

Master 711

Chapter 711 - 711.Dragon Style

Walker felt the familiar nudge of Midnight's nose on his shoulder. He knew that she was most likely trying to get him up because he had overslept and jumped in to a standing position looking around. He found that everyone was still asleep and that Midnight had woken him up before everyone. "What's going on? Are you alright?" He patted her on the head before she started to head out of the resting area prompting Walker to hurriedly get dressed and follow behind.

Midnight walked all the way back to Grey's work shop where Grey was asleep at his blue print table. Midnight proceeded past him and in to where Walker knew the golem was. Midnight had wanted him to come here for some reason.

The sight that appeared before him was much more than what he had seen before. The dragon style golem had taken on a shine. The flecks of red that appeared within the shiny bronze scales on the entire body were more than enough to draw the eye. The teeth were a much darker black color having been matched to the ember bones used as the base from them. The spikes on the tail and spike were out showing the same black coloration and radiating some fire elemental mana.

Examining this more, Walker found that the fire crystals were covered by a thin layer of super hard glass but still able to pull in more fire elemental mana. The followed the underside of the neck leading to a larger mana gem to the base of the neck. This was how the fire would be generated like a real dragons' fire breathing.

Before Walker could say anything he noticed that Midnight was sitting in front of it waiting. He almost asked why until the golem started to move about by itself. The fire spirit was dwelling within the core and controlling the dragon golem. "I need to appraise this..." Walker couldn't hold back his curiosity about what his appraisal might tell him.

'Spirit golem (dragon style)

Controlled by the fire spirit dwelling within the core, this golem can act autonomously from the bonded hero. This golem has a multitude of functions; fire breathe, retractable battle spikes and claws, flame wrapped teeth, hidden shield wings, dragon golem' roar. These skills can be activated using the fire elemental mana pulled in by the many runes inscribed within the golems' body.

Fire breath

Uses mana from the fire crystals along the neck to cause a line of fire to burn opponents.

Retractable battle spikes

Ember bone based spikes that can easily shred armor. These run along the spine and tail leading to a large point on the tail.

Flame wrapped teeth

Using the ember bones as base the fire elemental mana can be channeled to enhance the bite of the golem and melt through defenses.

Hidden shield wings

The golem is unable to fly due to its weight. The wings are hidden within the body and made of tough steel worm skin and other alloys. They can expand to cover the dragon golem in an instant and block many attacks. Very strong against long range attacks.

Dragon Golems' roar

A golem is fundamentally different from a dragon. However, the roar holds metal and fire causing a small stunning effect and sometimes a burst of fire elemental mana.'

Walker was sure that there was more to the golem. He knew that his all around appraisal skill was not perfect but it had already shown him some amazing things. The golem most certainly had the ability to move larger weights and possibly clear paths. Walker could see the golem swiping its' tail through the brush or even smaller monsters already.

The dragon golem stepped cautiously as if it was still learning to walk, "Oh, you are learning to walk. How is it? Can you still speak while in there?" Walker was a little concerned that the fire spirit would have some trouble maintaining its mana while operating the golem from the dwelling core.

Instead of some normal spirit speech, Walker felt that the spirit was pulling more fire elemental mana from the room. The runes glowed on the dragon's scales and neck showing that the spirit could constantly take in more mana. "That's good. I don't know what we would do if you run out of mana." The fact that the golem had the ability to pull in large amounts of fire elemental mana to fuel itself was perfect.

Walker was going to start to ask other questions when he watched as the spikes on the tail and spine retracted along with the claws. What was left were spots where ropes and other wires could be hooked. "You can transport an entire wagon if you wanted! That might be great for escort quests in the future. The client would feel safer and you can easily detach it to defend the cart even if something gets past the rest of us."

The golem moves its head up and down slowly. The delayed reaction was just something that the fire spirit would learn over time. Until it had a better understanding of what it could do this would be how it acted.

Midnight moved to place her head on the golems and then stood next to it so Walker could compare the two. "Wow, they really copied your scales well. The shapes and how they interlock are almost identical. I think it will make your dwelling very tough and well protected." Midnight was proud to hear that the dwarves had done well using her as a model. She knew just how tough she was and could share that pride with her new fire elemental spirit friend.

"I hope you are ready to walk all the way back to our home with us. It will be good for you to learn how to use your dwelling core to the fullest. Just let us know if you need a break. I can store the golem away in my inventory while you rest with Midnight." Walker was using his kindest voice to remove any worries the spirit might have.

Chapter 712 - 712. Stacked

Walker found himself with the two dragons showing off every aspect of the golem for at least an hour. Midnight made the spirit use the fire breath skill slightly. It was clear that there was not much control since only a small puff of fire came out of the dragon golems' mouth. However, it was something.

The ember bones in the claws, teeth, and spikes all had the ability to turn the metal red hot and almost melt them. Yet, that was when something interesting happened. The cyclops skin skill from the cyclops

flame staff would activate. A red glow would wash over the entire golem making Walker feel at ease but also that he was looking at something tougher than anything he had seen yet.

The orange heated metal would instantly turn dull again while maintaining the heat and allowing the spikes, teeth, and claws to melt through the metal it would touch. This skill really balanced out a major issue with using the ember bones and the flame spirit together. The golem could use the ember ones but there would need to be opposing materials to balance the fire elemental mana which would cause a weaker overall golem to melt.

