

Master 81

Chapter 81 - 81. Escape!

Walker turned after confirming everyone was prepared. "We are ready for your test." He gave a determined look and feel to the air around him.

Immortal king stood and looked at each one of them. It was excited to watch its entertainment but felt a slight tug at knowing the only ones to visit it in years would be gone. However it remembered the new experiments with the skeletal spider and became much for energetic. " if that's your choice, and here I'd had hope you would give up before you started and stay here to be my new experimental subjects." A large sighing sound reverberated through the room. Immortal king had tired of waiting and waved its hand. The party fell in to a pool of darkness in the blink of an eye.

Soon the darkness revealed a stone door. Upon it were carvings of strange twisting trees, people praying to someone in ceremonial armor, and many strange monsters. Floating orbs seemed to be highlighted in the carvings along with many symbols possessing a slight glow. This carving was much more detailed than everything else they had seen within the entire catacombs.

"This must be the door outside." Walker spoke up to break the silence. Upon looking behind him he saw a wall of darkness blocking them from retreating. They had no choice but to move forward.

"Do-ddoo you think it's still watching?" Remey whispered afraid to alert immortal king.

"Yea definitely, and it's going to watch us Until we die or escape here. Can't say I wouldn't either we're pretty awesome people." Gil tried to joke around a bit to lighten the mood. He may be a freaking out inside but he knew if he could remove even A tiny amount of stress from the group.

"Leader I'm ready." Su moved to the sorry ready to push it open.

Remey and midnight lived to Su's sides. Gil stood behind Su and Walker behind Gil. They were prepared to open the stone door. As soon as Walker stepped in to position the door began to break open.

The dim glow of the moon was the first thing to reach their eyes. The sounds of bones clattering and zombies shuffling filled their ears. As their eyes adjusted they saw a swarm of skeletons and zombies

that they were uncountable. This was part of the plan however the sheer amount of undead outside the door was astounding.

Undead tore at each other to move forward desperate to get in to this new area. Walker knew what to do and prepared a deep breath. "BAAAAHHHHHHHHHHH!!!" Walker used dragons intimidation releasing a massive roar. It echoed throughout the ruins causing chaos. The Undead may not be able to hear or feel the sound, but the shockwave produced still caused them to stagger.

Zombies fell to the ground as if they were puppets without strings. Skeletons seemed to fall apart. Undead golems halted their advances. A few other monsters the party didn't take the time to identify had also been effected. However before there was a second for the intimidated undead to recover Su and the party he began to rush forward. Metal clanging and bones crunching were sounds that battered their ears.

They pushed and broke their way through the hoard towards an ancient looking wall. Walker turned halfway through the first swarm of undead and raised his staff. "Evil consuming flames!" A white fireball flew to the undead near the closing door and walker saw it begun to grow. "Move it! I sent the flames over there let's get out of here before we are blinded by them.

This doubled their efforts while also dealing with the immediate threat of a giant swarm following them to the outskirts of the city. Up ahead there was a deformed undead golem blocking their path right before the half fallen wall. Su was the first to see this as the one pushing through and already had a way to use it to their advantage. " the golem is stunned from leaders attack! Use its arm and shoulder to hop and jump the wall!" If this was any other time and any other situation they would have told Su she was crazy. However it was still stunned so even if it started moving now it would be too slow to catch them as they used it as a step.

Su was the first to do the step up the undead golem like a ladder and jump to the unknown other side of the wall. Midnight followed in haveing the easier time using her better adapted body to clear the distance. Remey and Gil were both fairly agile and got up and over without a problem. Walker managed to get to the undead golems shoulder when it began to jerk and move its arm. It had recovered from dragons intimidation and began moving. Walker jumped from the shoulder almost falling and barely made it over the wall.

His landing was less than graceful as he tumbled a few feet before jumping up and following behind the rest again. They were still running. There wasn't an undead in sight but the area they had jumped in to were tightly packed broken buildings. Many small alleyways and crevices gave monsters perfect places to hide. As walker closed the small gap in front of him that had been left from jumping he noticed Gil

kicking away small rat like creatures that skittered around from alley to alley. The terrifying part was these small rats didn't have all of their body attached. Some seemed to be missing half the flesh in their faces and others a limb or two. Walker used his skill as he ran being careful to kick these rats as far as possible when they came close.

' undead rat

Fast rotting vermin that slowly kill their prey through many bites. These undead rats are a plague above the normal rats as their bites can leave anything they bite poisoned. Exterminating them is fairly difficult as they can escape through the smallest crevice.'

"Keep them off you! Their bites are poisonous !" Walker shouted the warning as he noticed midnight using her tail to slap one in to a nearby wall. The undead rat was wobbling for a moment but then was right back to running. The little vermin were tough!

Chapter 82 - 82. Freedom.

It seemed the undead rats never dwindled in number but increased. The ruined houses seemed to get farther and farther apart leaving larger space to run. However the more space around the more undead rats seemed to be surrounding them. In a matter of minutes they had a group of twenty jumping at them from time to time.

Walker caught himself wondering why there weren't any other undead around until he started focusing on his surroundings. Every once in a while they would pass piles of old clothing or armors. Others there were piles of broken bones that looked gnawed on. These undead rats were consuming anything and everything that moved in their territory. This was their part of the ruins and nothing that entered left.

Immortal king was surely laughing at this, it knew the in and out of the ruins. Sending them to escape from this depth of the ruins was a death sentence!

Remey was starting to find her punches missing and Su found two or three would hang up on her. These may just be undead rats but they had enough intellect to hang up on to their prey. This reason alone was why they posed such a threat.

