

Master 831

Chapter 831 Fly Away

"Alright, Su already promised me some of the wild ice grapes that grow on the mountain when you come back. Avian monsters love them and to be honest, so do I. But they are too expensive so they will be more than good compensation for borrowing the remaining giant hawks." Elise had gathered them in the square in front of the cathedral as soon as the party had awoken and prepared.

No one had been overly happy to see them leave again but after being assured that they would return in only three or four days because of the hawk's assistance, Lisa had accepted it. "These hawks will help you there and know the route well since they travel it constantly to trade with the dwarves. All you need to do is hold on and refrain from falling or looking down." This sounded a little more terrifying than Elise looked with her smile wide.

"Do we feed them or anything?" Gil wasn't sure what their responsibility would be once they landed.

"Not at all. They will hunt their own food on the way back. It's safe to say you will not have them to carry you all the way back here from the base of the mountains. But knowing all of you there will be no time for rest and you will walk back in just a few days at most. Or you will find another monster to ride all the way back." Elise teased them a little before she started to point out the safety grips and foot holds for riders and goods.

The entire party was very surprised to hear how simple everything was. The wandering blacksmith appeared not to care too much and it made Walker believe that he had traveled in a similar way before. It was not a surprise since he had earned the name wandering blacksmith and was fairly well known in multiple kingdoms for wandering here and there to forge with different techniques.

"Well, that is that. You can even sleep during the ride if you are comfortable enough. But I would recommend you do not. Also, Midnight. Do not do anything to scare them. You are a dragon and they are already feeling off about carrying you, if you make any sudden moves they may get erratic." Elise was very serious while she slowly helped Midnight in to a special harness for contracted monsters to ride the giant hawks. Due to her size and weight, she was the only one alone on a giant hawk.

Walker was visibly nervous since he had never flown in the air before but he knew that this was the best way to get to the base of the mountains while saving the time they needed for other things. The summit was quickly approaching in a few months still and the party would most likely escort the high priest and possibly a few others there.

Before Walker left he looked toward the cathedral where quite a few of the healers had come out to watch. The only reason they were leaving from this square was because the giant hawks fit in the large square much more easily than anywhere else that wouldn't be in the way. Alice stood to the side and waved to Walker with a slightly sad face. He was off again and she was still not ready to travel with them.

"Walker gave his own wave as the giant hawks jumped up and unfurled their large wings. The air rushed past their ears and before they knew it the city had become incredibly small. The city itself slowly disappeared from their vision becoming a small dot on the horizon sooner than expected. Now Walker knew why flying was so great in Elise's eyes. She was able to travel places so fast compared to any other method.

Gil was using this chance to use his sharp eyes to train and pick out targets from the high heights they were at. Meanwhile, Remey who was on the same hawk as Gil was closing her eyes and waiting for the time she would touch the ground again. This had quickly become her least favorite method of travel.

Su was with Walker and could only look up higher. She knew that they would not fly in the clouds but could feel them tugging at her. She wanted to go higher and the feeling was the same for Midnight who was heeding Elises' warnings because she was still not confident in her ability to glide down to the ground again let alone fly. The feeling was definitely something that Midnight and Su were sharing because of their systems.

The wandering blacksmith was on his own giant hawk and from what Walker could see he was asleep. He could only wonder how a blacksmith who lived with heavy metals in the forge was so calm and peaceful while being so out of their element. It was a great mystery that Walker would never be able to answer.

After only a few hours the small mountains had become triple the size and it felt to the party that if the hawks wanted they could fly right to the peak. However, the closer they got the more the wind would push them around making the ride nerve wracking. When the giant hawks descended all of them breathed a sigh of relief that turned on to a full groan when they jumped to the ground and found that their legs had fallen asleep. The sight was fairly comical and anyone else would have rolled around laughing at the party and their client.

"Thank you for your help." Walker was sure to thank every single giant hawk before it flew off toward their kingdom again. They still had jobs to do and now so did the party. "Alright, let's decide what trails

we will take up the mountain." Walker looked up at the mountain range before him. The daunting size only seemed to grow.

Chapter 832 Climbing The Trails

"So, what one of the trails are we going to take?" Gil saw the multiple trails ahead of them. Many were obvious and led to different parts of the mountain. Walker could make out some small caves partway up the mountain that must be small mines that the dwarfs had explored.

The sound of rustling paper attracted all eyes to the wandering blacksmith who was pulling out a map from his coat. They were all wearing an extra layer at the moment because the cool air blowing from the mountains spoke of ice and snow. Soon they would be in the midst of it and need a third layer of clothing to properly stay warm.

"That's great, you even have it outlined. This map is very detailed too." Su was impressed with the details and how well the wandering blacksmith had outlined the route they would take. He had been planning the trip for a while now and it only made sense that he would be ready.

"So this is marked as a place to find centennial ice, but what are the icicle falls?" Near the place that the wandering blacksmith had marked as the centennial ice forging spot was a small river marked as the icicle falls.