The cyclops skin skill allowed the fire spirit to push the golem much farther than average and also allow for it to use its' own mana more freely. Walker saw this in the fact that it could cause the flames to travel more than just to the teeth and claws. With a slow movement, the flames could be manipulated from the mouth all the way down the spine and even most of the scales on the dragon golem.

The biggest surprise, however, was when the fire spirit left the golem. "You look fairly happy. I'm glad you can learn something new and have your own dwelling core." The spirit was appeased by this but for some reason, Walker saw Midnight looking expectant as if she knew there was more.

"Not done yet. More." The fire spirit looked at the golem and so did Walker. He found that it was moving its' head up and down along with swishing its' tail side to side.

"It moves without you in the dwelling core?" This was a shock that Walker was not ready for. He felt his adrenaline pump out of excitement since this was much more unique than he believed it would be.

After staring at it for a few moments Walker knew that something was different/. The movements were stiff in comparison to how the dragon golem acted before. "I see now, when you control it the golem moves as you see fit and fluidly. Yet, when it is left without you it moves on orders in a stiff and slow reaction." The fire spirit flitted about since Walker was smart enough to catch on instantly.

"The golem was not extremely advanced without the fire spirit actively controlling it but when Walker made motions for it to sit or told it to raise a leg it did. He could trust it to take action when needed or help without the fire spirit needing to be around. This was ideal since Walker didn't want to force the fire spirit to always be with the golem. There were sure to be times in the future where the fire spirit may need to do other things.

Midnight and the fire spirit finally looked appeased now that they had shown off the golem to someone. Walker was sure that he was the first one other than Grey to see the finished and tested product. He was also sure that they would repeat all this over again when the rest of the party saw the golem out in the open. The only thing that Walker was glad about was the fact that the other spirits were still off in the resting area with the others since they would have been causing some mischief after seeing the golem. It would be better for them to see it for the first time when they were outside and could enjoy the surface to distract themselves.

"Want me to store away the golem for now so that you can surprise everyone when we get to the surface? I bet the golem would be pretty amazing shining in the sun." Walker knew just how to sweet talk the spirit in to his ways.

"Surprise! We will surprise!" The fire spirit was even more energetic as it rushed around and ended up resting on Midnight's head.

Midnight was looking at Walker wantingly again and he knew he had just signed himself up for the task of shining her scales before everyone woke up. "Alright, alright, alright. Let me leave a note saying farewell to Grey and I will shine your scales and we can get breakfast for everyone. Sound like a plan?" Midnight enthusiastically bounced around while she waited for Walker to write his note to Grey. Walker couldn't wake Grey up since he knew that he had been working nonstop for days on end.

Walker placed a hand on the dragon style golem and told it to sleep. The mana circulating within it retracted to the mana gems and core before it was pulled in to Walkers' storage. He had half expected it not to go in to his storage because he thought it was almost too lifelike.

With Midnight and the fire spirit behind him, Walker left the high forge and made his way back to the resting area. He had been smart enough to store away some of the roasted eels from the night before and pulled some no stale bread from his inventory. He speedily made sandwiches for everyone. They weren't anything fancy but they were filling enough to get them the energy they needed to travel.

'The skill sandwich stack has been taken from the sandwich king system. The user has automatically learned the skill sandwich stack'

Chapter 713 - 713. Polishing

'Sandwich stack- passive

The user has the skill to stack sandwiches in strange ways that seem to defy gravity. No matter what they add between the layers of bread, as long as it is thinly sliced food, it will stack. The user has the ability to keep the sandwich from falling over as if it was glued in place.'

Walker just read the system and tried to keep himself from bursting out laughing. How would he explain that he received a sandwich based ability to his friends? How would he explain it to his mother? He couldn't think of any way for his mother to be able to accept that instead of baking skills her son had learned something as weird as the ability to stack sandwiches better.

After eventually shaking off his desire to laugh Walker pulled some of the rags from his inventory that he could use for cleaning. He had found that olive oil was perfect for shining and maintaining Midnight's scales. He had helped her with shining and cleaning them a few times but always with the help of others or Midnight would do most of it herself since she was fairly skilled at cleaning herself.

However, Walker was getting in to the habit of spoiling Midnight and she had developed a love for others shining her scales for her. So when he laid down with her head in his lap, Walker just shook his head and began to get rid of the stubborn coal dust and ash. The dwarven high forge and city itself was covered in remnants of coal dust and ash. This wasn't even including the dirt and dust that came with being underground. The only saving grace was that there were steam pipes that heated water pipes nearby to provide hot water for bathing.

While he worked he found that Midnight had started a familiar purring like sound. It was a mix of a purr a cat would make and a slowly peaceful growl. It caused Midnight's wings to vibrate slightly making her even more adorable. The sound was soon becoming the background in the room over Gil's nearby snoring.

'The skill polish has been taken from the maid system. The skill polish has been automatically learned due to user actions.

Polish- .5 mana cost

The user consumes a pitiful amount of mana to remove even the toughest tarnish marks from any surface. The mana will layer on to the polished surface for a short time to maintain the shine and luster. This skill can be used on many surfaces as long as they are smooth and safe to touch without injury to the user.'