Gil had resorted to firing arrows at the ones behind them to keep them away from their openings. This was working so far but it seemed like the undead rats used their speed to properly dodge.

"Su we need to get rid of these rats all at once, if you taunt them they will all focus on you and I might be able to burn them." Walker knew the situation would only worsen over time as they wore down the party's stamina.

Su was worried she wouldn't be able to block all of them but remembered her poison resistance skill. "yes I should be able to do that but you will need to be fast we'll only have a moment" the second she taunted Walker would need to attack.

"Gil. Remey, Midnight be ready to get the stragglers. We'll need to be quick." Walker said the orders to ready everyone. "Alright Su on your mark!"

This was the moment. Walker had his staff ready to aim at the biggest group. "Get over you! You stupid vermin!" Su shouted her taunt and every undead rat turned to her direction. They quickly moved in to a jumping position obviously planning on hurling themselves at the same time toward her. This was definitely more dangerous but the second they jumped walker could hit almost all of them.

A slight squeal was made by the largest of the group of undead rats and then they were off. They had all jumped at the same time aiming at the same spot on Su's shield. "Evil consuming flame!" Walker aimed and fired his white flame at them. It was perfectly set up hitting the rat in the center of the group. Some immediately fell to the ground burning. Others landed and ran around in panic.

Arrows whizzed by Su as Gil fired at the two Walker had not caught in the fire. Midnight was swatting away the ones that were burning from Su. While Remey was stomping on the ones that had lost mobility to finish them. Their small plan had worked and twenty undead rats were either defeated or turned ashes on the stone ground.

They wanted to rest but knew they needed to keep moving. The sun had begun to rise and they knew that this was a temporary relief in pursuit. They had a fairly straight path to exit the ruins but they could see small groups of undead shambling through the streets. As they ran they dodged and ignored any other undead. The sun had risen significantly in to the sky by the time they stopped moving.

Once they had begun to recognize their first hunting area from when they were luring undead it was simple. They relaxed a bit knowing that the majority of the undead had been defeated by them.

Easily reaching the square they had begun to feel the fatigue of running most of the day. But knew they couldn't stop until they'd left the ruins completely. With a final burst of energy then moved towards the outskirts. However, they were blocked by a lone zombie. The strange part about this zombie was it held a small box in its hands. Before they could do anything they heard immortal kings voice. "I believed the rats would get two or three of you but I did not expect all five to survive. It was rather entertaining, so I'll allow you to pass." With that, the zombie turned to dust leaving the small box.

Walker approached it hesitantly seeing the system prompt that they had completed the quest and passed immortal kings test. No reward was displayed meaning it wasn't a system reward but a reward from immortal king itself.

Carefully opening the lid five silver skull rings shined in the sun. Using his all around appraisal skill walker checked them.

' silver skull ring

Rings made from minerals found in high level undead. This naturally repels low level undead'

This was a fairly useful way to avoid the undead swarms since most were made of low level undead. Walker was relieved it wasn't anything insane and dangerous. He passed out one to everyone mentioning what it did and found that the one he gave midnight expanded to fit the front leg.

They walked a bit farther to where they had camped in the past. As soon as their foot hit the campsite the system updated them.

'Chain quest completed:

Escaped the catacombs.

Rewards:

200exp multiplied to 2000exp.

Chain quest completed, all optional sections completed, all rewards collected'

Upon seeing the notice everyone instantly let the sheer amount of stress roll off them. With barely any energy to set up tents, they started to rest. They had finally escaped. The thoughts and worries of the adventure guild rank up test were not to be found. All that mattered was they had escaped with their lives after meeting a terrifyingly strong creature. They weren't sure anyone at the guild would believe them even after showing their proof. But that was something to worry about later. They needed rest and to travel back to be evaluated.

Chapter 83 - 83. Return Journey

After resting for more than a day the party had all gathered around to prepare to travel back. They had no idea how long they had been lost in the catacombs.

They had advanced a significant amount of levels from the quests and hadn't stopped seeing notifications of defeated undead until just last night. It seemed the evil consuming flames were eating away at the swarms near the center for some time.

The fruits of their labor were unprecedented. They did not know the chaos they had cause Clara in these days. However as they cleaned up and started their journey back to the guild they thought on their newfound levels and experiences.

Walker

Jack of all trades system

Title: hero

Level 14

109230/163840exp

Hp-21

Def-22

Mdef-18

Atk-22

Matk-26

Char-16

Agi-26

Mana-30

He had many gears to boost mana and recover mana and had gained a new one the silver skull ring which detected low level undead. This item everyone in the party received and it would definitely help against undead swarms in the adventuring career. Walker had also gained a new skill elemental fusion which he was contemplating experimenting with once he returned to their mansion. Making use of the training ground to learn other elemental spells would be the best move. He had also learned a spell call evil consuming flame which was an incredible help in dealing with large swarms of undead.

Su

Shield bearer system

Title: hero

Level 14

109230/163840 exp

Hp-30

Def-33

Mdef-33

Atk-25

Matk-15

Char-15

Agi-25

Mana-25

Su had also gained much through these days. She had truly seen how important her role was as the main defender in the party. She had gained a poison resistance skill that would really put her above other defenders. She knew her weakness was agility and had put some of her skill points in to it when she leveled up. She had also acquired a scroll with a master level healing spell inscribed upon it. She knew it came about through nefarious means hundreds of years ago. The ancient undead lich had experimented and tortured someone for this very thing. Yet she knew this may solve the problem that haunted her mother her entire life. Once she completed the healing Su would be able to give all of her energy to the party and pursue their goals and dreams. The very thought made her heart beat stronger.

