

Master 861

Chapter 861 Age Is Just A Number

"Hm? Learn about being a royal dragon?" Walker was a little dazed still but felt that Midnight was just as curious. He could feel her desire to pull all the information from the current situation and learn about other dragons. There was nothing more that she wanted right now than to know what a dragon truly was. It was a lot more than Walker expected but it made sense. Midnight had been missing a big piece of her history and finally had it within her grasp.

"Yes! You have to know what you are equal to now. I don't know if you will get the royal dragon skills but if you encounter any dragon they will need to follow proper etiquette. You are entitled to have your own village now!" Adair was beside herself. She couldn't fathom that a human was not standing equal with a dragon and had the right to be a royal. It was all too much to handle and she was sure that she would perish before her heart could take much more.

"I do not believe we want a village. It would separate us from our families and we are not ready to be in charge of an entire village of lives." Su was the breath of fresh air that knew there was a lot of growth the party needed before anything even similar to this could happen. Yes, Remey was starting a guild but that was with the assistance of many others. It was something she could grow in to instead of just having dropped on her.

"You don't want a village...but...why? It is the highest honor a dragon can have. The dragonkin will have homes and directions to grow. You can train your element freely. With the knowledge to the draconic codex alone, the village would be just as powerful as the others. I just have a small branch village. Imagine what it could be!" Adair was not sure why the party did not appear tempted by any of these things. She knew that any dragon would jump for even a fraction of these things.

"Dragon codex? That might be interesting. I have access to that now?" Walker could think about expanding his knowledge if he were to read something like that.

"Of course. It is a benefit for every single royal dragon. They spend their time focusing on a single elemental path becoming the strongest of that species of dragon due to their affinity and training., The codex had thousands of years of study, information, and even history." The look of pride on Adairs' face proved that this was a monumental opportunity.

"Well, I know I may not be a dragon and it will probably be better that I don't get a village. Instead, I will ask for the dragons to be friendly with the new city and alliance cities we have. I will search the codex for information on natural mana. Also for information on champions so Midnight can know whatever

she wants." Walker felt he had a side plan and would do his best for when they got to the royal court in a few months.

"It's just a shame. The young champion is too young to battle and become the strongest champion. The royal they represent will have access to the dragon shard. But there are many years to come since you two are bonded. Dragons can live for quite some time. You have long lives together."

"What, what's a dragon shard?"

"They have long lives? Isn't that just Midnight since she is a dragon?"

Gil and Remey were both curious what both parts of what Adair had said meant.

"The dragon shard is something only the strongest royal has access to. I am not old enough to know what it does but the royal that uses it gains an unrivaled understanding that makes them the pillar of the next dragon they sire or birth. It is the key to a stronger dragon future. They also gain many years to become an ascended dragon. Many ancient dragons can only dream of becoming ascended. You might be able to ascend one day little champion."

"Oh, and you should live as long as your little champion here. You two had a blood contract as you said. That shares your souls to a degree. Now, with your bond, your souls have completely mirrored each other. You can even share a lifespan. You may be one of the oldest humans to ever live."

"Excuse me?" Su tried to speak louder but found that she was whispering. Everyone else was equally silenced.

"I'm glad I got to shock you back. But your guardian will also benefit. A bonded guardian and a champion are inseparable. If you manage to hand down enough bloodline over the years she may become a false dragon. Not quite a pure dragon but fairly close."

Looking at Su, Walker, and Midnight, Adair found she has thoroughly silenced anything they could say in return. The questions they had felt unimportant in the massive amount of ground breaking information. Knowing they could live for many times the years as a normal human was too much as it was. Having the possibility for Su to one day become close to a dragon was another.

"Hey Remey, how do you feel about researching immortality?" Remey and Gil felt that they wouldn't be able to leave their friends alone.

"We saw in those journals from the mansion that research like that causes madness. But right now, I think I see why it can be pursued." The temptation Remey felt was too great at the moment. If she didn't think of another way she had the potential of becoming a mad alchemist trying to live forever.

"Brother, My species is known to live quite long. You will be able to stay around for most if not all of my life." Onyx finally poked up sounding fairly happy.

"Oohh, little serpent. You are contracted with the new royal as well. You will gain some years too." And that was how Adair brought everyone to a stop. All they could do was sit and think for a decent chunk of time.

Chapter 862 Etiquette

"So, for the most part, something crazy happened again." Walker had finally processed the fact that he had gotten more than he bargained for when he used a royal dragon skill.

"Crazy is an understatement. I can't believe that you are now going to live for as long as a dragon. And you have that royal oath pledge whatever skill so you could do it again and again." Remey was still fairly shocked since the unknown benefits of what Walker and Midnight did were just too good.

"Oh, he shouldn't have the skill any longer. Royal dragons will only ever use it once. It is an unwritten skill. They know they can use it when they meet a champion and so they do. Then it is forgotten forever. The system ensures that. It is believed that the burden on the souls of those connected become too great if two champions ever served one royal." Adair was extremely patient with the group while they understood what happened.

"Alright, but at the very least, we shouldn't worry about any royal dragons or even dragons, in general, attempting to take Midnight away from our family?" Gil had asked the question twice already and so had the others. It was what weighed on them most of all.

