

Master 881

Chapter 881 - Spar!

By the time the wandering blacksmith had leaned back and let out a massive sigh, the stack of blue prints were the same height as him sitting at the table. There were so many ideas that would need to be forged when the wandering blacksmith made all of his tools again and again. The different elemental affinity materials alone would force him to go and travel more. Or, the people that came to Genesis city might bring them. There were too many potentials.

"Will you rest now? You have been drawing for over three straight hours after investigating the forge." Onyx had a slight tone of worry in him since he thought the wandering blacksmith could be exhausted from the journey and the emotional rush when Midnight was taken. It was even harder to believe that the day had already come to darkness and that they were still able to function.

"IO know you have stayed up for days at a time forging. But was that after you had traveled miles? Or after we had been ally teleported by a myth and legend to a dragon village? Was it after not eating anything either?" Onyx had developed a great way of dealing with these desires to work without rest. He had learned well for Su when she activated her mom mode. It was actually very adorable when comparing the two.

"Then off we go to get some food. I bet that sister is convincing brother to make extra." The pair left the forge even though the wandering blacksmith seemed to want to run back. However, before they left Onyx watched the wandering blacksmith put all the blue prints in to a slim looking folder. They fell in to it the same way that Gils' arrows fell in to his quiver. It had a spatial element.

"That folder is amazing. I didn't know you had something like that. It must have an endless supply of blue prints by now." It was true. With how long the wandering blacksmith had been forging he could fill a museum with his blue prints alone.

Onyx was paying attention and listening to every thought that the wandering blacksmith directed at him as they walked. "It's amazing. The architect's portfolio? I did not know your father had been an architect and had an item that could store blue prints like that. It's even more amazing that it works for you since you share his blood. Passing it down to you must be a great honor." The sad smile the wandering blacksmith had was enough to tell Onyx that it had been a moment that touched the wandering blacksmiths' very heart and guided who he would be.

The two continued to chat until they found the small camp that the party had set up without them. "Brother, do we not want to stay in the stone homes here? I thought we would stay in one?"

Walker looked up from the warming leg of the horned rabbit he had just place on the fire. He had two more set up and Midnight was crunching down on some earth elemental crystals nearby. "Aren't you cold? Ah, you were in the forge. I bet that was interesting. And yes, we could stay in the extra stone houses but that would force a dragonkin out of their home since they are built for every dragonkin. The extras are storage and we shouldn't take those away from them. So, we will strengthen our mental resistance to the cold and wind. But that won't stop me from making some earth walls."

"I was going to ask you to create them. I feel the wind has been very calm and we are lucky here." Su was obviously cold but was trying to play it off while she neared the fire to place a teapot to boil water.

"It was bad enough that I was dragged down from the gardens since it was late, but if you make me sleep without an earth wall to block the cold I will come down and spar with you tomorrow. And I will not hold back." The threat was a little more powerful as Remey made a motion to equip her elemental knuckles.

"If you do come down to spar you can test out some theories I have about those new knuckles. You have been focusing on herbs and alchemy lately. We might just leave you behind." Walker knew that this would get Remey in gear to train more so than annoying her. She didn't want to be thought of as weak and if she continued to slack on the brawler side of her system.

"Oh? And what theories do you have all mighty master of all and nature and stuff? Hmmm? Want me to start growing trees on my hands? Maybe throw fire balls? Oh wait, I bet you want me to have fists of light orbs to blind people." Remey started to Tease Walker who just pretended nothing was happening as he set up more food to warm and roast by the fire.

"Well, actually, I think you could have two elemental knuckles at a time. Use fire on one hand and water in another. That way you could do conflicting damage. Or even use the earth and fire knuckles in a hammer fist to do some sort of lava type damage. The mixing of the elemental could be pretty unique." There was not much Remey could say to counter it. She had begun to think of the exact same thing as she had been studying herbs and while they had traveled.

"I guess I could think about it. As soon as That one over there explains why he tried to make me deaf while I was examining some hail fruit vines." The half hearted point at Gil and glare was enough for everyone to remember the sounds from the air earlier. Gil just stood silent, he felt that he had a target on his back.