Remey

Brawler system

Title: hero

Level 14

113810/163840 exp

Hp-30

Def-30

Mdef-21

Atk-34

Matk-16

Char-13

Agi-32

Mana-27

Remey had learned a great amount as well. Some more important than others. She had learned when to speak out and when not to in the face of immortal king. She knew she was powerful but no one could stop it from getting in to her head. She grew more accustomed to working with the other party members. When faced with death she remembered not that she should escape but that she should find a way to survive until the end. This lead her to pick a very rare arcane silk which could be made in to incredible clothing. The party could all benefit from having stronger defenses and lighter gear. This would increase their battle prowess even further.

Gil

Ranger system

Level 14

Title: hero

109230/ 163840

Hp-24

Def-25

Mdef-25

Atk-30

Matk-30

Char-21

Agi-26

Mana-23

Gil had been an integral part of finding a safe path in the catacombs. The party had leaned on him to act as a scout and spot traps. He'd gained himself a new bow which allowed him to fire all arrows made of his elemental affinity. From this he learned he had a wind affinity. Consequently this was the best affinity for someone who uses the bow. It had been said that even the wind would guide their arrows to the target. Due to his position when hunting in the square he had learned how to watch the whole party and react to danger. This put him right next to Walker sometimes assisting in more plans. He had more or less shown he could stand as second in command of the group. He'd even become pretty good at

snapping Walker out of his thoughts and bringing him back to reality. His thought to ask of history books from immortal king would prove a huge boon to the entire kingdom and not only their test. His critical thinking was expanding as well.

Midnight

Skeletal dragon/ black crystal flame dragon system

Title: hero

Level: 8

Exp: 10260/102400

Hp-150

Def-100

Mdef-100

Atk-125

Matk-125

Agi-80

Mana-100

Midnight had shown an uncanny ability to sneak up on her prey. This was something she was born with but learned to truly exploit against the undead. She had shown the others her father's blood line

unintentionally by munching on bones and eventually showing off her wings. The surprise of showing her wings was enough to send Walker in to a spiral however she also demonstrates the change to her adult scales. This was surely the start of her growth spurt towards a young adult dragon. She'd gained condensed understanding from immortal king in both death and darkness which would strengthen her bloodline. She would consume this once safe at the mansion and most likely sleep for days to digest it. The party could only guess why amazing changes would occur.

They all stood before the kingdom's gate after some days traveling. They had all spoken and shown off their new levels. They found counting the zombies, skeletons, corpse spiders, undead rats, undead golem, and other random undead they'd defeated to be impossible. They also had faith that even if they had defeated zero they now had enough within Walker's inventory to get them to the next tier. They had made it home. The feelings of relief washed over them. Soon they were all smiling as they stepped forward. The sun was high in the sky and they had a meeting with the adventurers guild. They couldn't wait to surprise Clara and maybe even cause a little commotion by telling guild master Ibis about the immortal king.

Chapter 84 - 84. Reporting In

The party took the center of the street and walked tall. The pride they felt in returning was immeasurable. This had been the longest any of them had been gone from their homes. They walked slow enjoying the sounds of their home city. The hustle and bustle welcome over the previous common sounds of bones and scratching. It seemed as if the walk to the guild was short to them. The building soon stood tall in front of them the door asking them to open it.

Walker opened the door to see the normal groups sitting around chatting, clamoring for quests, and returning completed reports. A few new faces were attempting to gather a party spared glances at them but quickly gave up noticing they had already formed one. Clara was nowhere to be seen after a few minutes of looking.

"Excuse me miss!" Walker hailed a smaller blond woman who was running by. "Have you seen Clara? She's our party manager and we've just returned." The woman almost dropped her paperwork on the ground.

"You say your Clara's party? Wait your the one causing all the commotion? But your so young?" The woman had let her thoughts run from her mouth before she knew it. These young adventures that looked green as grass had been the reason for all the drama upstairs. Orders for preparation to receive a large amount of items had pushed the basement in to overdrive to process and make space. Paperwork had been filled out to get ahead of the soon to come influx. The guild master and Clara the floor

manager had been cooped up in the office for days at one point. Whenever another employee saw them they were mumbling about impossible things. The slaying of swarms of undead? A low tier party defeating a mid tier undead golem? It all had sounded like they lost their minds. And standing in front of her the ones that supposedly did it all.

"Umm uuh um y-yes she's here pardon me before I was surprised. I'll go notify her now. Please wait a moment." She snapped herself from her daze placed down her paperwork and rushed upstairs to the guild masters office.

The sound of thudding footsteps were heard on the floor above along with the stairs until a familiar face burst from the stairwell. "I SWEAR YOU IDIOTS! If you'd been one day later you would have failed the two month requirement!" Clara wanted to tell them she was happy to see them, to ask them a million questions about what happened. However the second she heard they were back she felt the anger of knowing if they were a day later their amazing accomplishments no matter what they were would be written off as a failure.

The party as a whole was taken back, never had they imagined Clara able to yell so much so that she could silence the entire first floor. Many parties looked at her in fear knowing her position as manager of the first floor. They also were taken back by her tone and made note never to anger her. Clara however quickly realized she had made a scene and straightened her jacket clearing her throat. "Please follow me to the guild master office" the curt and simple sentence again shocked those on the first floor since she was escorting such a young party up to the guild masters office of all places!