Walker nearly dropped the rag he was using to polish Midnight's scales. Not only was he going to have to start over and use this skill to make sure every part of her scales were the same perfect shine, but, he would be using mana constantly again. It may only have been a small amount of mana but Midnight was a growing dragon. He knew that one day he would need to drink many mana potions to get all of her scales perfect.

He also had the sneaking suspicion that he would be making her even more spoiled. Midnight would never let up about him making her scales shine better than anyone else. It was a curse he was going to have to live with now. There was also the fact that he may be stuck with shining every smooth surface within the mansion by himself. The chores would only multiply if everyone found out about this skill. He would need to swear Midnight to secrecy forever.

"So you are awake as well. Does Midnight want to look her best as we say goodbye today?" Su had sat up and seen the sandwiches Walker had made. She was already helping herself to one while watching Walker shine Midnight's scales. "I'm a little jealous since you are much better at that than I am."

"Well, maybe you can catch up to me then. It just takes practice." The thought that Walker could teach this skill to everyone using the educationist title skill later would be his saving grace. He started to form a plot in his mind to slowly but surely teach this skill to everyone.

"Are you alright? You look a little...strange." Su caught on to Walker's inner evil laughter causing him to quickly jump back to polishing.

"What?" Gil had opened his eyes to see Su snacking. He stretched and yawned while staging a sandwich for himself. "That's dirty. You were going to eat all the breakfast without waking me up?"

"I don't think you can look too betrayed when you are the one that snores here." Walker couldn't help but throw a small hit at Gil. Unfortunately, this talking woke up Remey.

"I was dreaming of creating a potion higher than a high tier. It was going to be a mana potion using the best never before seen herbs and I was going to be crowned queen of the world. But now I'm here...hungry...and with no rare herbs." Remey would have definitely landed a hit on each of them for talking and waking her up if she hadn't grabbed a sandwich for herself and started to eat.

"Alright, all polished and ready for the day. Is Onyx awake? I might as well settle him as well." Walker found Onyx to be by his side already. He had snuck up trying to maintain his secrecy. Onyx had decided that he would try and use the shadows better after watching Midnight and the dark spirit lately. It was just too appealing to sneak up and take an opponent down. "Thank you, brother. I would like to look my best as well."

The polishing continued until everyone had eaten and changed in to their gear to head back to the surface. It was finally time to head home.

Chapter 714 - 714. Poor Timing

The party found that there were royal guards awaiting them outside the resting area. "The king has sent us to act as your escort to the surface path. Please follow us so that we may avoid the construction and repair." The familiar royal guard gave a smirk to the party since he was acting very polite compared to how he had acted before. The king had ordered him to treat the heroes with the utmost respect and then some. It was mostly in part of the spirit forging path expending.

"Well, thank you for seeing us off." Walker found it funny that they were receiving escorts everywhere they went and was going to do his best to get out without anyone when he returned home.

"Wait, don't we need to go get that golem?" Remey hadn't realized that Walker had already taken care of it.

"Nope, I have it with me. Don't worry. You'll get a surprise when we get to the surface." Walker's smirk said it all.

"I'm surprised that none of the kings are seeing us off. But it does make some sense. There is a lot to do to return to normal here." Gil could already see the many repairs and modifications that were happening because of the damage the slimes had caused. "I have to say though, it looks like there are a lot of places receiving upgrades since they needed repairs anyways." Gil started to point out homes being remodeled and piping systems being changed.

"That is correct, the city living quarters and merchant district are both being heavily modified. The deep caves are being resettled and even the surface has gained additional buildings." The royal guard was still playing the perfect escort but managed to speak to them even so.

Here and there a dwarf would shout their goodbyes or greetings along with some of those who had seen the party fighting slimes their thanks. It was a very nice way to walk through the city before they reached the endless stairs back to the surface. However, it was even more interesting than when they got to the hub where the incoming merchants and travelers weren't busy, to say the least, but there were many merchants with small karts or large bags.

"I guess the surface has started to let some of the merchants back in. That's a really good sign." Walker almost wanted to stay for a moment so that he could see what the city looked like when it was full of merchants. The thought of all the rare things that could come through the area was pulling at the corner of his mind before he shook it away with the desire to lay down in his own bed and sleep for a full day.

"I think it may be better for us to leave. I am sure the noise and chaos of sales would be very interesting on another day. However, I really want to go and see my friends at the cathedral to help them and have some tea." Su was looking off at the stairs to the surface with the desire to rush out.

"I can make so many more kinds of tea! I didn't even think of doing that with the herbs from the elves. I've been living a lie!" Remey was instantly caught in to her own thoughts. It was fairly funny to see her react this way over tea but Walker and Gil bit their tongues when they saw Su patting Remey on the shoulder encouragingly.

"Brother, I do not sense the light as we get closer to the surface." Onyx should have been able to feel the light elemental mana from the sun as they got nearer to the surface but he didn't. This made everyone realize that there was not any natural sunlight either.

As they broke out of the stairs and headed out of the now open entrance to the surface they saw the endless stars of the night sky. "It's night out! I swore it was day! We have been sleeping during the day!" The reaction wasn't just Walkers. All of them were stunned that they had missed the day and somehow ended up sleeping during it.