"If one attempts they will find themselves unable to use the oath. If they do and find out that they touched something connected to a royal without permission, they will most likely be sent to the court for a proper trial. If it still happens even with those possibilities, then the other dragons will go on a hunt

to remove a dragon that does not represent our honorable ways." Adair was sure of this. It was one of the reasons why she had been so angry with Illia. There was just too much risk.

Midnight made a few slight growls showing that she was still worried about meeting other dragons. Especially a skeletal dragon since there was most likely one flying around out there that was her father. "There are many dragons that go against the order. When they do they revert to monsters who can not speak, or grow properly. Some are exiled for their actions. That is why most dragons are considered monsters until they are old enough. You will never be a monster though. A champion has never lost their mind even after great pressure."

There was another sigh of relief. "There is a lot of positive that I can see here. It means I will be able to spend more time with everyone in life. It is a good thing. We may not have expected it but when we welcomed Midnight in to the party, none of us could foresee what would happen from there. We've taken everything one day at a time and that is the best way to proceed." Su finally spoke up again giving her usual down to earth mentality.

"Good. Now I can get you to learn about your duties as a champion, royal, and guardian." Adair had been waiting and was about to dump more on them before she realized that since they were human most of this did not apply to them. "Actually, the trials can only be done by a dragon. You may need to wait some years before you can attempt any of them. As royalty, you don't need to do anything you do not wish and you certainly are not required to sit on the royal court since you do not have a single element. But you could sit as a natural mana user, it has been some time since we had a nature dragon show itself."

"You Little champion, are the only one that should have anything to do. You will most likely have to participate in trials with the other young dragons and show off your prowess and potential. However, you must act like a dragon. No lowering your head unless you are attacking. No growling out of turn. If you make a mistake you are reflecting on your royal their own attitudes. You could cause a village war. Not that you have a village to lose..."

The holes in what they could and could not do by not being dragons was too great. For Adair, this was a massive grey area that dragon history could not be prepared for. "I believe...that at the end of the day, you will learn more when you are at the court. I will give you the dragon etiquette book we use for the hatchlings. I have many copies. Just remember, you are a royal now. Even if you come face to face with an ancient dragon, if it is not a royal the same as you are, stomp on it. Make it know your presence. If it dares to even flinch in your face, mock it. You must show your strength of will over all else. There is pride in a dragons' blood."

Adair sifted through a carved stone shelf and brought two books over. "The history of champions and their guardians for the little guardian. The high head of the dragon for the new royal. That is all I can do for now. I will pass around the new history to the others as I can. It may just bring some new dragonkin and power to my little branch village." Adair was not a fool. She knew that she would gain greatly from this encounter. Having another royal that favored water dragons was a boon. Especially when the ancient water dragon was nearing ascendance possibility.

"Once you leave this cave, you will be acting as a royal So read up now or I will not allow you to leave. Also, prepare for Illia's apology. She owes it even more now that your status even exceeds mine. I am breaking many etiquette traditions speaking and teaching you in such a frivolous manner. But I hope it can be forgiven, lord." Adair gave a slight bow which made Walker very uncomfortable but he could not stop her even if he wanted.

Chapter 863 All About Dragons

There was an almost endless number of actions and ceremonies was hard to follow. Even more cultural differences made through the years stacked up making it tougher to understand. Walker would need to be very careful with his actions since simple little things might be thought of as disrespect to another royal. The only thing that seemed to really give him one up on the others was the natural mana aspect he had. Most dragons had singular or dual elemental affinities. Having multiple was rare and having three was considered once in a hundred years. Not that this totally limited them but it directed the path they traveled.

The pressure Walker felt to read the book as fast as possible was the same that Su felt. However, they were also sharing lessons with everyone else as they read. "So you have to be taller than the other dragons? How are you going to do that when ancient dragons live to be taller than our houses?" Remey was trying to figure out why such a rule existed.

"I think it is metaphorical. Walker should stand taller as in his posture and actions. But if he needs to truly show his strength then he will use his wind ripple to step up and above another dragon." Su found the answer simple enough for Remey but was still trying to figure out her own. "It says it is my duty to protect Midnight there. But my shields will be too small one day to protect her. I'm not sure if I can learn these skills that a dragonkin learns. Veil itself is a tough taunting skill that focuses on illusion to taunt an enemy."

Su had never imagined that was within the realm of a draconic guardian to learn. She had never imagined to learn in the least to begin with. "I think you are trying too hard to imagine what you can't learn. Look at me lately. I didn't pay any mind to learning about wind elemental mana even though it is my affinity, I have Zephyr and an archers' best friend. When I did I started to learn much more about how my arrows fly. Zephyr said I might even be able to change their direction while they fly one day. So try to learn everything and see what happens."

The advice from Gil was not bad. He had learned his lesson and was not glad to admit his Mistakes even though that if Zephyr and the other elemental spirits hadn't gone off to explore, she would tease him. "Armor." The wandering blacksmith landed a finger under a paragraph of Walkers' book. He had been reading along and found something important.

"It says that only ancient dragons and royal dragons will ever wear armor. Champions may have armor if they desire it but royals are the only ones that wear armor to show status among other dragons. It even says that the armor can shift with them in to their dragonkin form when forged using special alloys and runes that only dragons have knowledge of." There was an excited look on the wandering blacksmiths' face.