Chapter 882 A Big Deal

Gil was looking for a way to divert the sudden attention. He wanted to talk about the arrow he had created but he needed time to come up with a name for it so he could sound cool. "How about you tell me what in this world a hail fruit vine is first." The smug look on Gil's face made Remey instantly irritated. She was sure she had talked aimlessly about the vine at some point when she was telling the party what to look out for while they traveled.

Unfortunately for her, there were so many herbs with so many different descriptions that none of them could tell her if they remembered. Walker had memorized them but he wasn't sure if he was remembering them from a book or what Remey had said. There was just too much information about herbs that Remey had shared with them at different times.

"Ugh, fine. The hail fruit comes from a hail fruit vine. The longer the fruit grows in the winter the bigger it gets. When it finally gets too heavy it will break off the vine and fall. That's why they are known as the hail fruit. They are frozen solid like hail and fall like hail. They are a fruit that ice affinity monsters eat to strengthen their body and help develop their affinity. However, the old man is studying how to make potions that enhance affinities temporarily. It would be an ideal ingredient."

"I didn't think that we should be looking for those kinds of herbs. I will have to be more careful and use my all around appraisal skill on herbs more." Walker was amazed that the fruit could somehow be used to make a potion that would in general increase elemental affinity, even if temporarily.

"If they are frozen, do they need to be melted to be used in a potion?" Su was having a hard time grasping how they would be viable in a potion that would most certainly need to be heated and cooked to get a proper result. It was the norm for every single potion.

"They would be ground in to fine crystals. They will even stay frozen during some of the hotter summer days. The best part is that if they are used to cool the potion then they could stabilize it and add their effects. It has two uses that will create a better overall position." After standing with her hands at her hips, Remey was beaming with pride. This was one of the dreams she had always had about alchemy, helping the old master alchemist with a brand new potion.

"Congratulations, I hope it works sister Remey. Now it's brother Gil's turn to tell us why he woke me from my nap today." Onyx threw some of his won sass at Gil. Lately Onyx had been a little more outgoing and when he would say things like this Midnight would always huff or growl slightly in approval.

"Alright, so Zephyr and I climbed the rest of the mountain to see if we could find any materials for arrows. I would have gone to make some of the water elemental arrows but she said that the wind materials around were too good. Zephyr was right." Gil pulled the plain looking arrow out. The only person that seemed to look at it with some wonder and amazement was Walker.

The wind elemental mana that radiated from it was the same as having another wind spirit around. The feeling was much weaker than Zephyr but almost the same as a high wing elemental spirit. "We used some of the bushes that die and are constantly buffeted by wind. Rocks that are way lighter than they look. And finally, some of these leaves that are pretty much razors waiting to cut you." Gil showed a few cuts from the leaves and Walker proceeded to shake his head and heal him with a light heal spell.

"Next time start with that when you get back so you don't have to deal with cuts like those for so long. Or maybe bring one of Remey's healing potions." Walker had become strict like a mother as he scolded Gil. "It does feel powerful though."

"It is. It makes a small tornado that deals massive damage to a small area the size of a one room house. I want to call it a tornado arrow? A cyclone arrow? Or maybe a gale arrow? I could just go with a twister arrow?" Gil was still contemplating all the names he could choose.

"Walker can use the all around appraisal skill. It should tell him what you decided to name it." Remey stuck her tongue out at Gil who already knew Walker was doing exactly this. It wasn't so much as seeing the future but more so him seeing the decision Gil had decided in his subconscious.

'Brutal winds arrow

Created by the grand wind spirit Zephyr and the arcane Marksman Gil. This arrow is one of the most innovative and powerful area of effect arrows created using minimal materials. The breeze stone used as the arrow head allows for the arrow to store double the wind elemental mana compared to a crystal counterpart. The blade leaf as the fins allows precise flying and increased speed. The rolling bush branch acts as a bond between the other two materials so that they can share the wind elemental mana. This arrow is the first of its kind and has the potential to revolutionize the way arcane archers and related system users create their arrows.'