"I actually know this one." Gil stepped up, "I read about it when I was looking for information about water elemental materials to make an ice arrow. The icicle falls are a waterfall that often freezes in pieces causing ice to fall down instead of water. They usually come down in sharp pieces that can cause a harsh injury. But it is also the place where blue koi live. They apparently have the best scales for water elemental arrows. The bones might be useful for Lisa to use as a needle. And apparently, the meat helps resist the cold." The proud look that Gil wore was not one anyone could rebuke. He had been lucky to find the information and was glad to show it off.

"Then I guess we will investigate there. I have only been fishing once and I was not able to unlock my system so I never tried it again." The thought of fishing in a water fall pool was odd to Walker, but it was something that not many people would do in their lifetime and he had his heart set on it now.

"How will you go fishing without any fishing gear?" Remey was certain that Walker had never bought fishing gear nor taken it from his inventory while they were out adventuring.

"Well, there are two of us that have the ability to do some crafting here. Forging hooks, making a rod, and even braiding some string is enough for me to have my own fishing pole. Not to mention bait can be anything." The smug look on Walkers' face infuriated Remey to a small degree prompting her to chase him around a little before they all started up the rocky path.

"Remember, The path doesn't have much ice or snow here, but when we get higher up it will be difficult." Su was taking the lead for this while Midnight and Gil were holding the rear.

"Midnight seems pretty distracted right now. Do you think she is still stuck on flying?" Gil came up beside Walker and the wandering blacksmith to chat about his worries.

"Most likely. That was her first time flying and she has wanted to do it for a long time. But it takes a lot of time and effort to develop her wings. Compared to what she could do before she has made great leaps." Just the other day, Walker had seen Midnight flapping her wings and managing to hover off the ground for a short moment. The muscles were being trained slowly but surely. Her ability to glide was there and he had watched as she jumped and glided a very small distance. It would all come down to more training and experience.

"I think she must have learned something while flying with the hawks though. If she is that focused then she would have to be connecting some dots." Gil felt it in his bones. Midnight had learned something and would be making another big step toward her own flight soon.

"Midnight, Let me switch with you." Walker let Midnight walk in the middle with the wandering blacksmith and took up the rear with Gil. It was better to let her have her time to think than to stifle her growth in any way.

The trail they were taking was not hard to traverse by any means and even seemed well traveled. This would make sense if there were multiple places along the route to stop and gather materials or hunt certain monsters. What worried Walker was that they would eventually begin to run in to ice type monsters or potentially flying monsters. Both of which could cause them some trouble on the narrow areas of the trail.

"Stop here for a moment," Remey called the group to a stop and knelt down by some of the rocks on the side. "These mountain thistles are good for fighting off the cold. We can add it to soup or water to help us through the nights." She lifted the small brown spiky ball that she named mountain thistles. The rest of them stopped to pick up a few and store them away for when they rested. It was a good find for

Remey who had been carefully scanning the sides of the trails for such herbs since she knew they would grow in this area commonly.

The rocks became slightly larger and Su had to climb over a few that had fallen from the sides of the mountains down to the trails. There were scratch marks on them that caught everyone's attention. They had not fallen naturally and had been knocked down somehow by a monster. It put them all on edge just a little more.

Chapter 833 Incoming Storm?

"What do you think is strong enough to cut stone like this?" After running her fingers over the stone, Remey was left with the question that all were thinking of.

Walker thought he might get information using his all around appraisal skill so he tried it quickly,

'Fallen boulder.

Knocked from a cliff by a fighting monster. Too heavy for most to move alone. Common granite stone that can be mined in many places. Does not hold any gems.'

"I can't say my appraisal told me much other than it was knocked from a cliff by fighting monsters. Also, there are no hidden gems in it." Walker could only frown seeing that he had not gotten the desired results of his skill use. However, he knew that the all around appraisal skill was not perfect and would not give him everything he needed when he used it. This had been proven when compared to other appraisal skills that were specific to what was being appraised.

"It was worth the shot. It's better to let an arrow fly and miss than live not knowing if the arrow would have hit." Gil threw out a phrase his father had used before and patted Walkers' back. "We can keep moving and avoid the cliffs though. It's good to learn that monsters are fighting in that area."

Gil made a good point. The party now knew that there were monsters fighting on a high up cliff. This meant that if they were near a cliff they should be vigilant for falling rocks and boulders. Also, that they would be wary of any monsters they encounter while near a cliff.

Midnight perked her head up and Onyx who was hiding from the cold winds in his tattoo form spoke up to translate. "Sister says she can smell smoke in the wind. But it is weak."

"We have heard of smoke coming from the mountains and possible dragon activity. But there was no solid evidence. If the smoke is weak we could be far from it so we will just keep an eye out." Su made the call based off of what she had heard and already knew for sure. It was always good to be cautious but she knew that they would be safe at the moment.

The possibility that dragons could be around caused Midnight to look excited but also worried. Walker could feel the mix of emotions and moved to comfort her before she put on a brave aura and moved to lead the way with Su for a while. She needed to support of her training partner along with Walker too. They both made her feel more prepared to deal with whatever came their way.

"This wind has picked up a little. Gil, can you ask Zephyr to take a look around? We might need to set up a camp for a little while to wait out the end. It's not safe trying to move higher if a storm is blowing in." Walker paused everyone while Zephyr left the bow she dwelled in. She had been resting until she heard Walker and was excited to jump in and play the scout role that Gil would normally take.