It was clear that there was new knowledge to him. No one in the party had known this. The only time an armored dragon was mentioned was in a story or heroes' tale. Having written knowledge about runes used by dragons and even special crafting methods was something that would make the wandering blacksmith sell his soul. "I guess we will be figuring this out together."

"That's right. I did not consider that you would need armor. Do you have any as of yet? You do not need any that shifts forms which is good but you will need powerful and fitting armor that befits your standing. Something domineering to match the scales of your champion would be best. It shows the bond, It makes a statement." Adair started to shuffle through to scrolls and other odds and ends.

Walker was beginning to realize that there were many new things piling up in his inventory. There were new materials that he and the wandering blacksmith would use, monster meats, and now scrolls from dimensional step Alabastor. On top of this, a new set of armor would be joining them if they could craft it.

"Use this. It's a gem from a diamond golem and is enough to show your power as a royal. I have had it for two hundred years now when I sent a dragonkin on a mission to prove their strength. Now that I have it I have forgotten about it. It will be much more useful in an armor as a centerpiece than wasting away in the dust." This was a small ploy for Adair to strengthen her own relationship with Walker and the party. She had to be sure that she had them well bound to her village for a better future. She had the potential to become an ancient dragon and stand directly under the royal ancient water dragon.

The fact that Adair was able to casually take out such a rare item was a mysterious action that made the entire party question what a dragon really was. The knowledge about dragons was too limited. Only a

few adventurers had made leaps in researching them and even then, it was a drop in the bucket. However, the interactions between humans and dragons were still very very, rare.

"Are you sure? This would be incredibly valuable. I hear that diamond golems are the rarest golem there is and much much MUCH harder to defeat." Walkers' knowledge was based off of human knowledge. Therefore, Adair was quick to hold her tongue when telling him that it was a challenge for a young dragonkin warrior. There were many more powerful creatures in the world than a diamond golem.

Chapter 864 Serious Talks

"That is is correct. To you and your people, this is very valuable and hard to obtain golem core. To my village's dragonkin, it is a young warrior's trial. I have this and many other things like it. You can have this and you can pay me back when you get to the main dragon village in the future. It seems that your family may sell their soul for it before you speak again though." Adair was interested in the wandering blacksmiths' excitement. She had some dragonkin forge masters in the village but they did not make many things.

"You are right. I have no reason to refuse and you have already done a great deal for us. Do you think I could ask more?" Walker was already thinking of the commitments he had. There were those that they would guide to the Genesis city and the things that could be done here. There was so much that Walker and the party could learn. He even had the feeling that if he tried to bring the wandering blacksmith home he would get caught in a fight.

"It depends on what you ask. I am not here to give away the village to a royal that just came to be. I do pledge loyalty to another." Adair was not saying anything that Walker shouldn't know by now. But she did worry that her position could prove to be detrimental to the royal ancient water dragon she had pledged herself to.

"I hope it is not anything that would jeopardize you or the village." Walker was also worried that asking for more would hurt those that were currently apologizing and giving him a great deal of knowledge to avoid an unhappy fate. "I was hoping we could stay here for three or four days. Then if possible have assistance in returning home? If I were to leave now I feel that I would be failing Midnight who has never had anyone to teach her about her own species. Everywhere we have gone I had to see the difference in how people look at her and now she is somewhere that she is normal and we are strange. It just feels right to take some time before our next commitments to learn things properly."

The sharp toothed grin from Adair showed that even her teeth stayed similar when she shifted to her dragonkin form. "I believe that is a very wise answer. She deserves everything we can offer. But we will not disclose certain information unless absolutely necessary. Your guardian will also be able to train with

other dragonkin warriors. She will one day have more dragon blood than human after all. I also believe there is a forge that was left empty while a group of smiths went to gather materials in the lava plains."

Adair knew she was being a little sneaky to play to the entire group's wants and needs. However, she also knew that she was at a complete loss when it came to Gil and Remey since she had not heard them speak much. There was also Onyx who was coiled up and watching carefully. From what she could gather he was more interested in knowledge than other things.

"My small village has plenty of other amenities for you to explore. It is exceedingly rare for a visitor so there may be some commotion. I'm sure you may want to tour some of the mountain paths we had carved or the gardens we have at the summit."

"You have gardens at the summit? Are there herbs? Ahh, what am I asking? There have to be herbs. The growth at this altitude it is insanely hard for plants to grow and even basic grasses here have additional properties after evolving to survive. Walker, I'll need to go and check it out so I can bribe someone for seeds." Remey was feeling like she had found a chest of gold. Her smile mimicked the wandering blacksmiths' from earlier.

"Hmm, Zephyr would most likely like to go for a fly around the higher paths. I can also try my luck to hunt some of the flying spiders. They are what the new bowstring is made of after modifying and improving the bow." Gil was interested in having extra for a secondary bow or a replacement string. He wasn't going to pretend the string would last forever.

"Come here and escort the village guests." Adair raised her voice slightly and four different dragonkin came in to the cave as if they had been waiting there the entire time.

