

Master 841

Chapter 841 The Falls

The cleanse skill was not something super flashy and amazing. It was a simple skill but a useful one. Walker couldn't count the many times he had wished he could bathe while they had been traveling or how often he had wanted to be able to get home and sit in a bath to scrub away every piece of dirt.

He even felt that he would be able to use the skill on the others which would be incredibly valuable for when they were adventuring and were about to walk in to a city. It would also save them some water that they had in his inventory for cleaning themselves before entering a city anyways.

"Midnight and I gave a check of the other walls again and it looks like there is nothing else here." Gil was a little disappointed that they had come up short. He had grand ideas that they had come across a mine full of ores and valuable gems.

"I think we got more than enough. That last chunk of ore should be enough to make a whole ingot and then some." The size of the last piece of cold iron ore had been the largest by far. However, with the amount in the rusted chest, they had enough to make a few sets of armor if needed.

Once Walker had stored the broken pickaxes to be melted down and reused, he looked at the wandering blacksmith who was standing waiting for the others happily. He had gained a lot here and wasn't even at the centennial ice that they planned to harvest as well.

"Leader, do we leave the cave as it is or will we close it up again?" When Su asked Walker, couldn't help but think there was no harm in just leaving the cave as it was. It would be a good resting spot for any future travelers.

"No, we can leave it. It will save us some time that way. I think we will get to icicle falls today. Then tomorrow we can get to the centennial ice. I would say we will get to both today but after fishing for a little while it should be dark."

"Oh, good. I can look for more herbs that way too. I have an idea that there are more around the icicle falls than we think." Remey knew that there were plenty of herbs that would grow around such cold places. The thought that all plants needed was sunlight and warmth to grow was a common misconception. Lots of herbs needed the proper elemental mana to get the grow that they need.

Hearing the goals from the others, the wandering blacksmith tried to take the lead before Su jumped in front of him. They were out of the cave and back on their journey up the mountain. The rock slide had not held them up in the least, it was a small one and with minimal effort, the group had walked around it.

Midnight was fairly energized after she and Gil had scouted to find the cave. She had already tried to push Gil to go and scout again with her since she was feeling the need to explore more and more. It was a small addiction to the new things around them and the fact that the group seemed to be finding more and more new things at every turn.

"Alright, Midnight, I need your help." Remy finally broke first and decided to tell Midnight about another herb she was on the look out for that she was sure that would be growing near the icicle falls which Walker had already said should be over the next ridge.

Midnight rushed over to Remy ready for her mission. The seriousness in her eyes was alight with fire. "Ehm, the herb we are looking for is blue and skinny. It's called blue grass. The base is green like normal grass. It grows in small tufts here and there and only next to ice and snow patches." Midnight used her shadow wrapping skill and was off ahead of them in a matter of seconds. She had clear memories of what Remy had said and focused on the task.

"What is blue grass used for? More cold resistance?" Su thought there was a familiar sounding herb that she may have seen before.

"It is actually very common to grow in the winter. It helps prevent colds and can be made in to a small vitamin pill of dried and added to soups and teas. I want to have some around for exactly this reason. We can get some ahead of the real snow which will be nice." Remy was trying to think ahead of what they would need for their trip to Genesis city as well. More than likely the snow will fall during or before their trip.

"That's a good idea. None of us can afford to get sick with all other plans we have." The entire group agreed with Walkers' statement. They had a lot of plans they were very excited about in the coming months. Being sick and missing something seemed to be a tragedy.

Like a ghost coming out of nowhere, Midnight padded up next to Su and was ready to pull her away. However, the group was about to clear the ridge and see what Midnight had already seen. She did not rush them since she wanted them all to experience the sight before them fully.

All of them knew that something great was ahead due to Midnight's excited actions. But they were not ready for the cold breeze to hit them and open up the area ahead of them. The icicle falls were coming from the next bit of steep cliffs ahead of them. The ice falling was adding to the crashing of water which the sun showed through making rainbow mists. It was elegant.

Chapter 842 Casting

The entire space in front of them around the icicle falls was covered in small deep streams that branched from the large pool of ice and water at the base of the falls. There were also plenty of tufts of blue grass that pushed through the patches of snow that perfectly layered the area. It was not an ideal camping spot but a beautiful sight to see and would be held in the groups' memory for years to come.

"Who needs materials and herbs when we can see things like this. Every day I am reminded of what a good choice becoming an adventurer was." Su was the most touched by the view in front of her. She had originally wanted items and money to heal her mother. But with that goal more than met, she found that she was living a life she had never imagined and when moments like this occurred she was stunned.

"I don't mean to ruin the mood. It is beautiful, but beauty can hide danger. Other than the blue koi I will fish for there could be other monsters in the deep streams around. Just be careful and don't go off alone." Walker was sure that the blue koi could not be the only monsters around. It would be too simple if there were no predators to hunt them in such a large space of watery streams to hide in.

"Midnight and I are gathering blue grass. Everyone else can do whatever." Remey and Midnight had barely held themselves back before they rushed off. Walker felt that his words had been lost to the wind.