The elemental spirits didn't seem to care in the least though. Before Walker could even say anything they were off. The wind spirit was up in the sky rushing about with the light spirit trying to get higher than it. The ice spirit was looking in a puddle attempting to freeze it. The dark spirit was right at home in the night and floated about in bliss. The only spirit that didn't seem to have more energy was the earth spirit which was perfectly comfortable being underground all the time.

"We might as well camp out here and then head out on the morning." Walker shook his head then turned to the fire spirit, "Don't worry. Everyone can wait to see the golem in the morning. In the

meantime how about we find a corner of the surface and set up a little campfire to roast some of the horned rabbits I have?" The fire spirit went from a little sad to much happier and energetic.

Walker saw that Midnight was equally down about the time of day but perked up after the mention of food. "Hey! You are the hero group, right? Come on this way. The boss has some stuff for you." Everyone had not expected to be called out. They had spent the least amount of time with these kings than they expected. Mostly because there were three ruling the dwarves instead of one.

"We were told you would be along but not so late in the night. It's always a good laugh when merchants miss their leave because they think it's the early morning but actually dead center of the night." The dwarf that caught them and was bringing them to the King of the surface couldn't help but tease them. It was a favorite pastime for those who live on the surface.

Chapter 715 - 715. Dust Root

The party was able to deal with the slight teasing and lighten the mood by joining in. The dwarf gave them a pretty good story about a merchant that had brought a full carriage of cheese only to realize that he had spent a week in the city instead of three days. He had fallen behind on his delivery and quit the job all together just to switch from selling cheese to soap. Apparently, the merchant now supplies the dwarves with the majority of their soap and never sets deadlines for himself as it is his own business.

The party really appreciated the feel good story since they were wide awake and thought that their return journey was a bit sad due to the time mix up. "My king, I have brought the heroes." The dwarf didn't use the term boss in front of the king but they all knew that the dwarves on the surface called the king of the surface this. It was some form of habit after many years.

"Ah, good. I had all this stuff sent up here from the deep caves and the high forge. They piled it here and said to pass it on to the heroes when they left and that they would be paying the tab. But the fools have plenty of gold to pay themselves. Especially since it doesn't sound like any of you had a choice in what they sent." The king was hovering over some maps and other documents but gestured to a large stack of materials and crates.

"Well, the materials to build the forge were needed. Grey said that he would arrange for them to be ready for me." Walker wasn't going to lie and say that he had not wanted them. He had made some very good connections while her and he did not wish to tint them with lies.

"I see, still. You are our guest. We may be rebuilding but that is nothing when the cost is concerned. As you may have heard, dwarves are greedy creatures. It is true if you ever see the inside of the treasuries we have. And yes, treasuries, not treasury." The king of the surface held a sneaky glint in his eye.

Walker felt that he had missed something and started to realize that every time the kings or even the basic people of the dwarven city spoke or acted to rebuild, they were not concerned with the cost of materials. He felt so stupid to have missed this completely. He was still too naive for his own good sometimes.

"Now, I have plenty of leftover in my budget. I was planning to hoard it away, but I have found some things that I find more valuable. Your materials are paid for. I would say you are building a forge?" This sounded like a question that Walker could not avoid answering. It was more of a demand in the tone of voice than just a question.

Walker believed that the king of the surface was not like the king of the deep that found his purpose in mining and not like the king of the middle who found his purpose in the people. The king of the surface found his purpose in the acquisition of knowledge on the surface and growth of his protected territory, along with the army he commanded.

"I have the portable forge skill now and will need these materials to use it properly. The wood and stone pieces should be able to fit together in to a flooring and roof type structure. Then there is the forge furnace. Although, I'm not sure what the other materials are or what those crates are." Walker didn't lie at all and saw that the king of the surface was wearing a larger smile than Walker, nor any of his guards had ever seen.

"That must have caused some commotion. Those smiths in the high forge must be running around more jealous than a crow seeing a shiny rock in another crows' beak. That also explains the myriad of crystals, monster materials, and ores in the other crates. Not to mention the tools for alchemy and the two alchemists that headed off toward your new city." The king of the surface was enjoying all of this very much.

"Well, I was also asked to send that elders' golems to the city too. I look forward to visiting it. But for now, please clean up my map room." The king of the surface finally relaxed in to his normal mood and watched as Walker got to storing everything. "And if you want, leave the wood and stone. I will have it built in the next two hours so you can store it fully. You should all take some of the dust root powder in a glass of water. Fixes your sleeping habit." The king of the surface fell back in to his planning and maps as the guards led them out.

"I didn't think they would offer us dust root powder. It was thought to be left over from a dream god and grew. The root dries out and crumbles in to powder that blows in the wind to seed other plants

later. But this dust also causes people to fall asleep. The area it grows is very hard to travel without the right potions to resist it." Remey had heard and seen the dust root before but this was a very good use for it that she noted down.

"If Remey approves it and it will help us sleep I am sold." Gil took the small packet from the royal guard and followed Walker toward an open area. The party decided they wanted to sleep under the stars. They had missed them more than they thought after being underground.

Walker let the spirits run about as they wished since they could return when the sun rose. The light spirit was the only one that stayed near them since it preferred the daylight instead. The tea made by Remey with the dust root was bitter but worked wonders. All of them had fallen to their naps before they realized they no longer could see the stars.