Gil and Remey followed one of them who greeted them very politely. "Brother, I will go explore the gardens with Remey. I would like to relax in the light." With a nod from Walker, Onyx was gone with Remey.

"Is there anywhere you wish to see? The warriors are no longer training today but you can use the space as you wish." This was enough to tempt Su. she needed to understand her system and her skills better. The fact that she had the book that explained the relationship between a guardian and the champion was even more useful. It outlined a great many skills that she had not ever heard of or did not even consider. She followed the dragonkin out of the carved cave leaving just Walker and Midnight with Adair.

"You two are the last left. It will be a little easier to speak here without any that are ranked lower here. You will come to understand the great stress on hierarchy in the dragon culture. It is similar to humans and kings so I believe you will understand. But it is very strongly tied to pride and loyalty. It will be a very large lesson since you, as a human, break those standards." Adair waved to the fourth dragonkin and a chair was brought over for her.

Chapter 865 Think Like A Royal

"I can see that it is much more important than I think. But I am limited to what I have seen. You are much more open than the other dragons we have met. There was one bonded with a tamer and it was arrogant but very very good at forging and controlling fire. Then, umm, Illia, was not as, well, as open."

"That right there is the issue. Say what you want without any fear of repercussions. A dragon is powerful and proud. Even if you are wrong you speak with force and stand for what you say." Adair had an angry tone in her voice that spoke to how important this was.

Walker swallowed and watched as Midnight gave him some inquisitive looks. She was used to him being kind and had even seen him angry. But overly proud and forceful was not part of his normal personality. "To say the least Illia was not the best representation of a dragon. I would say she is better off starting overall together. You are nearly an elder dragon, you can teach her better."

There was a small smirk on Adairs face before she became more serious. "I understand lord. I will do my utmost to educate her. The next time you meet her, she will be a completely different dragon worthy of walking your halls." Adair lowered her head for a moment.

"That's how people will respond to me when I am in a dragon village? That's even more proper than with our royalty." Walker could tell the difference. It was more stiff and each word carried a little of the energy and power Adair had. Walker would need to emulate this.

"That is exactly how every interaction may be when in the royal court. Outside of it, away from prying eyes between two royals or ancients and royals, well... Let's say that they will be more forceful. Strength and purity is a great accomplishment for a dragon. That is why royals completely ignore battle unless they must go. They will focus on their element to purify themselves and become a pure elemental dragon. That is what I am and will be. I am a pure water dragon and when I become a pure ancient water dragon it will be a major boost in my power over water elements and water elemental dragons."

Adair looked very proud of herself but this was fair since it was a very tough process to do overcome. "The royal bloodline gives a major boost to the speed at which a dragon can understand the elemental mana. If I was a pure wind dragon I would be speaking to the honorable grand wind spirit there. Even if she is, a little childish." This was fair since Zephyr and every single wind spirit were more free and childish in their personalities.

"You may lack royal blood but you have equaled the status. You can obtain some royal blood if you so desire. There may be a way that you have earned the right for. Being able to manipulate natural mana is something that only one dragon ever accomplished on our current records. They were thought of as a mutt. They had affinities with every element and could not purify in to one path. They were rare when it came to affinities but weak in each one."

"Naturally, they were shunned. But after a sudden disappearance and five hundred years, they showed themselves again. They had made small visits to elemental havens for individual elements. They gained an understanding that equaled royals in single elements and found their true potential. They were the first nature dragon. The rarest we have to look up to. They created forests, razed armies, and even expanded the main village. However, their life was short. The world even gave quests to keep them alive longer. But we are all destined for the afterlife at some point. It was inevitable."

Walker was soaking the information up like a sponge. The fact that he could gain a better understanding by going to elementally concentrated areas was very good. He could make journeys to places that would make him and Fleur stronger at some point. But that would be for another time.

There was also the fact that it was a rare occurrence for a dragon. Walker had also learned that it is a rare occurrence for most races. The elves had a higher chance to gain systems that used natural mana but it was not something that happened every day. Therefore, the fact that Walker could learn about and use the natural mana was a big deal. Or at least, he was not realizing how big a deal it was.

"If I show up and can prove my power and such as a royal dragon even though I am human, what could happen from there? Would I be forced to do anything after that?" Walker had a feeling that there may be more expected to him.

"Normally a royal is made to attend the court every fifty years at least. If they do not have enough for the meetings then they will go and drag another royal with them. It is not as dramatic as it sounds but it is common since a royal may not want to leave their training. You are a human, you are easier to take to court if they can find you."

"I see...I could be dragged to the court much more often. Even if it is not every fifty years I could be taken at a drop of a hat just to meet. That's if they accept me. But if they do it will make things easier for them. There is also a chance they can throw their power around to get my vote on things." It was what some nobles did in the kingdom but not to such a degree.

"Now, you are starting to think like a royal dragon." Adair was glad that the point was made. She wanted Walkers' favor since no matter what he did he was not ranked above her in a dragon hierarchy. She did find it pleasant to have someone speak to her eye to eye, however.

Chapter 866 Royal Practice

"Now, bring Illia back in, and if she gives you any trouble tell her that I will be removing her permissions to fly from the village for three years." Adair sent the dragonkin away. "I will show you a proper conversation and you will join when you are at the proper point."