"You two can go and test your fishing rods. Su and I will walk around and see what is what here." Gil shooed Walker and the wandering blacksmith off toward the large pool near the falls so that Walker could begin to try and catch himself some blue koi. He wasn't sure if Gil just wanted him to get the koi for the materials he would sue for water elemental arrows or because he was trying to be nice.

It did put Walker at ease knowing that there were people taking the danger seriously and checking the area for anything that could cause them trouble. "I think we can use some of the jerky for bait. I could use some of the leftover roasted meats we have but I would prefer to keep that for when we eat later."

This seemed to be fine by the wandering blacksmith since he was not one to go and fish at all. Let alone have any skills related to fishing at all. It would come down to Walker to really figure out what the koi liked and how to actually hook them. There was the added bonus that with a second person around Walker would have help pulling what he caught on to the shore.

When the pair reached the edge of the pool it was hard to see the water since it was mostly ice on top. But because of the falls, there was a slight bit of ripples that allowed sight through the water. It was crystal clear and free of any sediment or plant growth that made vision hard. It was exceptionally deep and there was no way to see past the darkness to the bottom.

There were also slight differences in the coloration of the darkness that Walker could see. The blue hue of the ice caused it to be harder to see, "They are the koi!" Walker caught a glimpse of one as it chased another and turned enough to see the white belly.

With this sighting, the excitement reached its maximum and the two hurried to prepare the iron fishing rods. Walker knew that the wandering blacksmiths' was better but he had the feeling that using the one he had made would bring him more luck. After they made sure that the rods were properly prepared, Walker hooked a small square of beef jerky to the tip of the hook.

"I've never cast this kind of fishing pole so step back. I don't want to catch you." Walker gave his warning and the wandering blacksmith stepped back a fair distance. It didn't seem to matter though because as soon as Walker lifted the pole with the dangling hook it attached to his clothing and became stuck.

The ensuing situation was a mix of trying to become unhooked and avoiding becoming tangled in the braided line which seemed to pull out more and more as the two struggled. The second attempt was slightly better but went way too far and landed on a large piece of ice. After reeling it in and pulling the chunk of ice with the hook Walker finally managed to cast the line in to the water.

The attempts had been difficult but it had finally worked and the small plunk sound was enough to bring relaxation to the pair who stood there in silence. "I guess...we wait now." Walker had not expected that they would get a fish immediately. But for some reason, he found himself anxious while he waited.

'The skill cast has been taken from the fly fishing system. The user had learned the basic skill cast has been automatically learned through users' actions.

Cast- 1 mana cost

Requires a fishing rod. The user is able to cast the line of a fishing pole with minimal danger to those around them. The odds of landing the hook where desired are significantly higher the more the user trains this skill.'

The skill was enough to make Walker happy since he would have less chance to get hooked or to hook a friend. There was also the fact that the skill would get better the more he practiced with it. If he followed some fishermen he might find that he could relax and fish peacefully if he ever had more free time. But that was for another day, now, he needed to focus on whatever was trying to nibble the jerky on the hook.

Chapter 843 Hooked

Walker was holding the line with one hand and the other on the base of the fishing pole. He knew that if he managed to get a bite on the hook he might feel it on the braided fishing line before the pole itself. The same small ripples were pushing the ice from side to side and the pair could see the occasional tail of a blue koi in the water. It was just a matter of time before something was brave enough to snap at the jerky on the hook.

This proved to be the correct way to fish because Walker soon found that the braided fishing line was twitching slightly. Having seen someone fish before he knew he had to pull the line at that moment.

The force he found pulling away from him through the line was much stronger than he expected. His response was a little slow and he nearly dropped the pole in surprise. He had never truly fished before meaning that it was going to be a tough learning experience through real action.

He pulled back on the pole before he remembered to start turning the reel they had made. The progress was much slower than Walker expected. Each time the koi would swish its tail the force against Walker would increase. There was a moment where it pulled more line out into the water than Walker could reel in.

This prompted Walker to put more strength in to it and regain the distance he had lost. "Come on come on come on!" His shout of self encouragement caused the wandering blacksmith to grab the pole as well and lean back to put more weight on it. The pair managed to gain even more of the line back before a brilliant ice blue koi breached the water and fell again with a splash.

This was its last attempt to spit the hook that had set itself deep in its mouth. Naturally, the two had seen the size of the blue koi and found energy they did not know they had. They heaved on the pole and turned the reel faster to get the now exhausted koi on to the shore. With so little line left out, there was nowhere for it to swim.

The slight struggle it had left sent it in to contact with ice shards and pieces causing even more damage to come to it. By the time it was near enough for Walker to grab and pull on to the snowy bank, the blue koi couldn't even flow and perished on the spot. Walker was amazed by the over a foot long size of the blue koi. The chill that was coming from it was even more intense causing the snow to become even more solid beneath it.

"What do you think, do we catch another now? Or do we try and break this one down?" Walker was going to leave it up to the wandering blacksmith since he was the one that wanted the scales as a material. Gil also wanted some but odds were they two would work together to make the arrows that Gil needed.

"Stock up." There was no hesitation as the wandering blacksmith handed the second fishing pole to Walker. He wanted Walker to have both set up and ready to catch at the same time to increase their chances after the first. It had not taken them a very long time to get the first fish but a decent chunk of time would be wasted if they did not use both to maximize their catching.