Chapter 716 - 716. Golem Deterrent

The dust root tea worked its and allowed the party to rest and reset their bodies' natural clocks. They were woken up by the slow increase in light and the feelings of elemental manas around them. The spirits were all playing around and generally causing mischief between each other while the light elemental spirit looked to finally be happy.

Midnight was the first awoken because the fire spirit wanted to show off the dragon golem. Midnight was excited as well and proceeded to wake up everyone in turn. The group was a little off seeing as they had just woken up but were brought back to their senses after snacking a little and checking all their gear again.

Walker quickly stored the flooring and the wooden roof built for his portable forge skill. He still needed to prepare the fuel for the forge fire but that could come later. He knew that he would not be crafting anything in the journey home but instead enjoying the adventure back and getting to know the elemental spirits that were joining him now.

There was no trouble at all walking right out of the front entrance of the dwarven city. They were waved to or given nods from some of the dwarves but most of the golems that were hard at work didn't have the mental facilities to greet them or even react other than to just move out of the path of the party. It was to be expected since the king of the surface had already spoken to the theme the night before and was most likely still at work with his own tasks.

"Midnight, do you think this is good enough for you and the fire spirit to show off?" Walker knew that the two had been waiting for much longer than they had planned but it was necessary to wait for the sun to properly show off the brilliance of the golems' body.

Midnight huffed and the fire spirit nearly burst in to a full on fire ball. Walker didn't need any other response to pull the dragon style spirit golem from his storage.

"This is very remarkable. Almost like a fine art." Su was amazed by the incredible detail and thought that this golem was more than almost every statue she had ever seen. The runes carved on it alone were better than most art she had seen in her life.

The fire spirit moved in to and fused with the dwelling core so that it could control the golem. "My friends and spirits. This is the spirit golem. It is a dragon style golem with multiple skills and our friendly fore spirit in control. Modeled after the fierce and beautiful Midnight." Walker put on an auctioneer's voice to show the majesty of the golem.

While he proceeded to explain the rest of the skills he knew the golem had, The others circled it and watched as it moved to demonstrate some of the skills. "These spikes are great! They can crush everything!" Remey was enamored by the spikes which was way too predictable. Any of the party could have called this but none of them dared say it out loud.

"I just think it will be too flashy. Imagine trying to sneak around, it's not like Midnight who can hide in shadows with the shadow wrapping skill." Gil had praised it a few times but was not as happy with the shiny appearance. He relied on hunting without giving away his presence. This meant that he couldn't be with such a flashy golem.

"That's why it can separate and I can store it in my inventory." Walker just shrugged of Gil's worry. "But it can also deter some monsters from attacking us while we head home. The orcs might still bother us but anything with half a brain should leave us be." The point was pretty good since they wanted to get home sooner than later. They would be able to travel swiftly without much stoping them in the terms of battles.

Midnight walked with a bounce in her step next to the dragon style golem. The golem was significantly bigger than her but everyone clearly saw the resemblance. Every time Midnight saw someone looking at the golem she would huff and a small amount of golden flams would leave her mouth. She was too happy to show off the golem more since it had been modeled after her.

The party's pace was exceptional. They didn't take the route over the bridge and around the river this time. They were not required to do so since they didn't need to worry about helping anyone. Instead, they followed a less used trade route.

The fire spirit was controlling the golem to sweep its' tail across some over grown grass and clear the way for them. It had been doing so for some time now and Walker knew that the merchants that traveled the area would wonder what had cleared the path so well. There was a chance that it would become better traveled because of this.

"Wait, did you hear that?" Gil was the first to pick up on some movement in the tall grasses that were being cut. He knew that it was not some animal since it was doing too well in hiding. They were being stalked by a monster.

"I can hear it." Walker took note of the rustling of the grass even though there was a breeze at the moment. Midnight crouched before realizing that the golem was mimicking her. It was learning her behavior so that it could attack better. That was when everyone came to the same conclusion. The fire spirit was going to have to learn to fight properly like Midnight.

Since this was the case, Walker made the executive decision to allow the fire spirit with the dragon style golem to hunt the monster following them. "You can show off even more by defeating whatever is following us. I bet you will be able to take down the monster like it's nothing." This was even more fuel to push the fire spirit to get serious.

Chapter 717 - 717. Wise Choices

The party had left the rocky area around the dwarf city for the grassy flats again. They were greeted by a monster stalking them soon after. However, the fire spirit controlling its' dragon style spirit golem was going to take care of the enemy to show off its strength.

The party remained vigilant as they watched the golem whip its tail through the grass clearing a large round area. The attack wasn't to defeat the monster hiding near them but so that they could have a better place to battle. Forcing a monster that liked to hide and ambush in to the open could give them the advantage or even cause the monster to run away because it did not want to be in the open.

After repeated attacks to the grass, the round area was open and clear for the golem to battle in. The fallen grass was nothing it could hinder it and Walker would even be able to store it away as tinder for fire later.

With a slight hiss, the rustling sound everyone had picked up on seemed to be getting closer to the golem. The actions of the golem had not scared it away but instead, it had instigated the monster. The loud and blatant attacks were telling it that the golem didn't even need to worry about the monster in the grass.