Walker knew that this was the best possible chance he would have to practice and did not expect Adair to be so forward with what she wanted to teach. He could tell the difference in age was making her look at him as if she was meant to teach. It was the same that an older dragon would look at a recently hatched dragon. However, he also could see the benefit she would gain having helped someone that was technically a royal. It was just the same in the kingdom when the nobles would vie for the kings' favor. Although, Walker did not mind since Adair was helping him and Midnight significantly.

"You are champion. His champion. You are expected to be at his side no matter what. Especially in court. Stand next to him and a little in front. You pave his path where he treads. Also, you should double any flight practice you do. The other hatchlings you meet will have been thrown from a mountain or two already." It was clear to Adair that Midnight had yet to fly.

Midnight gave a small growl. She wanted to fly but she was too weak yet. But the fact that the other young dragons would be thrown off the mountains and forced to glide and practice was a good reason why they would learn sooner. There was a pressure to learn faster and progress so that they would not be harmed. Midnight was missing that, but she had gained a great deal more. No one had mentioned her multiple elemental breath attacks.

"Head high. Pay attention." Adair gave one last order as the sound of Illia walking in to the carved cave came forward.

"Elder, I have returned at your call." The attitude had greatly changed. Illia was acting much more proper. It was clear that the threat of not being able to fly from the village for three years was enough to cause her to become as proper as possible.

"You will apologize to the lord here. You will also apologize to his champion. If you can not do so you will no longer be welcomed by the village. You have not only disrespected a champion. But you have also disrespected a royal." Adair had not told Illia that Walker was technically a royal dragon now. However. It was clear that she was doing so now.

Illia did not speak a word against it. The dragonkin that had left showed that they were acting their best possible manners toward the other humans. This was enough to tell her that something else was happening. When she cornered one of them after bringing the guest to the forge the dragonkin had explained what they witnessed while waiting for Adairs' orders. Illia, of course, did not believe it. This was ridiculous. However, now that she looked at Midnight and Walker she could feel that her blood and mana were suppressed. Exactly what happened when met with a royal and a champion pair. It was a sixth sense that came with a dragons' instincts.

When Illia hesitated, Walker remembered that Adair said to join the conversation as practice. It was also his chance to stabilize the act he would need when he met dragons properly. It may not be the way he preferred to act, but it was the way he was expected to if his opinions and will would be heard.

"Do not make us wait. Every second of wasted time is an additional insult to myself and my family in front of me. The more you sit there the more you prove you are not deserving of the blessing you have to study under a pure water dragon." Walker had steel in his voice that he rarely used to in such an arrogant way. However, it caused Illia to show a visible break in her poker face.

The face of a dragon would be hard for anyone to read, but for Walker, it was simple. He had long felt the emotions of Midnight and been able to compare them to the expressions she made. Now she was able to share them much more so Walker didn't even need to think about the fact that Illia in front of him was astounded. A human had never been so arrogant to a dragon. It was the opposite of what other races should act toward them.

After the battle in Illias' eyes had ended, she knelt slightly lowering her head. Walker didn't bother to use his wind ripple skill to stand above her. He instead forced his face to appear disinterested in the frost dragon's bow. It was how a royal should act and Adair was approving of it in her head. "I greatly apologize for the pain I have caused you, lord. I will spend my time doing anything I can to properly apologize. Whatever you may need I shall assist you with while you reside here." The tone had become proper and controlled. But Adair and Walker both knew the battle inside of Illia that was telling her to ignore these words and cast out the human.

"Then you will atone by assisting me and those that have come with me. You will guide my champion with wisdom on flight and frost breath. You will share your materials with the wandering blacksmith that came with me. If you find a flying spider you will capture it and bring it to the arcane marksman. If you find rare herbs you will hand them to the alchemical brawler with me. And finally, you will give your opinions on the battle style of my champion's guardian. Later, you will carry us to the human kingdom and I will forgive your actions today. But do not believe I am forgetting a single moment of what you have done." This was the power that Adair wanted Walker to use. The domineering tone and slight growls from Midnight were exactly how a royal and a champion should act. When the champions' guardian joined and held a defensive stance the full strength of the royal would be on display.

Chapter 867 Frosty Apology

"I understand. I will rise to your wishes, lord." Illia did not hesitate again. She may have only been witness to royals a few times in life due to her lower standing. But she knew that if the human in front of her was speaking in such a way and had Adair backing him, then he must be a royal now. Illia had never known Adair to cater to any dragon unless it was the ancient royal water dragon above her.

"Good, you did very well. You will get used to being called lord in time. You requested compensation without giving any room to deny it. Your voice did not waver and you also controlled your facial expressions well. I believe with practice you will be able to present yourself to the royal court in some months. Just remember, they will know of you and will have high expectations. You will need to be able to exceed those." Adair was not so foolish to ignore that whatever she said to other villages would be exaggerated to a degree. Therefore, it was important that Walker exceeded whatever fantasy the other dragons came to know.