The group was silent. Each and every one of them realized that Gil had just created a major breakthrough that trumped the work he had done with the elves when it came to arrow making. "I think I need to give these to the forest elf queen when she comes to the summit..." Gil's mumble just fell on silent looks before Walker stood up and patted Gil on the shoulder in congratulations.

Chapter 883 Today In The Village...

"Does it really say all that?" Gil had a worried face. He was afraid that Walker was about to say that he was teasing Gil or trying to mess with him in some way. But as he felt Walker give him a pat on the back literally, he knew that this was the truth. He had actually made a significant breakthrough in how elemental arrows were crafted and refined. This was more than he had ever expected.

The fact that this had occurred was not small, but the fact that Zephyr had assisted was even better. When this arrow was presented as evidence of a new way to gather materials, the bond with elemental spirits would be showcased to multiple kingdoms. That being said, it was a great step forward for elemental spirits to fully return to every kingdom and actively be awakened.

The potential for nature and natural mana to flow with more strength was too high. It was clear that every single day the potential rose. However, there was more to it. This gave the elves a chance to step up and educate the other kingdoms about their main fighting styles and bonds with elemental spirits. I

On top of all of this, there was another chance for the dwarves to showcase their new methods of crafting using the assistance of elemental spirits. The true methods of spirit crafting would show themselves along with the strengths of the items created through them. There would be a revolution of new and improved items along with the new trade routes appearing.

"So tomorrow, Remey will spar and show off her elemental knuckle attacks and Gil will work with water elemental arrows. I might as well try both too. I want to see what you do with the blue koi scales. But the testing of the elemental knuckles will be pretty cool." Walker was already torn as to what he would do the next day.

"Leader, we have the entire day. Let's just have the tea I made and eat for now. Recover from today first." Su was right and everyone knew it. That was why they followed her lead and began to cut in to the roasted horned rabbit legs and pour the tea. The rest of the night passed by peacefully even with the wind picking up on the mountain.

When the sun rose again, the party was sure that they had somehow gotten to another mountain. A single cloud had moved in and dropped a thin layer of dusty snow on the entire mountain. Even more, the wind was showing its true face and creating snow drifts everywhere to impede their movement.

"I'm glad I used the earth walls. If we hadn't we would have been buried by the snow and wind." The temperature was a little cooler due to the snow but it was still mild compared to real winter.

"I bet snow golems and ice wraiths will start to come out now that the snow fell around here." It had been a little while since the party had battled the snow golem, but Remey still remembered it clearly.

"I think we could beat that snow golem much more easily now. But I also think that we might destroy it and get nothing from it. My new brutal winds arrow would tear it to pieces and we would have trouble finding all of it." Thus was a fair point. The snow golem had been a tough opponent and Gil had struggled the same as the rest of the party. Now, with their higher levels, they would need to hold themselves back slightly to avoid destroying it completely or they would lose all materials.

"You're heading out already? I will come." Onyx saw the wandering blacksmith grabbing one of the slices of bread Walker had warmed by the fire and turn to go to the forge. He could no longer hold himself back since he wanted to start working on a few things. Today he wanted the centennial ice hammer done before Gil came knocking for help making the blue koi scale arrows.

"I guess that's a sign I should go for a walk and see what I can find for some more materials. I want to make a few more arrows before I work on the water arrows. Walker, I will be at the forge after noon." Gil lept up and was on his way. Zephyr was already darting about behind him since she had gotten back from a night time exploration in the breeze.

"Alright, introduce me to the martial artist you met. Su started to talk about it last night but she said it was better off as a surprise." Remey had not forgotten what Su had started to say about a draconic martial artist that could use kicks and punches to do the same things as her. It would be an interesting match because they might have some of the same skills.

"Her name is Shay and it should be a good match. I just wonder if today will be a little more smooth than yesterday with that guy with the ax." There was a bit of worry when it came to this since Walker didn't feel like proving himself with Midnight every single time he needed to do something. "Come on Midnight, you're going to be left behind." Once she heard her name, Midnight left the embers of their fire and ran behind them.