When a yellow scaled snout emerged from the grass and reared up, the party realized it was a snake monster. More specifically a rare snake monster. "That's a straw snake. It only comes out in the hotter days of summer to hunt for any prey it can swallow in the grasslands. I didn't think we would find one. Usually, they are not territorial but this one looks like it's angry for some reason."

Walker wasn't sure why the straw snake would bother to come out and even appeared angry. It was a large snake that couldn't swallow the golem but could potentially take the party as a meal. Yet, that brought more questions when Walker realized that the straw snake would rarely attack groups.

"Wait, don't attack it. This isn't normal. Just keep its' attention." Walker gave the order and saw the golem lower its head and raise it again. It was the same kind of nod Midnight would do. Walker couldn't think about this though, he was using his all around appraisal skills on the straw snake.

'Female straw snake (with child)

The straw snake often avoids groups and prefers to hunt giant rats or cave rats in the rocky and grassy areas. It has no venom but can wrap and crush its prey. The perfect straw color of its scales is highly valued by merchants as high quality crafting material for decorative clothing. When a female has an egg within them the straw snake becomes incredibly aggressive and will fight any opponent that it poses a risk to it and the home it is looking for. If one encounters a straw snake in this condition it is safer to retreat since it will fight to the end.'

"We are retreating for now. Let the straw snake go. It isn't trying to hurt us if it doesn't have to." Walker would explain the situation later but for now, started to slowly back down the path away from the cleared circle of grass.

Hearing the orders, everyone complied. The straw snake had coiled so that it was ready to bite at any second. It was watching as the golem slowly moved back under Walker's orders. Once the entire party had gotten to a distance that the straw snake could barely see them it sprang forward and slithered away at high speed in the grass. Walker swore he saw a bit of grass move near a boulder.

"I think the area over there has its nest. It is going to lay an egg soon and it was just trying to protect its home and itself. When I used the all around appraisal skill it told me that straw snakes get very aggressive when they are with child." Walker was breathing a sigh of relief. It may be a monster but he had read that straw snakes were very useful for the extermination of farmland pests.

"It's been years since I saw a straw snake. But I always thought they were tiny. That one is huge. It must have been an adult." Gil had only ever seen a very young straw snake which was waved off by his mother when Gil found it. After that, he had never seen it again.

"Clearing the grass was a very good decision." Su made sure the fire spirit knew that clearing the grass was a wise choice to make when facing an opponent like that. She didn't want it to feel like it had let them down since it had not been able to fight the monster.

"I'm fine with not fighting another monster. It was better to just let it head away. I want to get home and see how that old man acts when he realizes I know so much that he doesn't" Remey was fine with letting a monster pass by. She would prefer not to fight at the moment since she was completely focused on alchemy instead of fighting even though she just received new weapons.

"I thought you would want to fight something with your new knuckles?" Walker was too foolish and asked her about fighting.

Unexpectedly Remey's response was calm and thought ut, "I have n idea what skills I will be able to use with my partner here. It's better to worry about alchemy and then train with dummies first. What if I can't switch the knuckly I need while in battle and take a hit?" Remey took the lead on the path after this leaving the party silent and in awe at her calm decisions. Having the fire spirit with her had changed her goals for the time being.

Chapter 718 - 718. Midnight's Growls

The party had a fairly uneventful day other than the straw snake. They moved through the grasses at a fast pace due to their excitement of being home. Midnight and the fire spirit were testing the limits of the golem so any rocks that came in to view became things for the golem to jump on. Any trees became opponents to dodge around. And any perfectly flat areas became a running track for them.

The spirits that were with Walker decided to stick close to the party but rush off in to the surrounding area when seeing something interesting. There were a few times he heard them mentioning the odd strange rock or good mana to absorb. It was very impressive watching them all work together to help each other gain more elemental mana. Walker had the feeling that if the staff he was aiming to make didn't end up needed them to combine in to a nature spirit that they would be the ideal team.

Su had been carrying the earth dwelling shield on her back the entire time. The earth spirit had taken up residence sitting on it while watching her back. It didn't seem to be as energetic as the other spirits but instead very calm and collected. The entire party couldn't help but believe it was an exact copy of Su but in earth spirit form. Su didn't seem to hate the idea since she felt a great connection with the spirit. However, the spirit would always react by getting closer to her when anyone would say it.

The only spirit that had completely disappeared was Zephyr. She had rushed in to the sky and was only showing herself here and there. "I'm telling you, it's fine. She is just getting more in touch with the wind up there. I have the feeling that she will spend a lot of time up in the sky like that once we get home. Hopefully the currents up there are comfortable for her." Gil didn't worry that he wouldn't see Zephyr but instead that she wouldn't be comfortable.

"Hey Walker, I've been wondering something." Gil got Walker's attention as they strolled through the tall grass path. "You said you still need a fire spirit to join you to finish your quest right? How will you find one in the city? I never heard of one being around, but I know that humans don't really go looking for them." Gil had a good point but Walker had already thought of that.

"I was planning on asking the spirits to help me find others. I think that awakening the spirits around the city will only help the people out. There have to be a bunch of dormant spirits around that no one ever realizes are spirits. If we can wake them up and also bond with the spirits while we do it, it's a win win. Plus, it should be fun." Walker also saw this as a way for him to improve his sensing of mana. He could try and sense the small amounts of mana being absorbed by dormant elemental spirits.