"Then I will do that. With armor, More training, and practice I should be able to. I did just gain a pretty good skill from this practice though. Although, I still expect Illia to do what she promised me. However, since we are not in a court and not in front of another ancient or royal, please relax. I am very unhappy due to your actions but Midnight and Onyx are safe. We have learned a lot. And you are not being unreasonable any longer." Walker was directing this at Illia because he hated the fact that everything would be stiff and full of grand acting.

'The skill poker face has been taken from the trickster system. The skill poker face has been automatically learned through constant emotional acting and interactions.

Poker face- passive

The user is able to better control the face they show to others. The better they practice this the better they will become better able to control their facial expressions and even the tone of their voice. This skill is often part of the demonic systems.'

It was a simple skill but one that could be very valuable. Walker had long shown how he felt on his face and done a great deal to get better at showing his shock or awe. But now he was better able to hide away his feelings for the most part.

"This was practice?" Illia was a little angry hearing that she was used for practice.

"Your apology was real. His attitude and actions were practice. You are still expected by him and myself to assist his family that accompanied him. They will only stay for a short time and what they learn will be the seed for their growth. I will also be attending the royal court in the coming months. You will follow and learn. There will be a lot to see and witness." The thought process of Adair was simple, go to the royal court and learn as much as possible when Walker and Midnight are introduced.

"I will do my best. I have some centennial ice I already gathered along with other things. It was going to be used for the gift we are making for our lord."

"Then do not give it to me. We took what we needed from the ice we did not know was yours. If we ruined your relationship with the ancient royal water dragon that allowed you a village it would cause unnecessary tension before we even made it to court." Walker was not planning on starting a feud with the other dragons. To be honest, he was more interested in helping Midnight learn than actually becoming part of the royal dragon court.

"I have broken scales you can have for forging then. I do not need them and they are used to trade with the dwarves every few years. They have made some parts of royal armors in the past. The herbs for your other family are easier as well. There is a field of snowbells that are very good for cooling purifying potions. I am the only one that is able to use them for my training. The flying spiders are easy as well. I will have some dragonkin gather twenty or so from a nest we should have exterminated earlier this year. Flying is simple. I will show and guide." Illia was slowly relaxing her voice and posture.

"That all sounds good. Su might be hard to show any guidance in battle. She might be better off with the dragonkin warriors. But any idea from a fresh mind can spur a breakthrough." Walker didn't expect Illia to act so proper still. It was a wonder the difference that was happening.

"I will share my thoughts. I would be a better partner if I could find my method for shifting in to my dragonkin form. But I am still lost. I may still be too young to do it." Now Walker was feeling like he was seeing the true Illia. She was showing the weakness she had in lacking a dragonkin form. That and she

was not looking down on him with scrutinizing eyes any longer. He could now see the frosty clear blue eyes she had that matched her scales.

"You are a frost dragon. A unique form of water dragon. You have already exceeded the limits thought for your age. If you manage to gain a dragonkin form you will represent this village as a symbol of the water dragons' power. Remember that." It was both encouragement and pressure that Adair gave in this sentence.

Midnight stepped forward with a lot of huffs and growls toward Illia. "I apologize again. I will swear never to take another dragon from its family before I speak properly. I was wrong." Midnight seemed pleased after hearing this. She had wanted to hear Illia admit the mistake since she had been sent from the cave.

Chapter 868 Don't Touch

"Now that it is all figured out. Please allow for them to have a tour of the village. They will need to know how a village operates and you are going to give them the information." Adair moved to gather some papers and a dragonkin began to direct them out of the carved cave. Illia walked behind them with her head still lowered. Walker had a feeling that every dragon that was not a royal would take on this action out of respect.

"It has gotten late. Unlike the dragonkin, a dragon can stay awake for weeks if needed." Illia was going to suggest that Midnight take the tour and Walker sleep. However, Midnight responded with a few growls. "What do you mean you sleep every night with them? That is not normal, a dragon will be awake constantly in the first few months of life. The years after that two or three hours are needed at most."

"I hate to tell you this, but Midnight sleeps more than any of us. Especially after she eats some of the bones and elemental mana crystals we gather." Walker just shrugged and thought about the blue koi that they had caught and if eating the water affinity monsters' bones would help her with her elemental breath training.

"How many? Does she need to so that she will process it? That's not normal. What were her parents' bloodlines?" Illia was surprised to hear this because normally a hatchling would eat and eat and eat without needing to rest too much. They would usually run around more curious than cats and the only way to get them to stop was when their parents were extremely strict.

"I don't really know, she eat them pretty much whenever she wants. We have plenty in my storage." Walker proved his point by pulling out a darkness elemental crystal and tossing it to Midnight who chomped it to pieces in none bite.

"Her father was a skeletal dragon and mother a dark dragon. We figured that much out but that's clear on her scales. The champion bloodline was more of a surprise when our systems upgraded. It was pretty lucky that she had it mixed in to her blood. And yes, she does sleep every time she eats them. But one shouldn't be too much for her." Midnight huffed a few times in agreement since she wanted to keep exploring and napping would stop her from that. There was a small growl though that Walker was able to interpret as her wanting more food. He couldn't tell her no and tossed her some jerky which was gone faster than the darkness elemental crystal.