The four of them made it to the training area without much issue. The dragonkin that had seen them on the way nodded politely and even smiled showing them a bright morning. The sound of clashing metal and hard work was already echoing around. The other draconic warriors had started their training earlier. The party was a little late, but as they arrived so did Illia. She wanted to watch more of the skills that the party displayed. She was too curious now that she had been hooked.

Chapter 884 Mistake?

"Lord, good morning and welcome back to the training grounds." Shay was already at the training grounds waiting as if she had known they would be there when they woke up.

"Remey, this is shay. She is the draconic martial artist you might be able to share some skills and experience with. I also wish she would just call me Walker..." More than anything, Walker had learned how much he hated the stiff titles that were used for those above oneself. He couldn't help but think that the king might be driven crazy if he had not become used to it from a young age.

"It is an honor to meet you. Please guide me well in our matches." Shay bowed slightly as Remey started to give her a once over.

"Su said that you could punch and kick but I would rather hear what you can do with your claws." There was no hiding the claws on a dragonkin's hands. They were sharp in general but at the moment Shay still had hers shifted in to the battle form that could tear through metal if need be.

"I have the dragon claw skill and the shift skill. When they come together they work very well to break an enemy's defenses." The tone Shay had perfectly expressed the excitement of having another hand to hand combat type system user around. The other draconic warriors all used spears, swords, or axes.

"I can see that you have some knuckles that attach to your gloves. Can I ask what they are for?" Shay could already feel the different elemental mana around Remey and had her own theory along with what she had also heard. But it was better to hear it right from Remey since it might reveal some tricks of the skills.

"These are elemental knuckles. They use different materials and attract different elements. I haven't tested what they all do because I have been focused on alchemy lately. I want to test out some theories when combining two different elemental knuckles in the same hammer fist." Remey showed the knuckles that she knew already knew had certain reactions to her attacks.

"I would be grateful to you if I can be the assistance you need to complete your battle research." Shay was more excited when she saw Remey punch with her elemental fist attack using the fire affinity knuckles. The heat that came off without flames was decent and she could tell that if done with more experience or an open flame around there would be fire on the knuckles to burn the opponent.

"I want to watch and see what you two come up with. I might get some inspiration on my combinations if Remey tests something a little different. But first, let me make a fire and a few other elementally condense areas along the training field. It will help you use your elemental fist skills." Walker saw the training stop when he spoke. Unknown to him the other warriors had been paying close attention to their words. After the previous day, Illia had educated them on how to act.

When a royal would come around it would only benefit a dragonkin to pay attention and act accordingly. It was simple for a dragonkin to be ousted from a position or even a village if they did not keep an open ear for what the royal wanted. Therefore, the training field was cleared.

Walker made a fire in one corner, froze another, and made another more rocky. The shadows were brought up by the rocky ground he caused when manipulating the earth. The wind was already blowing and the sun was out now so light and wind elemental mana were already there. The main thing Walker would need to watch was the fire that might go out if he ignored it. "We are ready. Let's see what you can do with those knuckles!"

Remey strapped on the first knuckles in a swift downward motion. She had been practicing this motion while they traveled so that she could clip and unclip them at a second's notice. The speed she had was definitely going to result in some form of skill. However, what was catching everyone's attention was the alchemy fire spirit that had shown itself and rushed to the fire to sit within it. Fire elemental spirits were not at all common in a cold and high up mountain with dense wind and water elemental mana.

"My partner might help me out," Remey smirked as she fell in to her stance and one of the knuckles pulled flames toward her. The alchemy fire spirit was giggling about helping out. It was a lot more fun than just doing alchemy even though the spirit had changed because of alchemy and learned to love it the same way that Remey did.

"I do not mind my opponent having a handicap." Shay sounded calm but her eyes flickered with mischief. It seemed that the two were more like each other than they were letting on. Under Shay's calm demeanor was a brutal martial artist that like to punch just as much as Remey did.