"I agree. The spirits that were around the elf city were plentiful. I can imagine that there are many that have fallen dormant around the city. I wouldn't put it past some nobles to have them as decorations since they are very interesting and beautiful in dormant forms." Su had thought of this as well and chimed in with her own thoughts.

"I can help when I'm not busy. I'm sure my partner would want more alchemy fire spirits like itself. But, there might also be other kinds of unique spirits. We've met a grand wind spirit with a name, an ice spirit, and a fire spirit that changed in to an alchemy fire spirit. Who knows what there is." Remey made the biggest point of all. They had no idea what other unique spirits there were in the world.

They were about to continue when Midnight stopped and fell in to a crouch. She growled softly and she summoned her skeletal armor skill. The dragon golem started to release its' spikes for combat form. The

two were on full alert and everyone followed suit. There was something wrong and Walker had begun to smell it.

The party had higher levels now and they could move much faster. Especially since they did not get held up changing their planned path. They had reached the very edge of their kingdom and should see the first of the farthest and smallest farms. The operative term was, should.

The smoke that was filling the skies and the fire that they saw in the field of what used to be wheat caused them to fall in to their own serious expressions. The elemental spirits covered behind Walker while the others went to their dwelling items. This could be very serious.

"Walker, can you make it rain?" The tone Gil used was pained but extremely serious. He had grown up in the farms and loved every bit of open land full of food to support the people and help them grow strong. It was not a stretch to say he had learned the true basics of growing a kingdom through farming.

"I never tried, but I will use every bit of mana I have even if it knocks me out for days." Walker was not sure if he would be able to affect that much, however, the ice spirit moved from behind him and rested in his hand. He felt the water elemental mana start to get pulled from the air around him and condense. The ice spirit was going to make sure that Walker had what he needed to help.

The elemental spirits were the best at knowing the flow of nature. They may love the elements they are made of and what they can do but within reason. The fire elemental spirit loved fire. Natural forest fires would not make it unhappy. However, forest fires caused on purpose or that were not meant to balance nature sickened it. The anger Walker felt from behind him as Remys' partner and to his side as the golem shook, was intense.

Chapter 719 - 719. Make It Rain

Walker was focusing all his attention on the water elemental mana that the ice spirit was pulling toward him. Not a single glance was spared for anything else. He could feel the mana pushing back against him. No matter how much of his own mana Walker used he felt that he was missing some. He was pushing his body much farther than normal, even with his higher level.

Remey was constantly opening the mana potions she had left and putting them to Walkers' lips. She saw that he was burning away all of his mana to change the water elemental mana in to a dense black cloud. It was just like a brutal storm cloud but lacked the lightning that would cause damage.

The fore elemental spirit in the golem left the dwelling core and was doing its best to force the fore elemental mana to calm down. But it was too much to control for two high elemental fire spirits. The mana was out of control and there was other mana in the mix. Demonic mana in the mix.

'The user has broken the limits of the mana bank skill. Mana is being stored above normal levels. The skill mana cells has been forcefully learned through user cations.

Mana cell- passive

The mana cell skill happens when a user is forced beyond the normal limits of mana within their body. The normal side effect is that the mana consumes would slowly leave the body and the user would pass out. However, the user has surpassed this and their cells have been forcefully altered. The user gains +50 permanently. The user will suffer constant mana leakage due to the mana cell skill.'

Walker felt a burning in his body as the mana seemed to flow more and he was able to use more. The water elemental mana became more easily bendable to his will. He condensed it more and more to the point where it would push back even against the strongest master water mage.

When the rain started it was not a simple rain over a small area. It was a rain that began to encompass miles.

'The skill flooding rain has been taken from the rain dancer system. The skill flooding rain has been learned through the user's interaction with a water spirit and the user's action.

Flooding rains- 175 mana cost

The user condenses a massive amount of water elemental mana with the help of a water spirit at least at the high tier. The user forces the mana to become extremely dense rain clouds that hold the rain as long as possible over a massive area. The rain will fall in torrents causing floods to streams, flat lands, and general areas. This rain does not cause instant harm but quickly causes flooding. The rain only happens for a short period of time.'

Walker did not read the skills because as soon as he used the rain he passed out. The change that had happened to his body had not gone unnoticed and Remey along with Su took turns feeding him mana potions. Walker had the feeling of mana coming off him but it was very small amounts.

"The fires are dying down and the rain has pretty much soaked the entire farmlands. None of it should be able to catch again. But what caused it?" Gil wanted to rush off but he was too conscious of the situation. If he left and something happened then his party could be hurt.

The fire elemental spirits returned to Remey and the golem respectively. They had exhausted their mana stores since they were trying to oppress the flames ravishing the fields.

Midnight was still growling and Onyx was in a coil ready to strike. He had reverted to his largest form. They could both smell the foreign mana in the air along with the dark smoke all around them. There were too many fields ahead of them that had been damaged and would need at least a full year to recover.

"We can carry Walker now that we have gotten his mana some what replenished. We should keep moving toward the kingdom with extreme caution." Su took the lead and got Walker on her back. She was fairly strong and didn't mind shouldering the burden to carry him. He had just given it his all and appeared to have changed himself just to stop the fires.