The wind seemed to shift again as Zephyr flew in to the sky to check things out. "If it is a storm then we might be waiting things out a little longer than we think." This was looking to be some bad luck if they needed to wait longer.

"Can't we travel down a valley between the mountain to find the materials we need?" The herbs would be more plentiful in a valley between the mountain so Remey thought it may be the same as the other materials they were after.

"The centennial ice is only found up higher. Even halfway up the mountain, we might not find it if it has melted over the years. The valley is just too warm and has too many travelers or monsters." If they could go to the valley nearby Walker would have preferred it as well since they would have more food sources and places to hide if they encountered powerful monsters.

"Swans! It's a flock of silver swans! Come quick so you can see!" Zephyr came with another gust of wind.

"Silver swans?" The group had a collective question in their mouths since none of them had heard or seen of a silver swan.

"Just come on. Quickly!" With Zephyrs' urging the group hiked up to the next small peak to find what she was pushing them to see.

The sight that they found ahead of them was not what they had expected. There were hundreds of large swans. Their feathers were white with silver edges and every flap of their wings made a small amount of wind flutter around them. When a larger group would take off and move the gust of combined wind which would flow through the mountain rocks.

'Silver swan

The silver swan is a non aggressive migratory monster. They have strong wind elemental affinity and are known for causing unintentional tornadoes. They will travel once every five years to a new territory to breed and feed. Their fallen feathers are used for wind elemental arrows and they are not normally afraid of humans. They panic at the sight of blood tainting their feathers so it is best not to attack them under any circumstance.'

Walker repeated the all around appraisal while the group gazed upon the seemingly endless flock of silver swans. "Gil, it looks like you have some arrow materials to collect while we head around this obstacle." Walker was not planning to walk through the birds but around. They may not be aggressive but the wind they stirred up was worrying.

"Sooooo, it's amazing. So many of them. I haven't seen them in years and years. I love them!" Zephyr was flying right toward the flock happier than any of them. Not a single one of them had the heart to call out to her and ruin her joy.

Chapter 834 Frostbite Flowers

"How many feathers do you think you need Gil?" Su had already helped Gil gather a whole bag and he did not seem to be letting up on his collection spree while they walked.

"There are never enough materials for arrows. These are wind affinity so they are even better. If you are willing to help grab as many as we can." The slightly wild look made Gil sound and feel as if he was going a little crazy. For an arcane marksman, seeing so many materials for his arrows was as if they had just been invited to take all the gold in the kingdoms' treasury.

"I may be able to carry a lot of them, but try to remember that I also have to take all of them out of my storage." The shout to Gil seemed futile but at least Walker tried to reign Gil in a little. However, it appeared that Remeys were preparing plenty of teasing phrases to use on Gil later.

When Walker found the wandering blacksmith collecting the feathers as well he could only look in curiosity. He had not expected him to have any interest in the arrow making process. "Perfect pillow." After noticing Walker's looks the wandering blacksmith spoke up his own intention causing Walker to finally pick up a feather himself.

'Silver swan fledgling feather

The feathers from the younger silver swans are incredibly soft. Many people and monsters come to the area a flock used to reside to collect these feathers for various uses. One is the creation of pillows that are perpetually cool due to the small amount of rotating wind elemental mana within them.'

Falling in to the same thought process as the wandering blacksmith, Walker gathered himself a large amount of the feathers for some pillows. He would bring them to Lisa when he returned and they would have some new pillows. He could only praise the wandering blacksmiths' quick and creative thinking at the moment since most of them would have walked away without seeing this particular use for the feathers.

A soft growl from Midnight alerted the party to danger. All of them fell in to a battle stance and even the wandering blacksmith pulled out a one handed hammer. When the rest of the group realized that there were three frost wolves on the far edge watching the silver swans they knew they could be in for battle.

"I don't think they will attack. They are waiting for one to go off alone so they don't alert all the others. I've seen predators do this with packs of boars in the forest." This was a common thing for a hunter to see and Gil had learned it from his father early in his hunting career.

The party remained on alert as they walked past the flock of silver swans. The frost wolves didn't seem to care about them since they would prefer to wait for easy prey to separate alone from the flock. This was an ideal hunting ground for them and going after a group of adventurers would be too much for the three.

"The frost wolves probably won't bother us but we should pay attention when we set up camp. If they don't get a meal they might come looking. At the very least we can hope that they do not cause the flock to fly all at once. The wind would make it very dangerous up here." The party may not have been on to the sheer cliff face or small rocky trails but the mountain path they were on was still close to some drop offs and large hills.

"It looked like they will be harder to spot up ahead." Gil pointed out some patches of ice and snow that began to pepper the rocky path ahead. This was where the journey would begin to get tough but also meant that they were nearing the areas they wanted to search for herbs and such.

"Since we are right at the cusp of the rocks and ice I should tell you the main herb I want to look for. It's called a frostbite flower. The flower is not the valuable part of the herb, what I want are the leaves. They are green with a purple and blue fade on them, just like frostbite setting it. Ironically, they are ideal for treating frostbite and can make medicinal baths for people in the winter. They are very valuable this time of year and we can process them to make a potion that can be added to warm water to treat frostbite victims." Remey stopped the group again and made her announcement. Since the group was vigilant already this was just an additional thing to look out for.