The party may be in slight shock but they knew the exact reason. They had been unable to properly keep time in the catacombs and had just found out they almost lost the right to advance from this test. Not only would it have been a recorded failure but it also would have severely limited their long term progress as adventurers. It wasn't uncommon for a party to fail however the reason for failure is often more important. If the party failed due to encountering monsters or situations that were too challenging it was more acceptable because they could still grow stronger in the future. But if a party failed because they didn't bring proof or failed the time limit it showed that they lacked the ability to complete quests properly overall. That fact alone could end an adventurers career because having that ability was why they were relied on.

These thoughts bombarded the party as they stepped upwards towards the guild masters office. They had been so happy to slowly walk to the guild as if they had all the time in the world. They couldn't have been more wrong!

None of them dared to speak as Clara lead them to the office. Upon entering they found ibis sitting and waiting expectantly. In front of him was a stack of documents that seemed to be labeled omnipotent party. This added another layer to the stress and fear the party felt at the moment.

Clara took a seat next to ibis and they both looked at each other as if having a silent conversation. "We have been waiting for you return, here we have gathered every defeat your system sent me as your manager. Please as the party leader begin from the second your foot left the city to the second your foot entered the city. Every detail as possible and as it happened." After Clara had spoken she and ibis both pulled out blank sheets of paper and writing utensils. They looked like two students ready to study.

Walker shook off some fear accepting that the pair looked so serious because of the test. This of course was not the case but the party was still ignorant of how big an effect their actions had. Walker started explaining little by little. Clara became stuck for a moment when he explained how they lured and created their own little swarms of undead to use a new spell on. She interrupted him for the details and inter workings of the spell. However ibis became stuck on the undead golem. He himself in his youth once had to fight one and did not expect the young party to have the strength to do so themselves. The pair did not know that the story was about to shock them even further.

Chapter 85 - 85. How It Happened

Once walker had gotten to the part where they had been trapped in the catacombs Clara became very serious.

"Was that when you encountered the corpse spiders? I know they hunt above ground but often create nests below ground." She had picked up many bits of information due to working at the guild. This was one of those.

"Yes, we encountered a nest and even have the eggs left from it. We plan to sell them at the auction as a bundle with some zombie flesh and skeleton bones for tamers who want to raise them." Clara was impressed by the forward thinking but was also glad Walker had not pulled out an egg to show off. If it had hatched in the office she would have instantly killed it.

Ibis and Clara jotted down a few more notes before walker continued. They were fairly interested in the skeletal spider and ibis himself took the remaining leg to personally deliver it to the basement. The guild had created many books based off of monster anatomy and this was an interesting evolution for corpse spiders. This could change some of the outdated information.

The pair seemed unhappy that the party was unable to map out the ruins but understood that they had unintentionally entered the catacombs below. Ibis also showed interest in the ceremonial armor and

asked if it too was being sold in the auction. Walker had planned to do just that not knowing if it had any value other than historical. "Yes actually it is very popular with collectors. Barry happens to be one. He may not wear much armor ever but is a fanatic for collecting. Just don't tell him I told you." Walker and the party weren't much surprised by this they had assumed Barry may be interested in something of the sort due to his high physical battle history.

Walker handed it over to Ibis who told him he would deposit 500G for it in their party account. This surprised everyone that the guild master was willing to spend so much on something not even fit for combat. However not a single one of them protested. They needed not worry about auctioning it now.

Continuing on they spoke of finding the skeletal archer. This rare form of undead was a tough opponent for most but luckily had been encountered in a smaller space. If it had been in an open area it may have been a different result. Gil showed off the bow impressing Ibis "this Very well is a weapon that could last you a lifetime. Even if you get a stronger bow it may be better to use it as materials to enhance this one. I strongly recommend having some elemental crystals used to temper it. Specifically for your affinity." It was sound advice. Using air/wind crystals would most certainly help Gil cut down the firing time of his elemental arrows. In a tight spot less than a second could mean life or death.

Once Walker explained the undead leeches Ibis and Clara chanted in their heads how happy they were that the Party escaped. The pair had seen some remains once upon a time that had been the results of such leeches. It was never a pretty sight or story to hear of an unfortunate adventurer that fell in one of the ancient ruins water ways. There had even been a poor soul that drank from one. Many monster encyclopedia of the undead variety warned not to go anywhere near them and to especially avoid rain in the undead heavy areas since the leeches could travel small distances to hunt.

Upon sharing the growth of midnight wings she stood tall and gave them a soft flap. In these few days she had gained a small amount of control over them. She was far from flying but now could fully extend them to cause a small breeze. That however did not stop her strutting around the office for a few minutes as Walker explained her fathers and mother bloodline. The pair furiously scribbled notes knowing those in the research team would kill them if they didn't share this. In depth knowledge on dangerous dragons was always far and in between.

After being reminded of the talisman the party had found the two grew even more interested. A few other talismans had been found and were thought to be completely useless as no one had found the doors. Some had been sold as collector's pieces. The news that they actually corresponded to a door was big news. This being released would push many to go to the ancient ruins and pursue treasure. However the next words were enough to break through their initial shock.

The news of an ancient undead lich existing within the central spire of the ancient ruins was ground breaking. Such a creature had the ability to slaughter whole armies. Walker quickly described what his all around appraisal skill stated about it and even gave them the name it told them. The more he told them about immortal king the more they seemed to grow pale. After he told them about it fusing its soul from every living soul in the city and becoming trapped did they finally gain some color to their faces.

The entire story of the previous hero caused ibis to sweat. Clara however was surprised. This was something she didn't know. Walker became perplexed at the reaction of ibis but knew he had to finish every detail. Reviewing the conditions of their gifts and how immortal king had decided to test them Clara and ibis felt like their hearts would jump from their throats.