"Alright, then let me set this up." Walker manipulated the snow to form a perch for both fishing poles. This made him able to case one and set it inside so when another fish caught on he had time to grab it and begin the battle. If worst came to worst the wandering blacksmith could assist in holding the other pole while he waited for Walker to assist in the catching process.

The pole was again cast after Walker added a small piece of jerky on to the hood. He had stored the first blue koi already so he was ready to cast the second pole. Both were aimed at opposite directions to avoid tangling and there was a calmness to the falling water now that the pair had gotten used to it.

They waited a much shorter time when the fishing pole that the wandering blacksmith had made started to bend. Walker grabbed it and began to reel it up finding that there was a significantly lighter weight on the other side. "We might have to throw this one back. It feels very young." This was to be expected. They had gotten very lucky the first catch to get a large blue Koi.

The pair had no issue reeling the catch in more and more. But they did not feel the strong struggle of a fish tail trying to escape. The entire line just seemed to vibrate side to side but give no real resistance. On top of this, there was no glorious jump from the water in a life and death struggle.

When the line began to get tighter and the weight suddenly increased, Walker knew that there was something wrong. Their catch was not as simple as it could be. They could even see the top of the water freeze more and it worried them. The blue koi should not be able to freeze the water around it so much that it could make the line heavier.

Feeling that they might need to let this one go, they shared a look, but in their eyes was a fire that refused to lose their catch. The pair grabbed the fishing pole together once again and pulled back with all their force. A sharp cracking graced their ears and whatever was on the opposite end of the line was forced out of the water and on to the shore in one full motion.

Chapter 844 Be Speedy

The monster that lay on the snow was nothing that they had imagined would be at the end of the fishing pole. "This is definitely not a blue koi..." Walker was stunned to see the long snake like fish that was nearly clear as glass. The ice that was holding on to its body in chunks was similarly shaped like it and Walker felt that it had been starting to use some skill to resist them before they pulled it from the icy waters.

'Ghostly ice eel

The ghostly ice eel is a very weak monster that is considered very dangerous. It can freely travel unseen in water causing it to be an assassin like hunter. The eel is often reclusive and does not venture out often. Yet, when it is out it will use its' hallmark skill ice armor. This will cause ice to form around it in the same shape as the eel. The size of the eel doubles and it gains the ability to defend and attack stringer opponents than itself. The ghostly ice eel is considered a delicacy and a valuable material for crafting. The pendants made with their nearly clear eyes are able to ward off strong illusion skills. While its tender meat is extremely nutritious.'

The ghostly ice eel did not last long out of the water and it was soon in the same state as the blue koi before. The uses that it had as an illusion resistant material were enough to make it double as valuable as the blue koi. The fact that its meat was supposed to be nutritious was a bonus that the group could enjoy at their meal tonight and possibly when they returned home if they managed to catch more.

"This is really something. I wonder if there are more. If there are we need to pull them up fast before they use their ice armor skill. I don't think we will have a chance when that happens." There was surety

in Walkers' voice but the wandering blacksmith didn't hear a word. He was in his own world after seeing the material he had not expected in the least.

The fishing pole was cast yet again, however, Walker had no time to rest because the second pole started to be pulled on by another fish. This time it was the same feeling as the blue koi. There was strength in the attempts to be unhooked and it took the two of them to pull it up on to the shore after a few minutes of battling.

It was smaller than the last but still close to the same size.

"This might be very lucky, or, the blue koi are all large in this place and we have not been catching large ones in comparison to what might-" The second fishing pole was being pulled on the same way as the one that had just been reeled in. There was no time to rest and the pair hurriedly pulled up a blue koi. This one was not the same though.

There was a small chunk of scales and meat that had been bitten from the blue koi and it seemed to match the size of the ghostly ice eels' mouth. "Let's catch that eel that messed up our perfect blue koi." The determination led Walker to cast the fishing pole in to the same spot it had just been while the other pole went close to the area.

There was no need to wait. It seemed that they had stirred up all the fish in the area and there was a pull on the line immediately. The battle that ensued was nothing like before. It was harder. The second fishing pole was being pulled on too but the pair did not have the ability to reel both in at once.

'The skill speed reeling has been taken from the deep sea fishermen system. The user has automatically learned the skill speed reeling.

Speed reeling- 2 mana cost per hour

The user uses their mana to flow through their body and in to the reel of the fishing pole. The reel can resist the heat created through faster reeling and the user can push their speed faster with less risk of damage to the pole. Small fish won't know when they left the water. Large fish will bow to the speed they are pulled from their homes.'

There was a flow that Walker felt as he sped up his reeling. This more than helped against the heavier weight on the line this time. Especially when they brought the blue koi on land. It was easily half a foot larger than the first two. But there was no time to marvel at their catch. The second line was being tugged and moved side to side.

The pulling they felt was as if the line was being pulled from different directions in a frenzy. "I think something is attacking the koi. We should be able to get whatever is attacking it." Walker readied himself to pull a sword from his inventory and slice at whatever may be eating the

The heaves and intense reeling brought up a blue koi similar to the size of the last. But it had been lightened by more than one predator. It had been bitten and torn up but five squirming ghostly ice eels still burying themselves within the blue koi. They were so in to their meal that they did not notice they had been pulled to shore when it was too late.