"My friends would find that very useful at the cathedral. I will have to ask you for some of the potions to bring them." This made Su a little more energized because a potion to treat frostbite would make her healer friends' lives much easier come the dead of winter.

"It's really something that everyone should have that has to be out in the snow during the winter." Remey nodded her head while she spoke and searched. She wanted to make sure that she also gained some seeds for the herb while she was out. The frostbite flower would be a good base for the alchemy guild since it would be entering operation while it was cold.

Soon the search proved to be fruitful when Gil found a single herb growing between two small rocks. Remey made everyone watch as she picked a few leaves then pulled seeds from the purple lace flower. After she was sure to pour some of their water on it to assist in the return of the growth they had taken. It was a simple action but one that allowed the frostbite flowers to flourish still.

Chapter 835 Making Camp

Walker had the feeling that the trip had been more beneficial for Gil and Remey than anyone else so far and that the wandering blacksmith might be unhappy. However, the smile on the wandering blacksmiths' face as he gathered feathers and how the frostbite flower leaves was wider by the second. Just the fact that he had left on another journey to see new things and do new activities was what he needed.

"The path ahead gets a lot steeper. We will need to watch out for rocks that we kick down as well." Gil had moved ahead to scout while Midnight had played guard for the wandering blacksmith.

"Then Su should take the lead. She can use her shield to deflect and stones that fall and we can remain in a line to stay on the same path." Walker's idea seemed safe and as they moved forward it became the only way to travel.

The many small stones slid away as they moved and their actions caused some small ones to move at the top in chain reactions. Su didn't need to do much with the earth dwelling shield but use one arm to hold it in front of them. Nothing that rolled down was any danger to them and any larger rocks or boulders seemed to be settled in to the side of the mountain they were climbing.

"Leader, there is a small flat space up here." When Su made it over the ridge she found that the space was flat with little stone around.

"It looks like someone cleared this for a camp once." Remey found the small pile of ashes and even some holes that had been left from tent stakes. Someone had definitely camped here for a short few days recently.

"Then this will be the stopping place when we need to use the portable forge. Actually, it might be best that we stop and make the fishing pole now." When Walker spoke these words it was as if he had said a phrase.

The wandering blacksmith held out a hand to shoo everyone away and then slammed his hammer on to the ground. In the blink of an eye, a small forge had appeared in front of them. The stone tiles on the ground were made of a coal stained pattern and the roof was mostly decorative to block a little rain.

"That was way cooler than I thought it would be." Gil had not expected it to be this magnificent and with the awe on his face, he showed Walker that he wanted to see it again.

"Well, I have yet to use the skill, so here I go." Walker placed a hand on another part of the cleared ground and the same blink happened as before. However, this forge was a little cleaner and appeared to be fresh and new. The tools that showed up were on a shelf that was free standing and the roof was a little larger.

"Since you two are going to play blacksmith and make whatever, Su and I are going to make camp and have some thistle tea." Remey pulled Su toward the edge where the forge furnaces were so they would heat the camp better at night. She hadn't thought that Walker and the wandering blacksmith would be storing them away.

"Then I will scout around and make sure I have a good place to keep watch. Want to come with Midnight? Or will you stay here with them?" Midnight shook her head and moved toward the forge. She wanted to try and help them create their fishing poles.

"If you are alright with it, can you make a fishing pole and hooks? I will try my best to copy you and learn a few things. I doubt I can properly braid the fishing line either." Seeing that this would be a teaching moment the wandering blacksmith handed Walker one of his older hammers. He then held a hand out so Walker could give him the materials.

The Strings that Walker pulled from his inventory were leftover from what Lisa had given him to repair his cloak if it ever ripped. They were thin but tough so that they would hold up while traveling. There was enough to make five or six fishing poles if he wanted which he felt was excessive. Yet, when Lisa handed it to him he couldn't find it in him to say no to taking them.

The iron ingots that Walker handed over next were simple and cheap. Although, once the pieces were made they would work well enough and hold up against the koi fish that Walker was looking to catch when they got to the icicle falls.

"Four pieces. Hooks. String." These were the pieces that the wandering blacksmith was planning to make. He knew that he would be able to make a very good fishing pole with the materials and that they would work out for basic use. However, he was looking forward to getting blue koi scales because he knew they could be used as water and cold resistant armors. He just lacked the skills to properly fish himself.

"Understood." Walker watched as the wandering blacksmith started the forge furnace and Midnight came over to watch. She knew that her fire was not really needed for this but since she was interested in helping in the future she was paying close attention.

There was plenty of time to make sure Walker would learn the process completely so the wandering blacksmith took the time to sketch the four metal parts and the hooks. They were fairly simple. The rod

would attach together in three parts allowing for bend without breaking. The reel would be simple and attached to the base. The string would feed through and a hook would hang at the base. It was a basic iron fishing rod.

Chapter 836 Fishing Rods

The sound of fire and hammering soon echoed through the nearby rocks. Gil was being especially vigilant of anything that heard the noises and came looking. However, it appeared that this area was a lot safer than he was worried about. Those that had camped here before must have taken care of anything in the area causing it to become an ideal camp area and forging area.