"So her father was a skeletal dragon. That might explain it. That's very rare. Dark and skeletal work well together but that would mean both are exiled dragons. A dragon was born with a remnant of champion bloodline from two exiled dragons. What a world." This was an amazing thing to Illia. She even stopped in her tracks behind the two.

Both Walker and Midnight were unsure why this was so amazing but from what they gathered, skeletal dragons were lone wolf types that rarely interacted with other dragons. The fact that one had interacted with an exiled dragon made it a big deal. Not to mention that skeletal dragons were also very battle oriented. All Walker and Midnight could gather as that she had been more powerful than other dragons to start with her bloodlines. When the champion bloodline was activated by the system then she had gotten even more powerful. Overall, it was a win.

"We were headed to the garden right?" Walker pointed at some very large and small carved steps. It was clear that they were mainly carved for the dragonkin who could not fly normally due to their wings being too small.

"Yes, that is the way to the garden. It has been unkempt for seventy five years. It was the first thing to be built when the village was founded. Unlike a main village, we are a branch village. We are here to grow certain herbs and procure certain materials from the main village. But because of this, we have access to them." Illia was very proud to be part of the branch village. It also explained why there were only two dragons in it.

"A garden that has plenty of herbs that only grow in high places. Remey may be going crazy up there." Walker began to worry about the dragonkin that had guided Remey and what others may be witnessing.

Illia was still in her own thoughts while they climb the perfectly carved steps. Walker noticed a green blue colored moss while they climbed prompting him to use his all around appraisal skill.

'Creeping frost

There is a moss that has long lived in cold climates. The colder the weather the faster it will grow. It is an attractive color that causes many to reach out and touch it. The poison it carries mimics frost bite and is completely resistant to normal frost bite cures. The only cure for it is a purifying potion or a purifying skill. Water dragons often consume this so that they can temper their bodies against the cold.'

Walker quickly withdrew his hand from the moss he was going to touch. He cursed himself for not heeding one of Remey's lessons with harvesting herbs. Never touch brightly colored herbs unless you know what they are.

"I will have some of that set aside for you. Your champion will benefit from eating it." Midnight heard Illia and was a little excited at the potential for another new snack. Walker just shook his head and would wait to see Remey at the top. "We will also do flight training when we reach the top. The wind is soft today so it will be ideal." Midnight was even more excited to hear this. The potential to fly sooner was extremely attractive to her.

Chapter 869 Herbs Needed

Midnight was growling and huffing at Illia trying to get more information about the snacks she could have in the village. However, Illia was slow to reply and just made Midnight more annoyed. "Leave her alone for now. She is already going to help you fly and I promise I will find out more about what there is to eat." The constant thought of food on Walker's mind was not from himself but from Midnight. He could feel that she was stuck on it and he always wondered why. But it was hard to wonder when he remembered that she was always growing and training at an incredible rate with the rest of the party.

The steps had led them fairly high, but it was only a short distance when considering that they were nearly already at the top of the mountain. Walker could feel that he needed to take more breaths to remain comfortable here and wondered if it was due to the air. But this wasn't the time to experiment with elemental mana and try to condense it. He found that Remey was studying some spiny looking flowers.

They were purple pom pom shapes that came from green and white stems and leaves. The spines on them made it appear that they could jump out and poke you at any moment. However, Remey was easily handling them without any trouble. "What are those? Anything good?"

Remey looked up a little surprised, she had only had one dragonkin up on top of the garden with her and even the dragonkin had wandered away when they realized that Remey was moving in to her own head. "These are false spine thistles. They are more closely related to clover plants but with an affinity

for the cold. They are terrible to grow for any herbalist because they only like the specific cold of the mountain tops. But they can grow without air so that is a boon for any herbalist."

Remey seemed to have the knowledge already about this herb but she was still adding to that knowledge, "This one, in particular, is completely useless. The spines are just for show so you can touch them, the leaves carry absolutely nothing that is useful for a potion. But the flowers' pollen, that is where the good stuff is. When crushed and ground in to a paste it is perfect for drawing out any kind of venom. Potion ingredient, well, it's not the best. But it is very useful for herbalists to sell as a paste to healers."

"That sounds like a pretty good home remedy or something for adventurers to carry. Maybe we should have some since I haven't learned any sort of purifying skills." Walker was sure that he could learn one at some point but it would take some more training at the cathedral with the healers. Something that he couldn't do at the moment since he was preoccupied with everything else that seemed to come up whenever he had a free moment.

"That can be arranged. I would say we should take the seeds too but I am not sure we will be able to grow them. Maybe when the guild building is built we can have a special greenhouse. I might need to get a bigger space to expand." Remey was thinking more and more that the alchemy guild would need to be larger and larger and even have some locations outside of Genesis city.

"I think at this rate there will be sections of the city separated for many things. The way it sounded when they were making designs and reviewing them they would build everything with a lot of space in between. There would also be a separate living district. It will be similar as to what we saw in the dwarf city but a little more spacious." Walker was worried about that too and had already heard the plans mirror such a worry. Remey just had not seen the final plan that was to be sent to the builders and crafters. Of course, things would be changed as they went but space for growth was a huge point they made.