"You know, we may have made a small mistake here," Walker whispered to Su since they were both standing and watching.

"The two might have a little too much fun..." Su could feel the energy growing as well. The look on the sparring pairs' faces was not just one that said they would spar. It was of two people looking to show off and use their skills to their hearts' content.

"Yes yes, I will give you a few mana crystals to eat while you watch." Walker could feel what Midnight wanted and promptly handed over some of the water elemental mana crystal she had in his storage. Midnight started to snack while laying down and waiting for the match to begin.

Chapter 885 Throwing Fists

The peace was shattered by the crack of Remey's jab on Shay's arms. Remey had attempted to use the elemental fist and cause a burn to Shay's block. Unfortunately, the flames were too weak to burn the scales that Shay had on her body. She had some resistance from fire and water since she was of the water affinity. The true strength she had was in her level which was well beyond that of Remey and the others. She had lived for quite a few years longer and had the chance to grow in multiple dragon villages.

"Try that again with the hammer fist that the Lord told me about." Shay couldn't contain her excitement any longer. She did not have the hammer fist skill and was going to try and grasp the skill here and now so that she could add it to her repertoire.

"If that's what you want then we can try it now." Remey clasped her hands together and was ready to bring her hammer fist skill down. She was going to oblige Shay with the attack but had made sure to add a little extra heat.

The one knuckle was the fire affinity one that was pulling the fire from where Walker had started it. With the help of the alchemy fire spirit the flames reached Remey's clasped fists easily. The other knuckle was not the same. Remey had equipped the wind affinity knuckle on to that one causing the air to be pulled in and the flames to double in an instant.

The surprise on Shay's face was enough to cause her to pause for a split second while Remey's hammer fist came down on her shoulder. The hit would have done major damage to a normal opponent and left a decent burn. Yet, Shay was fine. She stood strong and took the attack without any apparent damage.

"I think you scorched my scales on that one. I should show you the speed that surprised the lord." Shay jumped back and then stepped forward using the scale step. The speed was enough to cause Remey to blink more than once to try and process if she was actually seeing the change in Shay's location.

Naturally, Shay didn't stay at the fastest speed. She wanted to see what else Remey would surprise her with. Instead, she lifted her leg and kicked out from a very tight and close range angle. Most people

would lack the flexibility to attack like this but Shay had the draconic martial artist system and her high kick was one she had used for years and years.

The kick was coming down on Remey too fast for her to be able to dodge so she did the next best thing. She blocked the kick. Her arms came together in the same cross armed block that Walker and Su had seen Shay use the day before. This was one of the many overlapping skills that the two had.

When the kick landed Remey didn't just let it push her to her knees. If she had she would have been down for the count and unable to keep up the battle. Instead, she released her arms and let the kick fall to the side after she had slowed it down. This gave her enough time to step back and release a combo of attacks.

The fists that came at Shay while she tried to regain her stance were not the same as before. The speed at which Remey could swap the elemental knuckles was greater than any of them had expected. The dark knuckle had taken the wind knuckles place and was jabbing forward.

Shadows pulled around towards Remey and Shay knew that she couldn't let it hit her. The darkness elemental mana would have the possibility of decaying effect and that was much too dangerous to let hit her even with her higher level than Remey.

Shay dodged to the side and watched Remey's jab miss her easily. However, Remey had expected this to happen and had her other fist moving toward Shay already. The water elemental knuckle replaced the fire elemental knuckle and the ice that formed over it was completely missed by those watching.

As her fist hit Shay the warriors and party watched were not sure what had happened. "She swapped to the water affinity knuckle. That was smart. Especially since the snow fell and increased the water elemental mana in the area last night." Walker had to raise Remey. The swap had been smart and unexpected since she had started with the fire elemental knuckle as the opposite.

"The environment seems to greatly affect the strength of Remey's elemental fist attacks." Su was just stating the obvious here. They were all looking at Shay who now had an entire arm covered in heavy frost.