Describing their escape plan clad and ibis began to realize just how much this party had advanced mentally. Due to their resolve to get stronger they pushed their minds to develop faster than a normal party would. Years of experiences had been burned in to their minds. Not only their minds but it was evident in the short time since ibis brought them to the castle that these five had become significantly stronger. Their ingenuity would allow them to overcome stronger parties in level. Once Walker had finished speaking and described their calm and thankfully basic trip back the pair finally relaxed.

Chapter 86 - 86. Test Results

Ibis took a large stamp from his front drawer. A slight bit of mana infused in to it as her stamped the papers with a thud. Next thing the party knew his papers had burned to nothing. This al item had disintegrated the papers to send the knowledge elsewhere. "Hmm now the king has a copy, this will be a confidential matter. We will use Clara's notes to produce a doctored report. If everyone knew of the door talismans and an ancient undead lich giving away power every adventurer would run to their death. Basing off of immortal kings temperaments it would most likely play with them all and we would be at a grave loss." Ibis did not want to admit that even he most likely couldn't defeat such a monster. This ancient undead lich could be felled by a Diamond tier adventure party but one that had fused with many souls most likely possessed powers beyond that which was expected.

Clara released an exasperated sigh "we've been watching your progress using my managerial abilities. We received the same notifications you all did as you defeated monsters. With This, we can gather the scope of your ability. With the additional history books, you brought back and even the materials your rank up is more than guaranteed. However since you've all smashed every previous record from any test we had to reevaluate." These five had no idea what they'd put them through. "Now you said you would auction some things off? Does that mean you will have the guild process the excess?" This question was to ascertain if they wasted their time preparing the monster dissection in the basement for their arrival.

"Yes exactly, we should only need five bones and five parts of zombie flesh for each egg. The rest well sell to the guild for processing. We know it won't turn much of a profit however. We also gathered

broken and rusty weapons and armors so we will also sell those to the guild. I know there's a partnership with the forge and they will receive these as materials. The ancient gold coins we received we would like to exchange for minted gold coins of our kingdom. Lastly some of the ancient religious accessories we would like to hand over to you and the guild as well. I'm sure they are common but maybe they will be useful for history. Oh! Also I already took the time to read those history books on the trip back here so at a later date I'd like a copy of each to place at the mansions library. If you need help translating anything I can now read the language of the ancient city." Walker unloaded his plans amazing the pair yet again at how thorough he was.

"Yes I'm sure the research division will be dragging you in to the library as a translator. They might even keep you for the rest of your life." Clara laughed at her joke but knew that it was very much true after seeing that they could spend days without sleep in study. Once they gained traction in a subject it was like fighting the tide.

"Ah yes we especially prepared them for the influx of materials so don't worry about dropping it all off today. It will be nice to put them through the wringer once in a while." An evil glint could be seen in the old mana eyes. He had lost many a bet with the head of the dissection and research divisions and this was a nice opportunity for a little revenge.

After that ibis began sifting through another drawer in his desk. The clinking of metals ever present. "Ha! Found them." He pulled five identical silver plaques from the drawer. "These are your new plates. We would have like to send you directly to gold tier adventurer party but your level is just not high enough to allow you to safely go on gold tier quests. However we have decided that your party should be able to properly handle silver level quests. Your mental fortitude and creativity have given birth to an advanced form of teamwork. We are both very impressed." The party each took a medal not believing the color they saw in their hands. This was insane! They had jumped straight to silver in such a short time.

"Now don't let it go to your heads. You are all still young and easy to target. Not to mention having this tier now along with your title will most likely cause trouble. We will be able to use your title as a deterrent from some but others will say you got lucky and try their luck." Clara's words were out of worry but also out of past knowledge. She had seen parties grow to a new tier a bit faster than others Only to be ambushed or worse by others at the completion of quests causing the party to fall apart or worse.

They all took her words to heart while affixing the new medals to their person. Once they had done so ibis spoke up, "I understand you may all be tired but you will need to head downstairs with Clara to deal with the basement. After such we will get to work and later release the results to the public as we always do to congratulate those parties. Please take notice of the ranking board downstairs. Your party

will now be on the silver bulletin." Ibis was trying to move them along so he could begin creating the doctored test results along with check for a reply from the king. He would not get much sleep tonight.

Clara stood up and with a gesture began leading the party downstairs. After returning to the first floor she lead them to a secondary stair case leading to the basement. The noises of sawing, chopping and even some boiling liquids started to be heard. There were many strange and exotic smells mixing. The party was about to enter the research and dissection division of the guild.

Chapter 87 - 87. Dissection And Research

Besides the smell the basement had sights that would cause a run of the mill citizen to loose their lunch. Many monsters of various sizes lay on large tables cut open exposing all of their internal organs. People were poking and prodding them. Some wore thing rubber suits to explore the anatomy of more hazardous monsters while others wore nothing but a shirt and pants. Various tools were being used from saws to extremely sharp blades. There was even someone hammering away at rock like scales with a chisel.

Clara lead them to a large open space, "this is the spot for your party. Please empty everything you are going to have us process right here." Clara may not have been showing it but she was extremely interested to see the multitude of items brought back. It was rare for a single party to bring back so much. Usually only large raid groups against swarms or large monster hoards would bring back items in bulk.

Walker proceeded to pull most of the undead bones from his storage leaving only enough to sell with the corpse spider eggs. He did the same with the zombie flesh. Next the sound of clattering weapons and armor sets as all of them came out of nowhere. Followed by the leather armors and the ancient gold coins which got their own pile. The pile was almost as tall as Walker seeing as he just stacked it all on top of each other.