"Anyway, I have documents some new herbs that I need to study. The dragonkin that was here handed me bags of seed all labeled. One thing that we might need is something called draco root. It is an odd plant that can only be eaten by someone with dragon blood. The dragonkin eat it in small doses to purify their blood and allow them to grow at a faster rate. Su could need it since she is bonded by Midnight and apparently should receive blood from Midnight once a year to share strength. But that is a mystery to me. I just know we need it."

Walker had put this together as soon as Remey had begun to discuss it. He had a feeling that there were more details in the book that Su had been reading. Unfortunately, Su was at the training area and he

could not delve in to the matter at the moment. "How hard is it to grow such a thing?" This was what mattered most at the moment. Walker needed to see if he would even be able to provide them with the draco root.

"They are easily grown and very poisonous to other creatures. The reason we dragons eat them is because our bodies can adjust to the poison and absorb its strength. You can take some dormant roots." Illia chimed back in after carefully watching the encounter. She had judged Remey as a know nothing human. But now, she was proven to be the one in the wrong. Remey was extremely efficient in examining the herbs and discerning their qualities.

"That will be perfect. The dormant roots would normally start to grow in a back pack or bag but with your spatial , they will remain dormant." Remey was glad to know that things could be held until the perfect time for growth.

Chapter 870 Future Trades

"The herbs they have here are very rare. Some of them are even unrecorded by most people because they are only grown by dragon villages. Have you seen the snowbells?" Remey was ranting about the amazing herbs that were here on the garden. The field of snow bells was really a side of the mountain that was covered in them. Calling it a field was a tough sell but since that was the way Remey said it, Walker didn't argue.

"They even dry the herbs and harvest seeds. The stored seeds and herbs they have are amazing. It has taken years to get something like this set up. I believe that having a trade with a dragon village would be an incredible boon for the alchemy guild. I wonder how I would be able to connect with them when it comes to business." Remey gave Illia a side glance waiting to see if she would respond.

Feeling that Remey was waiting for her, Illia actually spoke up. She mostly responded since her judgment of Remey had been proved wrong and she wanted to rectify this in her own mind. "The relations we have with other races is very minute. But if you have things that dragons need we could consider a relationship to make a trade. We do not value gold."

"Do you need dragon fruit?" Walker felt that it was rude for him to butt in on the conversation, but he wanted to help Remey. He knew how important the guild would be for every kingdom and that Remey was putting her heart and soul in to it.

"That would be an ideal trade. Dragon fruit is a rare fruit for dragons and can easily be traded village to village for any goods. It is much more valuable than the gold that other races value." Illia did not hesitate to mention this. She knew well that dragon fruit would be perfect to have stored for the hatchling

dragons. There was also the fact that the main villages would store as many as possible to use as rewards for tasks and training completed by young dragons.

"We have a tree growing but can expand that when the guild is built. It can be an arranged deal for when we get an annual harvest. I will write that down as a note if you can confirm it with those of your village." Remey knew not to make a solid deal before there was a proper product grown. But this was a very strong starting point.

"I will gladly share the news. We could open our minds and share our herbs with you for dragon fruit." Illia was slightly excited to show Adair what she had discovered. It would be more than enough to appease any anger that Adair had towards her.

"Then it's a deal. When things are grown and figured out someone will come to form a contract." Remey was very pleased as well. The herbs that the dragons grew would be a very strong rare staple for the guild in the future. She couldn't control her smile since the growth of the guild was always showing itself not to have limits.

"Have you seen how they water the herbs here? They use . There are plenty of water affinity mages in the dragonkin that help take care of the plants. They pull water from the air and mist the herbs through the day." Remey changed mindsets and started to describe some of the methods used to care for the herbs. She had been making note of these methods as well since she was sure that she would be able to use them in the guilds' gardens one day.

"I think you should be able to gather some herbalists that might be able to use similar skills. It will be a good test for them when you are recruiting and hiring them. Plus you can have the new members help grow the herbs. It would be a good bit of knowledge." Walker could see the vision that Remey had and that was coming together.

"Exactly. It will be perfect and can show them the full lifespan of an herb to a potion material to a potion and finally to the person that uses the potion." Remey felt accomplished while she moved to the next flower bed and began to examine another herb.

"Well, it looks like Remey is going to be lost in her own head for a while. Maybe we should move on to the flight training." Walker knew that Midnight was eagerly awaiting and her patience was running thin since she was not as interested in herbs.

"It must be valuable to have an alchemist in your party. It is a good choice for a human party." Illia had considered it and found that based on what she knew, humans would need potions much more often than a dragon.

"Oh, she is an alchemical brawler. She can make potions but also punch and kick a monster in to paste. It's a unique class. That's a whole other story." Illia just looked at Walkers' straight face and wondered just how strange humans had gotten or if it was just the group that had come to the village.

Midnight came over to Walker and nudged him on his side, "Yes yes, I know I will stop distracting Illia. You can practice flying." She was bothering him to get the focus back on what they were supposed to be doing.

"I will put this on hold for now. The world outside of the village may be stranger than I thought. Now, flying is a very important thing for a dragon. It allows you to stand above all. Unless you are an earth dragon. Then you may not care for it as much." Illia walked to the side of the gardens where it dropped off near the steps they had climbed. "This is where we will start." Illia whipped her tail around throwing Midnight off the cliff and in to the air.