"The blue koi might be ruined but there are five more eels for you. Should we keep it up?"

The pair was going to cast again when they heard Remy and Midnight making much more noise than before.

"Midnight, keep it steady. It ruined my herb so I'm going to smash it!" There was pure anger in Remy's voice.

Chapter 845 Night And Day

The pair looked toward where they heard Remy yelling and Midnight growling. The fishing poles were left without being cast as they ran over to the small steam that Remy and Midnight had been trying to harvest herbs from.

"You really thought you could snap my herbs in half and get away!?" Remy was landing a hammer fist on to the shell of a blue and green shelled crab. Midnight had clearly dragged it on to the ice and snow.

There was not much explanation needed and no one intervened. Gil and Su arrived as well to find that Remy had just broken one claw off the crab and Midnight was busy holding it in place when Remy went after the other.

Without the claws, Remey was able to get closer to it and defeat it with a defense breaking palm attack. There was no room to say the crab could have survived.

'Frozen blood crab

Very common in mountain streams, the frozen blood crab is known for the blood that is completely frozen in its body. The crab still lived by using mana to move its blood through the body but due to this, it has very tough defenses. The crabs are used for a multitude of armors and their blood once melted is a desired potion ingredient. They often feed on the underwater herbs that grow along the rocks of streams. They are also known to eat perished fish that sink to the bottom of their habitat'

Walker whispered this to the wandering blacksmith who had already deduced that this was a great material for forging as well. He was happier with the trip than he had expected since he was able to gather so many materials in a place that he had not traveled to before. There was also the fact that he had some rare materials that they had come across just by luck. It was something he was sure not to have found if he had hired a group of adventurers or mercenaries to guard him. Let alone traveled by himself.

"What? It cut the herbs Midnight and I were harvesting in half. We had to teach it a lesson or it would have kept preying on them." Remey was a little disheveled but she and Midnight were both fairly calm after their battle.

The crab had managed to defend against Remey for some time and Midnight had to make sure she was not in range of the claws while she held it in place. It was actually a very good training battle for the two and it just went to show that Midnight and Remey had skill when it came to working together in battle.

"Sister says that she will enjoy eating cran for dinner." Onyx sounded fairly amused when he spoke to everyone about what Midnight was thinking. He knew that Remey was after the herbs but Midnight was in it for the food.

"Well, crabs aside, we also have to ghostly ice eel for dinner. We will try to fish up more blue koi and eels for now and meet back at this spot." Walker knew that everyone still had things they wanted to do. Gil headed back with Walker while Su stayed with Midnight and Remey.

"Su and I found a good spot away from the streams to camp for the night. But more importantly, how many koi do you have?" Gil wanted to hear about what he would be able to make arrows from. The remaining few hours before the sun began to set were filled with questions and plans between Gil and the wandering blacksmith about arrows.

The conversation had mainly been from Gil but it was useful to listen to while Walker fished up blue koi. He only managed to get six more ghostly eels but after losing two hooks he was able to pull up another twenty three blue koi fish. There were no other sightings of frozen blood crabs from Walkers' side of things. But when they got to the camp that Gil and Su had found, Remy had three more there waiting for the wandering blacksmith and Walker to help break down.

The eel turned out to be fairly bland when flavor came to conversation. This was not bad though, it was extremely tender and all of them knew that Walkers' mother could turn it in to a roasted delight. The crab was surprisingly sweet and after having its blood drained for Remy to experiment with, in a potion, the meat turned stark white. Midnight relished every bite as she had an entire crab to herself.

None of them wanted to try and eat the blue koi since it was somehow still cold even after being cooked. It made them all apprehensive about eating it and the decision to save it for another time was unanimous.

Once the sun had finally set everyone went to rest while Walker took the first watch. It was not long before he woke everyone up again. "The streams are very lively. We should all stay up and take watch." His tone told everyone that it was not anything to argue with.

They all agreed when they surveyed the streams. The frozen blood crabs had come out of the streams after dark to move and fight each other. The mist from the falls was becoming a snowy flurry around making it easier for the aquatic monsters to be on land. This was not only for the crabs, however. The ghostly ice eels also came to shore.

The sight of a large icy body slithering over the snow and in to different streams was the main reason Walker had wanted everyone awake. There was also the fact that with the ice armor around the eels, they could much more easily defeat the crabs as a meal that they dragged back in to the waters. The eels had become the top predator in the area after dark when they could safely leave the water and maintain their armor.

"This seems much more dangerous than it felt earlier today." Gil already had his bow prepared with an arrow if need be.

Chapter 846 Quick Thinking

"Was this written anywhere? Did your appraisal mention this?" Su was sure that Walker had not heard or noticed this anywhere but she had to be sure in case there was other hidden information.

"Nothing. I didn't think they would be bold enough to leave the water let alone hunt the crabs. Their ice armor skill lets them pierce the crab shell so much easier than I would have thought." It was a very big change from how the eels acted before. The fact that they had been defeated before they showed their ice armor properly had been a small blessing.