In a swift moment, Shay flexed and straightened her arm causing the frost and forming ice to fall from her. This was the exact surprise she was looking for in a fight. She had only ever faced warriors that

could predict and force her actions in the royal water dragon's village. "Still thinking about using those fancy high kicks? I could due to learn another if you want to show it off a few more times."

"I could be convinced if you have the gall to show me another hammer fist. It seems like one of those skills that could benefit my style when I need a little extra force." Shay and Remey continued their exchange while Walker and Su realized that they were no longer watching two opponents spar. Instead, it was two fighters bonding over new moves.

"I don't think we can learn anything from watching this. We should start training as well, leader." After watching for another minute, Walker followed Su and the other dragonkin warriors joined them. The entire sparring field had become noisy yet again while the soft flapping of Illias' wings came from above as she watched over the matches. No one had noticed her arrival some time ago.

Chapter 886 Chilling Training

While the sparring continued, Midnight found that she was not having as much fun as she usually was. She wanted to get stronger but her training with the elemental breath attacks was something she didn't want to show off to the dragon village yet. If she did it might make more of a commotion and she wouldn't be able to get back home to her favorite spot by the fireplace.

There was also the fact that no matter what they had already agreed to go to the main village to meet the royal dragon court. This was both exciting and nerve wracking for her. These were dragons much more powerful than her and that could easily change the way the party lived. The only benefit was that she had found a way to bond with Walker more and protect herself and her family from other dragons' wills.

It didn't take long for her to notice that Illia was again flying above the group while they sparred. She appeared much more interested in this than the actual matches so Midnight decided to start to climb to the gardens. Walker already knew she wanted to get stronger and fly sooner. He would never stop her from pursuing g her own goals to get stronger and realize her potential.

After noticing Midnight was climbing the steps to the garden, Illia decided to fly there and wait. She spoke when Midnight reached the top, "Do you wish to train your flying more? Or do you wish to do something else?" There was curiosity in Illia's tone. It had been a long time that she was able to speak as a human would and she went out of her way to always speak that way since most other races spoke the language. If she were to revert to growling and hissing it would feel that she had not grown up at all, but this didn't mean she did not understand Midnight when she growled slightly.

"I can tell you about my training with ice and water. But it was something I was born with. It may not be something you can learn." Illia was not sure if Midnight would be able to improve her control of water elemental mana while doing what Illia does to train. However, Illia was extremely curious after seeing the party do things that she had not seen in a human before. They were some undiscovered treasure in her eyes after losing the thought that they were just lowly humans.

The huffs and soft growls from Midnight sounded more like a child trying to convince an older sibling to sneak them food than a conversation. Walker even felt the twinge of desire from Midnight while he trained but knew that she was already up on the gardens. The bond they felt between them was giving them a general sense of where they were in the world.

"I can show you, but it will be up to you. I have already been wrong a few times." Illia admitted herself to be wrong in her first evaluation. Upon doing so she walked to the end of the gardens and started to pull up some rocks to uncover some centennial ice. "I leave this here for the cold days when I can grasp more mana."

The pieces of ice that Illia broke off were the same size as the food the party had eaten the night before. The horned rabbit legs would easily feed the entire party and the ice here would most likely last them even longer if they attempted to eat it.

"When I was just born it was the winter. That is normal for any water dragon. Instead of absorbing water as my two siblings did, I gained a small amount of wind in to my body. It was a very weak bloodline from generations ago. That caused the water elemental mana in my body to become colder and more potent to force out the wind bloodline. This is common for some mixed blood dragons when they try to purify themselves for the first time. The result I had was not a pure water elemental affinity but a condensed water affinity."

This was very educational for Midnight who had not studied many things in this field. She only knew the condensing of elemental mana due to Walker's training and the results she had seen of it. He had been able to learn ice skills when he condensed the water elemental mana more and it was clear that doing the same here would give better skills.

Making the relation to her own training, Midnight realized that she would have had a mist breath if she had not condensed the water elemental mana more creating her own, weak, but one day powerful, frost breath. The enlightening moment she had was small but enough for her to begin to understand why Illia was different compared to the other dragons. It would be harder for her to become more powerful because she had to have purity in the water elemental mana she used but also to condense it.