However he then began emptying the undead ashes in to the area around the items. It was true minerals could be extracted from the ashes of the undead. However this massive quantity was too much. Not only would this take time to process by the alchemist guild would not need undead ashes for the next year at least. This was a rather unique ingredient for potions. Often used in paralyzing potions as a thickener to get it to coat weapons.

Clara thought she had somehow stumbled in to a desert made of ash. This is what happened to all of those they had defeated. That's why the zombie flesh was such small amount compared to the amount defeated.

The sounds had died down around them and the party found many of those once at work to be eyeing the pile. This was the insatiable curiosity those of the dissection and research division possessed.

They noticed a skinny man walking towards them. He was bald and wearing thin framed glasses. Adorned in his body were many leather holsters. They contained knives of many sized, little to large saws, and even some strange needle like tools Walker had never seen.

"Looks like a good haul you brought us this time eh? Clara?" The man was looking at the pile like it was a feast before him. "My name Richard and I'm in charge of the weirdos down here. It's best to get out of the way, once my colleague gets over here she might drag ya to the library for the next year." The party didn't see this as a threat but more of a warning based on a true story.

They were dumbfounded, were they really being kicked out? Should they be lucky not to stay in the skin crawling area or should they be angry not to see how it's evaluated. "Let's go, it's best to listen to him. Once he starts he won't be much use anyways he'll get too absorbed." Clara rolled her eyes knowing that most working down in the basement would stop and help Richard causing a frenzy of analysis. It was basically throwing bait to a shark tank.

The party left still a bit ruffled. As they returned to the first floor Clara spoke again, "congratulation on ranking up substantially. As your party manager I will place the proceeds from the items left here in your bank account. Also since you desire to place some items in the auction I will procure tickets. The auction is held once a month. Since you reside in the upper tier now you will be allowed to attend the Garnet family auction. They are renowned for up keeping strong civility during auctions along with extremely tight security. Lastly I am ordering you all to rest. You gained many levels too fast and you need to all adjust. I will be denying you quests for one week." Clara's words and face said there would be no arguing with this. Walker almost spoke up but realized he had no chance whatsoever.

With that Clara promptly left and headed back upstairs. She knew that the longer she dawdled the longer it would take to set everything up.

The party had nothing more to do and had decided to finally head home. Tonight they would need to feast. However they began to caught strange glances and hear the odd whisper. To everyone on the first floor this young party had cause a scene and not only that but left the first floor stone tier adventurers but returned at silver tier!

There was something strange going on by most of the adventurers were of at highest bronze tier themselves and naturally feared those higher than themselves. However to be so young at silver tier cause many to doubt them. This could spell trouble for the future.

Avoiding most of the looks they left the guild and returned to the street. As they walked home they stopped at many stalls. They chose some exceptional roasted meat from a Minotaur, a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, and even splurged on some exotic spices. Walker would have bought dessert too but if he had his mother would kill him. Midnight took note of the quantity of food and was soon bouncing along with everyone almost pushing them to walk faster.

After some time walking they saw the mansion loom ahead of them. It may not be the peak of growing season however gils mother had stated to bring some green in to the gardens.

Chapter 88 - 88. Home Sweet Home

The garden was growing rather well even though the cold set in more and more each day. Dark green vines had begun to climb up some trellises set up in an archway. There appeared to be a roughly set up path snaking through an entire side of the garden. Walker could only imagine how nice it would be to wander through the growth as the sun rose.

The previous over grown spots of thorns had been completely torn out leaving only spaces for new plants to grow. Walker was imagining what would happen once all the new seeds he had were introduced, they would surely have the most wonderful garden in the kingdom.

Unfortunately nobody was outside at the moment so all they could do was enter. Once the doors were opened the party looked at each other, "three...two...one... WE'RE HOME!!!!!" They all yelled together causing their voices to echo.

Shuffling sounds were followed by loud running footsteps. Before walker could even turn Lisa had jumped on to his back in a huge hug. "Y—you we-were ggone so-o looong!!!" Walker hadn't expected Lisa to fly in to full tears but it was to be expected after they were gone almost two whole months. Consoling Lisa walker didn't even see that Gils mother had come from the stairs. The two were already talking fast.

From what walker could hear his father was off on a hunt for wild boar. Gil found that funny since his father had always complained about not being able to take the time to do so in the past. Now with their new home he had taken full advantage to pursue one of his dreams.

Su had run off up the stairs towards her mother bedroom. After they got situated Walker mentally reminded himself to go there with the scroll he had stored to allow Su to use it on her mother. Hopefully there would be even more to celebrate tonight.

Remey was looking a bit dejected since she didn't have any family here than the party itself. "I'm sure my fathers off guarding something or other. So want to go see what my mother things about the feast tonight?" Walker tried to distract Remey and it seemed to work like a charm.

"Ha! Let's go midnight and tell miss hilda all about our adventures before walker does!" Midnight was happy to go to the kitchen, she had missed Hilda passing her scraps to her as she cooked. Remey stuck her tongue out at walker and ran off with midnight in her heels.

"So Lisa, don't you want to hear what happened? You know I fought some pretty gross undead. We even met one that's been alive for hundreds of years. He gave Remey something nice that she wants you to test your skills on." These words were enough to spark Lisa's curiosity. She released walker from her death grip of a hug and looked at him wondering why they weren't heading to the kitchen like Remey. "Hey Gil don't forget about dinner!" Walker teased as Gil was still rambling on sharing everything. Gil brushed him off waving his hand for him to go away.