"I can't believe I watched you pull those from the water over and over. They only had small chunks of ice on them before. Now they had full bodies of ice. They are a completely different monster." There was some doubt on Gil's face whether this was the case or if these were completely different monsters. The only proof was that the main body of the eel became more visible within the ice armor.

"Trust me, if I knew they came out at night like this, then I would not have tried hunting them. I think it's pure luck that one of them did not fully form the ice armor before we pulled it up from the water. They are really weak without it. But with it..." Walker stopped speaking when he saw another ghostly ice eel defeat a frozen blood crab and pull it to the depths.

"How about you make a wall for us. You can do that, right?" Remy was the one to suggest this. She had the feeling that all of the streams that snaked away from the main water fall of the icicle falls was surrounding them with potential danger.

"Leader and my partner can work together to make an earth fortress." Su connected the dots and Walker couldn't argue. The plan was perfect for what they needed. As much as they could battle against the ghostly eels at night, it was better to focus on surviving and avoid battle in the dark.

Walker could feel the earth elemental mana react after Su whis[pered to the earth spirit within the earth dwelling shield. The ground beneath them shifted and the earth below the ice and snow began to rise. It drew a lot of attention from the ghostly ice eels around that felt the shaking.

The thought of larger prey drew them toward the forming earth fortress that was slowly moving up around the group. "Gil put the fire out. Midnight, guard the top, it's the last part to close. Remy, you are on deterrence duty, make them back away if I can't close it fast enough." The plan was set and Walker began to use his skills to manipulate the earth elemental mana.

His goal was to bring it in faster toward the shield so that the earth fortress could be larger. Su may have been practicing to leave an opening for her shield but at the moment they did not need a large opening. They needed just enough to allow air in and out. Ensuring that the shape was there was what Walker was for.

With his training, Walker was able to sculpt the earth fortress and also help make it tougher and thicker. The better it defend the more they could relax while they awaited the morning where they would not need to worry about the multiple monsters around them.

There was a brownish green hue to the earth dwelling shield showing the high density earth elemental mana being channeled through it. There was a moment that Walker and Su worried for the safety of the earth spirit within but the speeding up of the earth fortress was enough to show that it was safe and doing even better than ever.

Remy slowly moved to the center of the fortress until the entire top had closed and all that was left were small air holes for them. Su and Walker had been faster than the ghostly ice eels when they tried to attack them in mass. The dull thuds that came from behind the thick earth walls were enough to remind everyone that an enemy could break through at any moment.

"I won't be able to use this skill for some time." Su saw that the shield had become its usual coloration. But with her spirit mark, she could feel that the earth spirit was exceptionally exhausted along with the earth elemental mana stored within the shield.

"That's fine. Let the spirit rest. It's up to me to upkeep the fortress while it rests. I can make sure that we are safe. Everyone else should try to take a nap. I will shout if anything happens." Walker knew that it was his duty to remain on watch as much as possible. He was the only one that could sense the earth being broken away or damaged in any way. He was also the only one that could repair it when needed.

Their quick thinking had avoided a massive accident from occurring. One that Walker was sure had happened before to unsuspecting adventurers or miners. The area was deceptive and seemed to be predator free. This was clear when Walker managed to pull the eels up with slight struggle. However, now that he saw them in their ice armor, it was clear that they were the apex predator in the area.

The night was fairly smooth sailing for Walker. He only needed to repair some small portions of the earth fortress that were attacked. He had no need to wake anyone up but noticed that everyone would

wake up from time to time to look around and check on him. Otherwise, when Walker felt that the light elemental mana outside was increasing he began to open a small part of the wall using his skills. The light that flooded in proved that it was morning and that they should be able to leave.

Chapter 847 Aftermath

The party was slow to leave the earth fortress but in time Walker fully crumbled it back to the earth. The scene that they had witnessed last night was gone but not the same as the previous day. There were pieces of frozen blood crab shells and claws around the snow and sides of the streams.

"It looks like this is the aftermath of every night." Seeing so many pieces of the monsters, Gil wasn't sure how they wouldn't have noticed this kind of thing when they first scouted.

"I have a feeling that we happened to come upon a larger hunt last night. The sky was clear and there were a large number of crabs. The eels may have come out more because of that." The theory Su had made sense. It was most likely a night where more crabs just happened to come out for food or other reasons. The party just happened to be here.

"Well, we have no point worrying now. Lets's go grab the pieces of shells and see what else is around. I can't believe we won't find any of those ice eel things either." Remy wanted to get moving and away from the ministers that had ruined their night sleep.

"I don't even need to be told twice. Let's gather the shells and head out. We caught a lot of blue koi and a decent number of eels. They should do well for materials along with what we have for the crab shells." Walker yawned as he said this and was met with a slight growl from Midnight.

"Sister says you are going to take a nap while everyone cleans up." Onyx was backed by the looks from everyone including the wandering blacksmith. He had no reason to argue against it because he knew a small nap would help him get all the way to the centennial ice that they wanted to gather.

It may have only been an hour long task but when Walker felt Midnight nudge him awake with her snout, he felt as if he had slept much longer.

