that Gil was sitting there a little annoyed. "Sorry, I knew they would get distracted but I feel like fighting the way they progress would just slow things down." Walker was apologetic since he saw that Gil was very dedicated to finish the bow.

"I know. Dwarves have some issues with what they want to make and bows aren't really their thing. But it is important that we continue on. So let's get this core out of the way so we can focus on the bow." Gil wanted the full focus on the bow and not just the distracted work fast to finish mentality. One mistake could prove the end for the spirit inside.

Walker saw Gil pick up the owl and take a seat. Su decided to go over and show him the earth dwelling shield to explain a little more what the dwelling weapons were like. This seemed to cheer Gil up a little bit since he hoped the bow would be the same and the spirit would be free.

Looking around the room, Walker realized he had lost where Midnight and Onyx had gone until his eyes fell on the forge. The two were curled up next to the furnace asleep. Onyx was definitely asleep but surprisingly Midnight was still awake keeping an eye out. Walker had the feeling that she was just waiting for the chance to help with the forging process. It made him wonder what she had to show off.

Following the elder and Grey, he found that they were already setting up materials. "How about flint? It has the fire elemental mana and extremely tiny fire elemental crystals which make the sparks. It could add the ability to start a flame then work with the fire elemental crystals I will add to breathe fire?." Grey's proposition seemed to be accepted as the elder discarded another material and lifted it.

"You think we should use the glow stone? That had light elemental mana though. It won't interfere with the fire elemental mana but it wouldn't be helping." Grey had no idea why this was a suggested item to use.

"Glow stone should help the golem absorb more elemental mana to fuel itself. A lot of the world's fire elemental mana is close to light elemental mana. It will just speed up recovery if the right runes are used." The look of understanding in Greys' eyes was all that the elder needed to see.

"Can you use anything else?" Walker was using his all around appraisal skill as much as possible among the fire elemental materials. He finally rested eyes on one that he thought would be good to use.

'Flame light Silver

This used to be normal silver until it came uncovered by the shifting of the earth. The lava flames that moved around it constantly added small amounts of light and high amounts of fire elemental mana to the silver. After some time the mana became stored within it. This is ideal for crafting dual elemental items with a strong fire elemental orientation and a weak light elemental orientation.'

"We need a material to house the core. The core will just be the base for some condensed rune carving." The elder was sifting through the materials as well when he saw Walker's hand reach out and grab the material.

"How about the flame light silver? It has light and fire elemental affinity and should work perfectly." Grey snatched it and held it in the light. He could still see the flames dancing across it even though there were none to be reflected.

"Ha! Perfect. We both ignored it as regular silver because the light wasn't showing us the truth. Good eye. Are you sure you aren't a forge master in hiding?" The joke was small but they all laughed anyways as they hustled back in to the forge.

"I will grab the mold so we can start the process. You can carve the condensed runes on the core before we add the casing." The elder was in motion and so was Grey. The party all perked up to watch what they were doing.

"Don't just stand there. You have right? I want you to stoke up that forge fire with your so I can have a stronger flame elemental mana. Ask that spirit for help too!" The elder yelled and the fire elemental spirit was already next to the forge. It was not being left out either.

After seeing the spirit joining in, Midnight decided it wasn't the right time to show off her new skill and fire. She would wait to help Gil to modify his bow.

"Hot. we will make it hot!" The fire elemental spirit had absorbed a considerable amount of fire elemental mana. This was good because it was starting to bring it out to help Walker make flames. The forge would soon be stocked hotter than ever.