Walker was currently watching as the iron ingot was cut and rolled in a specific manner. The fact that the fishing pole was made of iron would mean it was heavy. However, with the strength he had, Walker did not worry about this. At the very least it was a chance to get a little stronger or train his endurance more.

The metal ingot that Walker was going to use was already heating while he watched the demonstration and as soon as the wandering blacksmith stopped to work on the next piece, Walker had begun to hammer. This was watched by the wandering blacksmith very carefully in case there were any imperfections.

When Walker began to shape and cut the iron there was a moment of worry. But when he saw the wandering blacksmith glancing at him he felt his confidence rise and he cut with force. Using the tongues to roll the metal in the same way that he had just witness, Walker felt that it was much easier to work with than he had expected. This was as if he was forging in his own home. It was a slight perk of having the portable forge skill.

' The skill iron rolling has been taken from the inventor system. The skill iron rolling has been automatically learned.

Iron rolling- passive

The style of rolling hot iron comes through experience. The more the user gets a feel for the iron and the purity of it, the better he will get at rolling it. There are many uses in the world for rolled iron and often it is in high demand. The user will be able to better roll the iron in to a perfect circular or round orb shape.'

The skill didn't sound impressive, however, when it came to precision crafting it would be ideal to have. It was also a passive skill that would help him feel how to work with iron better which at the end of the day would improve his forging skills.

The wandering blacksmith had begun to shape rings along the rolled metal so that there would be a piece for the braided string to move through and stay attached. This was the hardest part since the piece of iron was smaller and cooled much faster. Walker was not ashamed to say that he broke a total of fifteen rings before he managed to attach his first. The wandering blacksmith managed to attach all of them on to each of the three metal rod pieces without fail.

The reel was another challenge but after watching the wandering blacksmith shape it, Walker found it was very similar to the first portion until the metal was forcefully warped to have a place for the string to wrap. The small wooden handle added was even more simple. It consisted of a nearly uncarved piece of stick. It was as simple as it could get while still working perfectly.

The hoods were much like the loops that Walker had broken. They needed to be evenly shaped and forged or else they would break and bend. This meant that after over an hour, Walker had a pile of broken or poor hooks in front of him with only a handful of successful hooks. The few successful ones were looked over and kept by the wandering blacksmith to be compared to his which were all perfection.

The braiding of the sting was the simplest part of the entire process. The wandering blacksmith toed the strings on to the anvil and made sure there were six pieces of even length. Then he copied a similar braid to how Walker had seen his mother braid Lisa's hair once upon a time.

Due to his familiarity with the braiding actions, Walker was able to pick it up even faster than he the rolling iron skill. The wandering blacksmith actually stopped and watched him when he noticed the speed at which Walker was braiding with complete focus.

'The skill swift braiding has been taken from the maid system. The skill swift braiding has been automatically learned due to past experiences and user actions.

Swift braiding- 1 mana cost per hour

The user has nimble fingers to efficiently and speedily braid the known patterns together. Minimal mana causes the user to be able to move much faster through the motions. The braid will always be firm and hold up well unless purposefully unraveled.'

This was a skill Walker was sure would come in handy elsewhere. He had seen many handmade swords with braided rope wrapped around handles. There were even smaller uses such as braiding Lisa's hair or even just strengthening rope for multiple purposes.

When Walker finished and assembled the parts he found himself looking at nearly two identical fishing rods.

'Iron fishing rod

Atk +3, Def +2, Agi +5

Made by Walker. This is a sturdy basic fishing rod for catching medium and small fish. There are chances to capture a large fish if used with care. The ability to channel mana through the fishing rod is weak but possible. The braided fishing line is handmade and much tougher than a basic fishing line allowing for a higher probability of catching any fish that bites. A very worthy first fishing pole.'

Walker was proud of his fishing pole. When he compared it to the wandering blacksmiths' he noticed that his was called the strong iron fishing rod and had one more stat point in each stat than his. It also had the phrase, made without any imperfections within the iron. This was just to be expected due to the gaps in experience. But overall, a very great result.

Chapter 837 Tempting Fate

"So all of that trouble for two fishing rods?" Remey was not as impressed as Walker had been. She saw the basic iron fishing rod and thought it was less than what would normally happen.

"Not everything that leader makes is going to be ." Su saw what Remey had been expecting and knew that they all secretly had the same thought. Walker would normally come out of nowhere with some amazing al or extra effect item. Today, he had actually kept things normal to a degree. As long as the portable forge skill and speed of gaining skills wasn't concerned.

The wandering blacksmith held the two fishing rods together and was happy to see the results of their work. They had stopped and worked the last bit of daylight away and in to the night a little but it felt worth the time. There was also some food and a warm fire for the night. It may not have been the hard days' work that the wandering blacksmith would normally do but it was the exact experience he had wanted from this trip.

"You two are not allowed to store those portable forges away." Surprising them, Su was the one giving the orders. The cold breeze on the mountain was getting to her a little bit even though she had trained in cold resistance. She may have the skill but she knew overall it would not be good for their health to remain cold all night.

"We won't, we won't." Walker did his best to convince Su while Remey also showed a slight glare at him silently saying that she would be willing to brawl over the lack of fire. However, He did need to agree that the warmth put off toward their tents was ideal for sleeping the rest of the night.