'The skill restful slumber has been taken from the sandman system. The user has automatically learned the skill restful slumber.

Restful slumber- passive

The user is able to release the stress of the material world and more easily slip in to slumber. Their body is able to rest and recuperate after the day at a much higher rate than the average being. This also gives them increased health points and mana points regeneration while napping. This skill does not apply to daydreams.'

The system prompted Walker as if bragging about knowing why he had slept so well. Not that he had any qualms about it. The skill restful slumber may not look or sound impressive, however, for anyone it is a major boon. Not only would his health and mana regenerate faster, but that would mean he would be able to return to an adventure faster. Injuries healing better was always a good thing.

Furthermore, Walker would always be well rested when he was out on an adventure. He might not sleep well on a bed but his mind and body would still be refreshed. Even after a small nap. "It looks like you got a good haul there." Walker patted Midnight's head while he sat up from his spot and looked at the pile of crab shells that had been brought to him. Midnight had been guarding him and the pile while everyone else gathered it.

"Have a feeling there will be some crab shell style armor soon. But I can't say anyone here will ever wear it." There was a doubtful tone to Gil's voice but it was clear that he had begun to feel the curiosity about what the armor and items would look like.

"Water affinity." After tapping some of the pieces of crab shell the wandering blacksmith spoke excitedly about the affinity of the shells.

"A full water affinity armor would do very well in the hands of someone with the same affinity. You could have it as a very attractive display armor in a shop at Genesis city." This seemed a little sneaky of Su but she knew that he had been interested in a past conversation about their goals for their homes in Genesis city.

Since Lisa would have a shop and Walkers' mother had expressed the desire for one, they all knew there would be two in the least. Opening an armor shop wouldn't be an issue. At this rate, the party could take over an entire street.

There was a sneaking smile on the wandering blacksmiths' face for a fraction of a second before he regained his composure and looked at Walker with a serious expression. "Alright, let's get this stored away and head to the centennial ice. The area it forms and stays forever is just up the mountain a little ways. It will be cold."

There was not much left to clean up and by the time the party had finished breaking down the camp, the only evidence they had been there was the shifted earth that was already being soaked with mist from the icicle falls and would become ice and snow after the night.

The hike up the mountain further proved to be much harder now than before. "I can't believe the difference in the ice after one ridge. We have only been walking for half the hour!" Gil was not a huge fan of the ice that was causing every single one of them to slip occasionally. The only two that were not having issues were Su and Midnight. Midnight because she dug her claws in to the ice and Su because the weight of her shield and armor was holding her firm.

"It will be worth it. The centennial ice will be perfect for the cooling process when things are forged. The quality of everything our blacksmith friend makes will be perfect." Walker was feeling more excited by the minute. The centennial ice was another step toward getting a weapon made for who he was.

Chapter 848 Centennial Ice Hunting

The mountains were full of a constantly shifting breeze. This calmed down at times but was always there in some form or fashion. When they party crested the next peak of the lower mountains they had finally made it to the mid peaks. The change in the air became a bone chilling cold that could eat away at their stamina the more they were experiencing it.

"Let me guess, that is the centennial ice up there?" Gil's eyes were sharp and easily caught on to the ice that was on the rocks of the mountains. It was giving off a white fog that caused the surrounding area to become layered in frost and rough ice.

"I would say that is what we are after. Everyone put on another layer so that we can stay warm." Walker was not letting anyone near the ice without being prepared. He knew that the cold was the most dangerous thing in the mountains and if they did not actively protect themselves then it would lead to death.

"I am going to make a few torches for me to carry so that I can help keep everyone warm." As the leader of the party, Walker knew that it was best to use his skills to help keep everyone warm here. If he could provide heat then that was what he would do.

Within his inventory, he was able to pull some of the smaller sticks that he would use to start a fire. He had plenty of wood and coal for adventures and forging. Luckily, there had been no limit found to his inventory so the storage ability he had only became more and more valuable.

The guards in the city all knew how to make torches for the winter when they needed to patrol. This was one thing that just about anyone could make and Walker was thankful to have learned from his father when he was little. The value of warmth in the winter was invaluable.

The trick he had learned was that using a large piece of wood or a group of sticks would allow air to flow better for the torch. Next using cloth scraps or thick rope to braid them together was ideal. A single lump of coal could then be set in the middle to keep an ember burning even when the torch flame died down. This would make it easier to start up the flame when needed.

Midnight was the first to volunteer to carry one. She clamped down on the end without the flames and carried it around. She seemed very happy with her self assigned mission to keep everyone warm and it made for a fairly amusing sight. Not a single one of them could say she was anything but adorable. Even Onyx seemed ready to leave his tattoo form to curl up on her back and stay with the fire.

"We don't want to harvest the newer soft ice. We need the tough older ice. That is the real centennial ice that won't melt even when in the sun. That's also another reason that we have the torches. We can test if the ice melts or not. If it does we leave it." Walker made enough torches for everyone but knew that they would only need two or three for their process. The others could be stored away for later.

Walker half thought that he should just use his all around appraisal skill to keep looking for the centennial ice. But he ignored the lazy feeling so that he could put the work in and find the ice themselves. It was a valuable experience that would help them identify similar materials in the future. The experience and learning were more valuable than a speedy solution.