Before walker could throw more teasing remarks Lisa had grabbed his hand and began to drag him. She may have still be smaller than him but she was stronger than she looked.

They soon reached the kitchen where they could hear Remey talking "spiders are just so gross and we saw two different kinds those weird grey ones on the rocks tried to sneak and jump but those super gross ones underground worse zombie skin and bone they smmmeeellleeddd sooooo baaddd." Walker laughed to himself knowing that Remey got along so well with his mother. It made him happy to know she had shaken herself from her prior sadness.

Remey noticed walker coming in and gave him a glare turning back to Hilda "and he has some spider eggs! You need to tell him he isn't allowed to hatch them!!!! He said we would auction them but he might be trying to fool me so he can have gross spider pets!" Remey was sneaky, she had involved his mother to make sure he wouldn't get another contracted monster. Her distaste for spiders knew no bounds.

"You come home and instead of bringing food and stories your brought spiders?" Hilda laughed at her own little joke knowing all too well walker and the rest of the party stopped to grab food.

As walker began to take the ingredients from his storage Lisa had clung to Remey. "Walker said you got a gift from someone and you were going to ask me to use my skills on it?" Lisa's excitement could not be contained to wait patiently.

"Hmm and did he say what it was?" Lisa shook her head no. "Good at least he knows that, walker can you give me that item?" Remey was used to teasing and creating mystery for her siblings at the orphanage and took on the act perfectly. She wasn't giving any hints until it was right in front of Lisa.

Remey and walker moved to obscure Lisa's vision as walker took the arcane silk from his storage. In the next second Remey spun around letting the free end wave and almost shimmer in the air. Lisa was star struck, this beautiful silk shine reflected in her eyes. This quality of fabric was something only the highest class seamstress or trailer could work with and there was a massive roll of it in front of her!

"Silk! Look it's silk! Mother they brought back silk!" Lisa was bouncing but holding herself back afraid to touch it just yet.

"Ehm well yes it's silk but it's called arcane silk, it's made from arcane silk worms thread. It's repels and is as strong as steel. So with your special needles you may be one of the only ones able to creat something from it." Walker was overjoyed seeing how happy his sister was. Their adventure may have had rough points but to know how happy the results made others was so much better.

"Actually because of this I had hope you could make something's for us." Remey spoke up on her plan.

Chapter 89 - 89. Feast

Remey had been brainstorming while they had travels back home about what to ask Lisa to make. She had come up with ideas for everyone.

"That being said I'm basically placing an order, do you think your up for it?" Remey smirked as she said this.

Lisa looked ready to reply but paused and hesitated. He eyes shown with renewed vigor, "yes I accept the quest!" Lisa grabbed Remey's hand and started to pull her away. While struggling to hold the fabric and Lisa's hand Remey had no choice but to follow.

"Huh so Lisa received a quest from Remey asking to place an order." Walker was surprised and spoke out loud.

"Well for her profession that's how it would normally go, just like me I receive quests when I take orders for my baked goods." Hilda knew Walker had this information but decided to reinforce it since she knew he often fell in to his own thoughts.

After thinking on it a bit more walker decided it was best to help out with the cooking but was promptly forced out of the kitchen. His mother decided that none of them were to help cook at all since they were celebrating their return.

With his newfound free time walker wandered to the training area. He figured he might as well the the abyssal serpent egg absorb more light while he practices. After placing the egg down safely walker decided that since the small pond was there he might as well try to learn water .

Most of his skills had come situationally, he often didn't learn something unless it went with the flow. So he figured the best bet to learn something would be to directly gather some water in his hands.

"Freeze!...." nothing happened.

Walker knew it wouldn't be that easy but decided to try everything he heard of.

"Dance!....spikes!....flow!....rain!..." if anyone was witnessing this they would think him mad. But after over an hour of shouting and throwing water or letting it drip from his hands he was no where. To add insult to I jury as walker stood up his foot slipped on an algae laden rock.

Before he could do anything he was totally underwater. He could feel the muck on the bottom of the fond between his fingers. As he pushed up award he noticed the silt stirred by this motions.

"Skill water manipulation had been taken from the water elemental system.

Would the user like to learn water manipulation?'

Walker didn't even need to say yes just as his head breached the surface of the water his thoughts had already given the system the go ahead.

'Skill water manipulation has been learned.

Water manipulation- mana 1+

Gives the ability to manipulate water in to its many forms. The more mana used the more effect it will have. The water manipulated must exist in the area directly and can not be created.'

Walker dragged himself back to dry land trying to both read and not shiver due to how cold the water was. While doing so he realized it was the perfect way to test this new skill.

Walker immediately used water manipulations on the water covering his clothing and body. He noticed three mana had been consumed instantly. The water on his body and in his clothing started to drip down. It was repelled from him as if it had been mixed with oil. A puddle developed at his feet.

Walkers excitement grew as he placed a finger in the puddle and pushed more mana in to it trying to freeze it. Another three mana was consumed and the small puddle turned bright white freezing in to crunchy crystals.

Playing with his new skill walker tried to find the smallest amount of water he could control using only one singular mana point. This took much of his time and almost all his mana. Soon he realized that it was time to eat and quickly retrieved the egg. His spirits were very high.

Entering the indoor dining area he was amazed by the amount of food. The party may have gotten a decent amount on their way back but it appeared that his mother had truly out done herself. Perfectly sliced meats with mounds of roasted vegetables sat center. Peeled fruits were placed like little gems waiting to be eaten. Walker almost pulled one of the ten bottles of aged berry wine to drink with dinner since it would be an amazing surprise. However remembering its extravagant price he thought it smarter to save it for the auction. There would be many who would pay a hefty sum for one bottle which could easily fund the party for a good while.