Walker caught the wandering blacksmith trying to take the watch from Gil and quickly reminded him that this was a trip for him. After a lot of convincing, he managed to get the wandering blacksmith to go rest as their client should not be pulling all the work. The rest of the night passed by without any worry or sound. Not even the frost wolves could be heard howling in the distance while they waited for the silver swans to make a mistake and leave the flock.

"The forge furnace is the perfect place for warming bread in the morning." The discovery that Remey had made where the hot coals of the forge furnace were concerned was one that she would be enjoying whenever they pulled the portable forges out from their storage. They were the ideal temperature after the night to warm bread and even heated water for tea and soup.

"So, do you two need to forge anything else?" Gil had been surveying the area and found that there were no threats in sight so now was the perfect time to head out. They had the sun, clear trails, and they had food in their stomachs.

"Not that I can think of. I do think that this will be the best place to stop on the way back down though." The wandering blacksmith nodded vigorously wanting to make sure that this would be the descending camp as well.

"Then you can mark your mental map." Gil watched as the two touched the portable forges' stones and they blinked away as if they had never been there. The only remaining evidence was a little extra ash. "I don't think I will ever be used to seeing things like that..."

The party fell in to the same formation they had been traveling and aimed their path at another trail. However, this one had a significant amount of snow over it. They could see it increasing due to the winding path carved by many adventurers and those who dared to explore the mountains for treasures.

"There are a lot of different side trails. I feel like everyone who travels here has carved their own." This was fairly true as Su looked at the side of their trail. There were many spots where stones had obviously been mined to test for ores or small places had been excavated. Even more side trails appeared to lead to small flat camping areas where there were even some ruined tents left behind for who knew how long.

"I see why you wanted to come here. If so many people have come to try and mine here then it must be more than just ice based materials here." A sly smile spread on the wandering blacksmiths' face. He had wanted to get lucky and find some ores on the trip but knew he would not be able to mine them without another person. However, that would also mean he would need to bring a miner that would also need protection. Lucky for him, Walker could both fight and mine if necessary.

This information hit Walker but he was not phased at all. He had expected such a thing and was glad to do mining and escort duty to pay the wandering blacksmith back for all the forging he had done.

"We have bones over here." Gil had moved forward a little on the trail since he wanted to be sure their path was not too dangerous. He had ended up coming across what appeared to be a long dead and frozen dwarf skeleton.

"They must have been out mining and fell to the cold." Walker could tell that the skeleton was very old.

"I'm just glad it's not some weird frozen undead. That would be so annoying." Remey sighed in relief just as a strange crackling sound was mixed with a creaking and snapping.

"Did you really have to tempt fate that way?" Gil had already located the sound from up the path and drew an arrow so that he could aim at the skeleton ahead. However, the skeleton was not as simple as just that.

Chapter 838 Dead Ice

' Dead Ice Skeleton

This skeleton has been frozen in the ice for generations. The desire to find and search for what it had set out for when it was alive had brought it back to partial life with a vengeance. The dead ice skeleton gets its name from the ice that permanently encases its brittle bones. Wherever the skeleton touches the bones will freeze and kill. Some may be able to use water spells in the form of ice.'

Walker read this out as Gil fired a second arrow at the skeleton only to see that it barely pierced the ice that was surrounding the bones. It was indeed much tougher than the normally easy to beat skeletons than before.

"I can't punch that or else I will freeze myself." The entire party could feel the cold coming from the skeletons' bodies as it came closer. Remey knew that if she dared to touch it even with her gloves and knuckles on she would take damage.

"Can't you use the fire affinity knuckles?" Gil thought that the fire elemental knuckles would be enough to counter the ice on the skeleton but unfortunately, Walker was shaking his head.

The ice is too condensed and cold. We need some blunt damage to shatter it and break apart the skeleton completely." The skeleton was taking another move towards the group causing them to retreat down the path to keep figuring out how to deal with it.

"Blunt damage. That means Walker and myself can handle it." Su stepped forward and charged while holding her shield. The shield bash skill was one of her earliest skills but most useful. It never seemed to fail her and did not here.

The sharp crack of ice and bone was enough to show off the strength Su had. The skeleton did not fair well under her attack and its arm fell to the ground unable to be reattached. Walker did not hesitate to pull out the larger of his hammers and grasp it within his hands. He used all of his strengths to channel some fire elemental mana in to it and raise it straight over his head.

The dead ice skeleton was not a wise undead and before it could react, Walker had slammed the hammer down in to the frozen skull. The small burst of flame furthered the crackling sounds as ice shatters and bone cracked in a spiderweb pattern. But miraculously, the dead ice skeleton was still struggling to stand. It had not been defeated even after all that.

When he saw this, Walker had no choice but to jump back and dodge the swipe of the skeletons' only arm. The slight cold breeze it made was enough to put a small amount of frost on his hammer showing just how deadly and cold the bones really were.

"If regular arrows won't work," Gil let loose and Zephyr had charged with wind elemental mana, "I will use some extra strength." The arrow hit the weakened skull and the dead ice skeleton lost all control and life it had left. The clatter of frozen bones on the rocks in front of the party was enough for them to finally relax a little and gather their minds.