"How are we supposed to gather it? I don't even think my knuckles will dent the sifter ice?" Remy was the one that felt she was not well equipped for this. Gil was in the same boat. The only ones that seemed to be able to properly harvest any of the centennial ice would be Walker, Midnight, and Su. The wandering blacksmith might but he was also a little lacking in the method of harvesting.

"We just need to find it. I bet if you used the fire affinity knuckles you might be able to chip away at it. We need multiple sized pieces. Chips are good for smaller uses while a larger chunk can be made for the

hammers that will be reforged." There were already plans that the wandering blacksmith had made and Walker had glanced at before. They would need a decent variety of sizes to complete all the tools that were needed.

The group avoided the white ice that seemed very new and pushed upwards towards the denser looking dark ice. It was giving off the majority of the white fog making it the coldest in the area. The feeling of the fog pierced their bodies with cold making everyone shiver even with the torches.

"I have some melting away here. It's a blue color so look for darker." Su's shout was able to push them to move even further up the frozen rocks.

"Here!" The shout was the most unfamiliar because it had been the wandering blacksmith that called for everyone. They had never heard his voice so loud but since he was partnered with Midnight he had to be the one to shout. It was enough to make them all rush over a lot faster. When the group got to them they found the wandering blacksmith and Midnight holding a torch to a very deep almost black ice.

"It's not melting at all. That's actually pretty cool. No pun intended there." Gil was turning his head side to side looking at the ice in awe. He had not actually expected the ice to be immune to the fire.

"Let me at it!" Remey clipped on the fire affinity knuckles and lashed out at the ice before anyone else could speak.

Chapter 849 Fists Of...

The punch was not what any of them expected. Remey had been practicing with the different elemental affinity knuckles a little but not as much as she could have. She had been too focused on the alchemy side of her system to truly grasp the real effects that came with the elemental knuckles.

Therefore, when the flames that were on Midnight's torch jumped to Remey's fist and the crack of the ice multiples, everyone was shocked. Even Remey. The shard of centennial ice that fell was much larger than they expected. The spiderweb of cracked ice left behind was also a good sign for what their next hits could bring.

"You just punched with fire! Fire!" The excitement Gil had was more than Remey had at the moment. She had not expected the attack to be used this way and she had been unaware that she had even learned a new skill related to punching.

"I have a skill called elemental fists now! It lets me use surrounding elemental mana to make my punches stronger as long as I have the appropriate knuckles attached." There wasn't even a way for Remey to remain still reading this. Her energy spiked while she read through how amazing this skill would be. It was what she had desired in a way when she received the different elemental affinity knuckles to attach to her gloves. But it was even more than her expected effects.

To actually channel the elemental mana around was more powerful than attacking with the affinity knuckles. The small damage the affinity would do was now going to be multiplied by the fact that actual elemental mana would come along with the attacks.

"I think that might just be your bread and butter attack now. You use the hammer fist a lot and even have some kicks mixed in, but changing elemental punches will throw any opponent in to confusion." There were only upsides in this skill that Walker could see. He wanted to have Remey show off every single attack but held back his curiosity.

The shard of centennial ice was grabbed by Walker and stored. He could only hold it for a moment before the cold hurt his fingers and it made him wonder just how the wandering blacksmith would be forging with it. The cold would seep through any gloves and become tough to work with. It was going to need a lot of time and patience to work with.

The alchemy fire spirit felt that Remey was pulling fire elemental mana through her knuckles and emerged from the spirit mark to steal away some of the mana. When Remey released her next punch to the centennial ice the spirit danced around her cheering for her to punch again. The party witnessed this and decided to let her bond with the alchemy fire spirit.

"I bet we can use the pick axe to chip away at the ice a little. Then we might be able to get a block of it." Walker was using some of the wandering blacksmiths' chisels and pick axes while Gil and Su held a torch for him. The wandering blacksmith was using the chisels to carve a block outline and Midnight had stayed with Remey to provide a torch for her.

The carved outline let Walker see where he would be striking away. His consecutive hits broke off small chips of centennial ice which would be ideal for the small rune carving tools. The block soon showed signs of breaking away from the wall of centennial ice. The noises that the group were making echoed through the mountains and came back to them. Their vigilance continued to rise since they knew that noise could attract monsters. However, there was a feeling that none would approach because there was normally nothing to hunt and eat in this specific area. They would most likely head toward the icicle falls nearby.

The block finally fell with a loud bang on to the ice and Walker was quick to store it away before it slid down the side of the mountain. It was the largest block yet and would be used as a modification for the anvil itself. The smaller blocks that were outlined by the wandering blacksmith would be for the hammers. The rest were just chips and shards from the wall that were mainly broken by Remey as she practiced her newly discovered skill.

She was not foolish enough to exhaust her mana and soon found that she had a large pile of shards and chips of central ice that Walker could store away. The alchemy first spirit had absorbed the fire elemental mana she had used and became slightly larger before it decided to rest again in the spirit mark. Overall it was a very successful surprise training session.