"If there is anyone that was harmed I have some healing potions that were not in Walker's storage. I can help them. They are high enough tier that we can use partial amounts diluted with water to heal minor injuries and burns." Remey was prepared and didn't need to rely on Walker completely. Yet, she wanted to be able to carry more in case there was a need.

The party started to move slowly. Gil ordered the dragon golem to follow behind them while the spirits were checking up on Walker constantly. They were much more protective of him now than anyone had realized. They had begun to idolize his will especially after seeing what he could do with their help. The flooding rain skill that he had used with the ice spirit was a very powerful spell that they could not do alone and only a specific system could use.

"The sooner we reach the kingdom the better. We have no idea what's going on." Su stated this and started to move faster. The party had no idea what was going on in the kingdom at all.

Unknown to the party, every guard, army member, and adventurer had just received a series of quests based on what they were able to do. The constant was that they fell under the emergency quest tab. Most had this system description before the requirements,

'Emergency quest- Title holder Pride Attacks

The kingdom is being attacked by the title holder demon of pride. The army of two hundred hand picked and trained demons is currently attacking the fields and walls. Every adventurer, guard, and able bodied member of the army is called to defend the innocent.'

Chapter 720 - 720. Clara Takes Control

{This happened slightly before The party came to the fields but will catch up to it.}

"I have been back for a week and there is already chaos." The king could only feel that the odds were stacked against him. The mess that was building an entirely new city had brought him stress already. Now, he was receiving an emergency quest to mobilize his army against one of the generals from the demon army. "Call for my general and mobilize the adventurers' guild. I want every guard on duty whether they are awake or not!"

The castle was in full swing trying to contact every possible person it needed for the defense of a city. The first noble to make an appearance was none other than Markus Raven. "My king. My guard has locked down the treasury. It can only be opened with your and my mana and blood. What do you need of me?" This was his protocol when things of this nature happened. He would go and activate a special seal that would block anyone from entering the treasury no matter what.

"Unlock the armory and bring out the weapons we need. I will be contacting the guild master so that he can send his high ranking adventurers to the walls. Gove them what they need to battle. I don't care the cost of the weapon or the armors, and give his vice guild master the ax we received from the elves. It will help." Markus Raven did not hold true to any of the usual slow paced walking in the castle. He turned and sprinted to get the job done.

The treasury and armory were held in different parts of the depths of the castle so that any breaking in could not steal the strongest weapons and the most valuable assets. Markus had already rushed from his quarters in the castle to the treasury then to the throne room. Now he was pushing himself to get to the armory.

When he came to a solid iron door he tore a pendant from his neck and whispered a phrase. He had many skills that were able to lock away valuables due to his system and standing. One let him make mana infused keys like his pendant.

The iron door glowed with hidden runes and creaked open. He motioned for his nearby guards to begin moving out what they needed. He on the other hand moved deep in to the armory passing some of the more beautiful and powerful weapons.

When he reached a small circular room he looked at the most powerful and valuable items the kingdom had crafted or been gifted. One of which was a cloth wrapped Axe. He used all his strength to lift it and thanked the elves for the farewell gift as he ran as fast as he could out of the armory towards the first walls. His guards were at his heels with a great deal of weapons and armors.

"I sent some of my summons and they had reported the exact details directly to the king already. You know I may have some cards up my sleeve. But I will need you to deal with that sin demon title holder." Ibis was dead serious while speaking to Barry. "This is an arrangement I have with the king. You are my right hand but also one of the kingdom's strongest.

"I never wanted to do the army's bidding again. But I won't lie...I love this kingdom. So let me crush the bastard that thinks they can burn out fields and force our farmers to come running. I didn't protect them from the horde of horned rabbits just for their fields to be pillaged by some small demon army." Barry would have said no if it was an order from the king. But the guild master was asking and he couldn't refuse the people he had already protected so many times.

Barry promptly left the room while leaving Clara and Ibis along, "I will be heading out and summoning my friend to help. It has been some years and I will need to rest for some time after. I expect you will help Barry. He is too strong to lose to just one demon general now." Ibis looked like he was feeling his old age creeping on him.

"I understand. I will take full control of the guild and begin using my skills." Clara had not had much reason to use all of her skills lately. She used them in daily life as a floor manager but now she had held down the guild while Ibis and Barry were gone. She had more experience and the ability to do it, not to mention the confidence to do so as well.

"You gained the perfect system for it and you have the skills to do it all. I trust you. You are family after all." Ibis walked out of the room leaving Clara to take control.

She took a deep breath and looked at her system, "I was born a mess and that old man and old woman brought me here and raised me. Some dad leaving his daughter in charge just because I have the master of the guild system." Clara had long loved Ibis as a father and his departed wife as a mother. They were family and every single person that came to the guild became family as well. This was where she was raised.

"Guild wide emergency quest. Description; Defend our home.

The guild master and vice guild master are leaving to face the demon enemy burning our fields. Every member that participates may be evaluated for advancement. Earn rewards. Will be allowed the use of armor and weapons from the royal armory. Move your feet and show those who dare our might."

Cara used her skill to send a guild wide notification to every single adventurer. No matter where they were or what they were doing they would receive the notification. She took another deep breath and began to send orders to the strongest partys' and the staff. Her job was just starting.