"So, are you going to jinx us again?" Gil gave a knowing look to Remey who denied any causality when it came to the skeletons' appearance in front of them.

"The water elemental mana in these bones is extremely condensed. It's almost like an elemental crystal has been made inside of them." The mana radiating from the bones caused Walker to examine them more carefully.

'Dead ice skeleton bones

The long period of freezing had left the bones of the dead ice skeleton with two very powerful effects. They had long been saturated with high amounts of water elemental mana to their very core making them an ideal water elemental material. Due to this, it has the second characteristic of freezing things in contact. This fact has made it known for the frozen mines it is often found in and around.'

The wandering blacksmith waltzed forward with his forging gloves on and started to pick the bones up regardless of what Walker had just explained. As the materials disappeared in to a small back everyone realized that this was the famed blacksmith vault skill. This was a skill some master blacksmiths would gain that stored all of their materials within a al vault in their minds. It was very valuable to have since it reduced the need for a storage room.

The forging gloves that were on the wandering blacksmiths' hands were incredibly tough and resistant to all elemental mana. It was a precaution that any blacksmith would take and if the quality was high enough they would not need to worry about most materials damaging their valuable hands.

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief when they saw that no damage was coming from the bones on to the wandering blacksmith. "I will check ahead. There might be a mine as it says. Midnight, come and watch my back." Gil and Midnight headed up the path.

Midnight had not been able to help with the last battle but it was alright since she would have taken damage due to her attacks on the dead ice skeleton. She had significant resistance to elements but not complete resistance.

"If there is a mine up there, will we risk exploring it?" Remey was skeptical. She thought that one of the dead ice skeletons was bad enough. Multiple dead ice skeletons within a small cramped cave sounded much much worse.

The look of desire in the wandering blacksmiths' face made Walker decide on a compromise between the two, "If Gil comes back and there is one we can give it a look. But we will not go deep in to it since it has most likely sat vacant for a long time and will be at risk for cave ins." His decision was made and it was a fair point. They would not take a great risk when they did not need to.

Chapter 839 The Caves' Secrets

"What can you make with the bones? Aren't they too cold to properly add to anything? They would cool the fires and lose most of their water elemental affinity, wouldn't they?" Walker had a feeling that it was easier than he was thinking but he still lacked a lot of in depth forging knowledge so he had to ask what the bones could be used for.

"Swords. Armors." The words were simple and Walker wondered how it would be done but knew that the wandering blacksmith would most likely show him when they had gathered more materials. It appeared he was already drawing out designs in his mind and all too focused to elaborate. But that wasn't new, he rarely spoke let alone explained things.

The padding of footsteps put everyone on edge again but it was soon revealed to be Midnight ahead of Gil returning from scouting ahead a little ways. She appeared excited for what they had found and nearly grabbed Gil's arm with her mouth to drag him over to the rest of the groups. "Calm down. Calm down. We will tell them."

"I take it you found something interesting on your scouting?" Su was trying hard not to giggle seeing how Midnight was dragging Gil along. It was incredibly comical.

"Yes, we did as a matter of fact." Gil was a little miffed that even Su was trying to hold back laughter but he continued nonetheless. "There was a small rockslide ahead. But that doesn't matter because we can easily get around it. But it seems that it uncovered a cave that had its entrance blocked by a lot of rock. There isn't a breeze coming from inside so I don't think it is a large cave with a cave system connected."

This was a small surprise but the mountain would change over time. It was very normal for the rocks to shift and the trails to need to be changed or forged anew. However, the cave was an interesting find. If it had been blocked and did not connect to anything then it was sure to have been mined out at some point years ago. It was also the best place for a skeleton to become a dead ice skeleton over the course of years without being found.

"I think we can investigate a small cave. As long as we are very careful I have no reason to say we can not. I can even use some earth to sculpt a proper opening if we need it. I wouldn't be able to sure up anything if we were going in to a cave system, but a small cave is possible." After Walker had said this, the wandering blacksmith was already on the move prompting everyone to hurry themselves in to formation.

After five minutes of climbing the winding trail, the rocks showed themselves to block the trail. It was small as Gil had said and easily walked over or around. The dark wall to the left of the rock slide was the thing to catch their eyes. It appeared to be covered in shadow but when someone looked closer they would find that it was not a shadow at all and actually a cave.

"Midnight, you guard our client while we head inside. If we shout out to you to come in it is safe. If not we will leave or you should head back down towards the camping spot and wait there." This was the safest bet in case another of the skeletons was inside.

Su took the lead in to the cave because she was the safest to take and counter the attacks from a dead ice skeleton. Walker didn't have room for the large hammer and decided to pull out his two smaller forging hammers. The entrance to the cave was surprisingly sturdy looking and Walker felt that if he used earth to stabilize it there would be no difference.

"Leader, it appeared there are pieces of skeletons around." Su was pointing out bones on the ground that were definitely just old bones that had never risen to walk again. To investigate more, Walker used his skills to create a light orb that illuminated the small cave.

"Gil was right, no way out once we are in. There are even pick axes left behind." Remey pointed toward a side wall left with rotting wood and rusted pick axes.