"It was good work. You managed to get a lot. I doubt we will need it all but the more the better for what we are making." Once it was stored away, Walker knew that they would need to venture back down the mountain to reach their previous camping spot. There was no doubt that the wandering blacksmith would get right to work. He had a glint in his eyes that said he could not contain his desire to forge.

"Now we head back down, right? That should be easier than getting up here. I'm glad that we don't need to go to the higher peaks and try to hold on to those rocks there." The high peaks Gil was motioning to were flat rock and ice faces that none of them wanted to climb. It would have been too tough unless they were all alone and had the proper skills.

Before they could turn and speak about their thankfulness for not needing to climb the rock faces, there was a thud that vibrated the ice around them. The entire group froze as an icy breeze pushed all of them down the mountain slightly. The resounding raspy voice that broke the cold air around them caused them to shiver. "Who comes to harvest the ice I have made? What permission do you have to be here?"

Chapter 850 Appease Me

Somehow, the massive blue and white scaled dragon had landed right on top of the ice to look down on the group. Not a single one of them dared to breathe as they took in the sight. There were sharp looking blue and white scales that could easily cut through iron armor all over the dragon. The sharply pointed tail ended with multiple icy spikes showing off the strength of an ice dragon.

The horns that grew from its head were equally spiked and made of ice. Even the dragons' breath was made of the same fog that came off of the centennial ice. Yet, the fog appeared to be much colder and caused small ice crystals to fall from the air.

"Were you not listening? Who said you could take from my ice? I made this ice and have been letting it mature for over a century. Now, explain." The demand in the voice was heavy. However, there was one thing that didn't make sense.

The wandering blacksmith had gotten his map and it was clearly marked by whoever the map had been created by. This meant that the centennial ice was not just known by the blacksmith who had circled it, but it was known by whoever else had this map as well. There was no way none of them knew the ice was the property of a dragon.

Since Walker was thinking of the best way to respond, he used the all around appraisal skill to make sure he had everything he needed to say ready.

'Old Frost Dragon- Illia

This frost dragon had reached the age to be called old. It surpassed four hundred years of life nearing the five hundred mark. When it reaches a thousand years it will become an ancient dragon. The water elemental mana affinity is so powerful that this dragon was able to become an ice dragon that could breathe extremely concentrated mist. The frost breath it breathes can freeze an opponent solid in a blink of an eye. This frost dragon is only thirty years from obtaining a dragonkin form.'

It was not much information but Walker felt he could distract and throw the old ice dragon off enough to speak reason with it.

"I apologize to you, Miss Illia. We were not aware that the map our friend purchased led to centennial ice that was created by a wondrous dragon such as yourself. If we had known we would not dare to harvest it from our forging activities. Since we have already taken some we should pay you properly for it. Does that sound acceptable?"

The entire party waited without even breathing. "How do you know my name? You aren't even old enough to walk and yet you know my name?"

This was what Walker had hoped for. The frost dragon hearing her name was what distracted her from any anger she had right away. I was curious about how powerful the frost dragon in front of me was and I used an appraisal skill. I have a minor problem when it comes to curiosity for spectacular beings such as yourself."

Walker could feel that Midnight did not like that he was complimenting another dragon. However, the pressure she felt from being near Illia was too much. She could not even move without fear that she would cause a fight.

"You try to sweeten your words. But you have taken what is mine and I do not like it. However, I will not slaughter you because I like the way you speak. I will take all the food you have on you. I am hungry and do not wish to hunt today." This was the best possible outcome.

Since Walker had appealed to the frost dragon Illias' pride, he had allowed himself the path to get something for the dragon that she wanted. "Of course. Let me show off the provisions we have and I hope that you can take what you want."

Walker began pulling out the myriad of foods he had stored. "You have spatial ? You are an odd one." This surprised the dragon since she was not used to seeing such from humans. Instead, it was more normal for ancient dragons in their dragonkin form to have such . "Do not put fruits there. I do not care for them. But what is that cooked monster?"

"These are roasted legs from frog type monsters. They live near the forests and even in the swamps. Next to them are jerky that was made from horned rabbits. There are also multiple boar and rabbit legs. Some have even been roasted with herbs. I also have some other bones if you want to snack on those for your meal?"

The selection was not wide when it came to meat. The selection was bulky. Walker had constantly stored the foods that his mother cooked and gave to him. This would have been a small amount except for the fact that she made way too much for him since she was worried the party would not eat enough.

Illia the frost dragon was bending down to try the food to see if it satisfied her when she caught a closer glimpse of the entire party. She could care less for the wandering blacksmith, Gil, and Remy. Even Walker who was using a spatial skill was not enough to capture her full attention. However, Midnight and Su were enough to capture her attention.

It was clear that Su was trying to guard Midnight. She had moved on her own without thinking. The draconic guardian system was making her instincts shout at her to defend Midnight from this dragon. "You are a guardian and she is a champion. I can feel it. How do you have a young dragon champion with you and how is a human a guardian!? I will be freeing this little one from you. Come to me!"

There was not a second to breathe. The frost dragon grabbed Midnight in her claws and flapped her wings in to the air heading toward the higher mountains. The party could only shout in horror as Midnight was taken away. Su collapsed to her knees having been unable to stop it from happening. She had not even been fast enough to react.