"This all looks amazing!" Walker pulled out a chair and sat down. Naturally he had been the last to arrive since he'd been outside.

Everyone was eating and talking, walker could only feel he was extremely lucky to have so many people to share a meal with. Each member of the party took their turns sharing their adventures. This time they were more calm and didn't miss a detail. Their families looked in awe, and horror based on the part they were at. This slightly amused them as they were the ones who had lived it and had already accepted the absurdity.

The night approached and soon they realized they'd basically started to sleep at the dinner table. For everyone it was time to rest. They all deserved to revel in their dreams for the night. They wouldn't be able to go on a quest for a week so instead they would all go their own ways until the auction in a few days. Walker had his own plans to experiment with . Midnight would be absorbing the condensed understanding and most likely sleeping. Gil said he would run off to find his father and hunt a bit. Remey would spend time with her siblings at the orphanage, well basically beating them up. And Su was going to use the scroll in the morning to heal her mother. Walker offered to be there to help if needed so first thing they would do was to heal Su's mother.

Chapter 90 - 90. Healing

It was almost a blink of an eye for the night to pass. Walker woke up refreshed and ready to go. However he found midnight eagerly waiting at the foot of his bed and he knew exactly why. She wanted the condensed understanding.

"Is there somewhere comfortable you want to process this?" Walker wanted to make sure midnight was ready for the days she would be passed out to absorb and understand this.

In response midnight started moving to the kitchen. Hilda had long set up a place for her to nap next to the oven and that was the place chosen. Seeing this walker retrieved the condensed understanding from his inventory and offered it in his palm. Midnight cautiously grasped it with her teeth before fully swallowing it.

The effect was grey and black strands of energy flowing around her scales and a cloud forming in her eyes. Her eyelids dropped as she began to fall off to sleep. Walker could feel a huge amount of energy from their connection and realized a minuscule amount was also effecting him. He wasn't sure what this would change in him but decided it wasn't too important since it was only natural since the two were connected.

Walker waited a little while worried midnight would be hurting but was instead finding her to be sleeping much better than ever. He knew that trusting a monster to have given them something safe was a ridiculous notion. However something told him that immortal king wouldn't have lied. Shaking off this strange feeling walker left midnight to her rest.

He slowly walked through the mansion thinking about what element he wanted to try out next. Should he get earth ? He could try to use it to make earth walls for defenses. Su would be able to breath easier too. Should he try wind ? He could speed up Gils arrows even more to pierce through the toughest defenses. He could play with fire more and get some basic fire manipulation, it would help since the colder season was upon them. Soon as the snow fell ice wraiths, yeti, frost trolls, and other snow affinity monsters would be able to travel near them. This was always a tough time for young adventurers. Winter was a completely different environment to maneuver. Many who were sure footed became clumsy where those who specialized in water and wind element needed to be more careful not to effect their party negatively.

While pondering these things Walker suddenly bumped in to something. Taking two steps back he realized it wasn't something but someone. "Leader shouldn't you be paying attention to where you are?" Luckily Su had steadied him.

Walker was fairly embarrassed since he knew it was his major flaw to be lost in thoughts. "Sorry about that Su I was thinking about learning more elemental . Would you like to go use the scroll now?" Walker wanted to push past his embarrassment and get to the main event.

"Yes, I was actually looking for you. Mother and father are waiting for me in their room. I've yet to tell them why. I just told them we had new medicine." Su didn't want to push their hopes too high in case things failed. This was a big deal, healing her mothers frail constitution would be a massive blessing.

The two headed a few doors down to find Su's mother Helena still laying in bed looking fairly pale. Frederick he father was in a chair sitting next to her. They had obviously been chatting about what kind of medicine their daughter may have and were extremely curious upon seeing walker as well.

Walker didn't waste a moment and pulled the scroll from his inventory. Su took it from him readily. "Mother, father this is a scroll that holds a single healing spell from a master healer. It should be able to heal mothers weak constitution permanently. Walker and I are going to use our mana to activate it with your permission." Su was looking at her mother worried she wouldn't allow them to since this was such a valuable item.

Helena's face was wrinkled in thought. Should she tell Su to save it for when their party was in dire need? Or should she let greed take her and let them heal her. "Use it on your mother, I know this could heal any of you from near death but I love you and Helena so much more than my own life. I'll happily sell myself to get another healing item to replace it." Frederick spoke up. He knew this could be a once in a lifetime opportunity and had decided to bet it all on it.

Helena and Su looked pained, Frederick had just offered his very life to the party in exchange. Walker knew the magnitude of this and responded first, "this scroll is not something owned by the party, I'm just holding on to it for safety. My friend Su here earned this herself and may I say she could have chosen anything. Yet she chose the one thing she cared for most in her heart. Her family's well-being. I could not want someone better in my party. So there is no need for any exchange, I'm here to help my party member, not a member of my own family." Walker's words brought a tear to Helena's eye. She was so happy Su had found someone so reliable in her life. Frederick was speechless he tried to say something but the words escaped him, he could only nod his head over and over.

Su smiled wider than she ever had before, "walker let's use the scroll." Su usually called him leader but walker was happy to hear his name. Su and walker stood by Helena and opened the scroll. Each had one end in one hand as they channeled mana within it.

A green glow emanated from the open scroll and soon small glowing sparks came forth. These sparks encompassed Helena. The glow grew brighter and brighter for more than ten minutes until it abruptly faded.