"I hate to say it, but it looks like that skeleton must have torn apart these ones." The marks on the bones were faded but a pick axe had definitely defeated the living beings that had once been these skeletons. "The last one must have gotten trapped due to the entrance caving in and perished here to become the dead ice skeleton." It was a terrible story but one that happened often when people found something valuable and let their greed take hold of them.

"I think this used to be a chest. And this wall definitely used to be minded." Su was running her hands over a portion of the wall that had been carved out. The chest she found was made fully of rusting metal to protect whatever was inside.

"It's safe to come in!" Gil made the call and the wandering blacksmith rushed in as if he was barely containing himself while waiting. Midnight was right behind him.

"Sister says that the wandering blacksmith is very excited to see what is left in a mined cave." Onyx had been sleeping in his tattoo form but finally spoke up for the first time despite the cold they faced. He had not wanted to because it was easier to sleep in the cold breezes and hide away under walkers' layers of clothing.

"I'm pretty interested to see too. If it is something worth doing all this for it should be valuable." Walker still felt bad about what must have happened in the past but did not dwell on it since it was something he could not change. Instead, he focused on opening the rusted metal chest.

Chapter 840 Inside The Chest

The metal chest was rusted shut and it took Walker, Gil, and the wandering blacksmith together to get the hammer and a chisel the wandering blacksmith brought in to the opening. The three held the chest in place while Midnight and Si put all their weight on the chisel to pop open the top in a large cracking sound. Remey was startled since she was watching the cave entrance but did not freak out once she realized the sound. Instead, she stole small glances to see what had been found.

"It's just as I expected. It's full of rocks." Gil was activating as if he had known a great secret all along. But in reality, they all knew it had to be ore inside the chest.

"Gil, you may be a genius among men." Even Su couldn't help but throw some sarcasm at Gil after his bad joke.

However, what was really shocking was the face the wandering blacksmith was making. His jaw had dropped and he was looking at the contents of the box as if he was afraid to touch it. Walker looked back and forth waiting for the wandering blacksmith to react but found that he was totally frozen in place as he processed whatever the ore was. There was no choice but to use his all around appraisal skill to check things out.

'Cold Iron ore

Rare ore that is formed in mountains that experience extreme prolonged cold. Traces of water element mana seeped in to normal iron causing the change to occur. Due to the water elemental mana within it naturally causes frost to form even on the hottest days. It is ideal for traveling in intense heat. Many desert tribes trade for rings made of this material so that they can more easily cross the large spans of the desert.'

"It should be very useful for forging then. I haven't heard of cold iron before. Just normal iron mostly, so this is pretty different." Walker could tell why the wandering blacksmith was so glad to see it. He would be able to forge with so much of a rare material.

"If that is cold iron then this must be moreover here in the walls. It looks the same, well, I think." Remey was not at all an expert in ores and metals. Yet, she had perfectly found a small vein in the wall that was of the same color and even had a bit of frost running along it indicating that it was the same cold iron.

"I guess that means I get to mine." Walker knew that it was his job as soon as Remey had said it. There was also the fact that the wandering blacksmith looked too greedy to just let the additional cold iron ore go.

Looking at the broken pick axes, Walker knew that using them was out of the question. However, the wandering blacksmith checked the metal part of the pickaxe and gave a nod after he found that it was solid enough to use. "Hmm, let me try something." Walker placed a hand on the ground and began to shape the earth. The small amount of mana he used was enough for him to quickly shape an ideal handle out of the stone beneath his feet.

When he lifted the pickaxe on to his shoulder some rust dropped off but otherwise, it was good to go. He had never really done anything like this and was looking forward to a new skill. However, he was not excited about the soreness in his muscles the unfamiliar action would cause. Even more, he had an audience which didn't help. It was the problem with him being the only one that could mine and learn

how to use mining skills. If any of the others attempted it they most likely would damage the ore in some way or worse, cause a collapse.

With a deep breath, Walker swung the pickaxe against the wall. He had underestimated his own strength and a solid chip of stone shattered off the wall revealing more of the cold iron. It was not what he expected but gave him a lot more of a baseline to go off of for the next swing. After the twentieth swing, he finally started to see the piece of cold iron ending and where it grouped to a second piece further down the wall.

'The skill precise mining has been taken from the elite miner system. The skill precise mining has been learned through user action.

Precise mining- passive

The user has an innate sense of the best place to smash the pickaxe while mining. This precise movement will often allow for a better and more intact ore at the end result. There will be fewer chances of a collapse or a broken pickaxe while mining.'

The party watched as Walker began to break away the stone in much cleaner swings and pieces. The movements even became more fluid showing off that he had learned another skill. Once the large chunk of cold iron fell from the wall, the wandering blacksmith collected it with a small whistle. He was impressed with the effort and skill that came from this process along with how well the ore was left for him to mold later.

"Is there more?" The sweat that had built up on Walker was easily manipulated with his skills to evaporate and dry. However, when Walker looked at his system he was surprised that such a simple action was rewarded with a skill.

'The skill cleanse has been taken from the high noble system. The user has automatically learned the skill cleanse.

Cleanse- 2 mana cost

Very different from the skill cleansing from the exorcist type systems. The skill cleanse allows the user to manipulate the dirt, sweat, and grime on their body to leave their person. This skill is a must for most nobles and is often the key to a good first impression.'