Simply put, she needed more pure water elemental mana than a water elemental dragon would do anything.

"I have trained every day to be where I am now and I will soon be able to take my dragonkin form and represent this branch village with the elder. My main training is to take a portion of centennial ice that I created in to my mouth and absorb the water elemental mana in it slowly. This allows for me to circulate the mana through my body and condense it. It removes other elemental manas and cleans my scales. The strength I gained in my bones and scales is also note worthy." This was the same method as consuming the elemental mana crystals, but more specified for ice. Midnight walked to the centennial ice and clawed off a shard. It was in her mouth in a moment and she began to try the training Illia did.

Chapter 887 Illia's Goals

Illia also started to use her training method with a much larger piece of the centennial ice. The mana that she would bring in would also be from the snow and air around her because of her large body's demand for it. The training she had been doing for her whole life was also to blame. She had increased her tolerance to the condensed water elemental mana making her need to get more and more to push her body to the limit. The dream of becoming an ancient one day was hidden behind the true desire to become a dragon she had only heard about from historical records in the water dragon villages.

The final goal of any frost dragon was to become an ice dragon and finally an absolute tundra dragon. The age could be less than an ancient of over a thousand years of life, but would rarely happen. It was the understanding of condensed water elemental mana and the gathering of it. This would push the dragon to form scales of ice over their own that were similar to the cold of centennial ice.

To become an absolute tundra dragon, an ice dragon would need to understand water and ice as if it was more important than their own being. This would include touching the realm of spirits and most likely learning from the water and if possible ice spirits. The pure understanding would cause real centennial ice to become the dragons' scales. The breath itself would be able to cause frost whereas the breath attacks would cause blizzards and change direct environments. The change was drastic but incredibly attractive. This was the goal that any frost dragon should have.

Midnight had begun feeling the strength of the water elemental mana that had gathered in the centennial ice over time. She would not have taken this form of training if she knew just how powerful the mana was. It was dense and dangerous compared to the smoothness of the elemental mana crystals that she had eaten before.

The mana tried its best to force its way out from her and back to the open air where it could return to the centennial ice chunk that was not being damaged. The cold feeling was causing Midnight's mouth to become numb and she desperately looked at Illia for guidance.

The sight before her was clear. Illia was pulling the mana through her mouth and using the centennial ice to condense and amplify the cold. It would then circulate to her lungs and finally, to the rest of her body through her blood. The mana was able to cause the cooling effect and frost was even gathering on the ground around Illia.

Seeing that Illia was able to withstand the cold made Midnight feel weak. She hated it. The feeling was gross and would eat away at her mental strength if she let it. The only way to get through it was to force herself forward again and again the same way she had when she would think she might fail at her training.

The mana that came inward with the deep breath Midnight took was painful. It felt as if her lungs were being pierced by ice crystals and that her blood was freezing within her. Yet, there was a surprising effect when the mana reached the gold flame heart.

The same feeling Midnight had when she had started to properly use the frost breath hit here but multiple times stronger than before. Instead of just melding the mana with itself and creating the frosty breath, Midnight breathed out a normal breath and saw mist in the air. Her breath was colder than what was around now and the golden flame heart was amplifying it. This was more than she had expected her body to be able to handle in the first few circulations.

The only possibility explaining this happening was that the golden flame heart was true to its' moniker. The speed at which Midnight could grasp different elemental breath attacks was not the only focus on the golden flame heart. To use those breath attacks she needed to be able to handle and process the mana that made them up. To do so, the golden flame heart would use the ability it had to make the mana flow more smoothly through her veins and in to her scales and bones. The entire process was the same that every single dragon would use to purify their bodies. However, for Midnight, it would allow her to have resistance to that elemental mana in the future and be able to adapt between changes in the mana she used faster.

The fact that Midnight would be able to switch between the elemental breath attacks faster in battle was something she had not expected. Right now it took her time to gather the mana to attack. The future held the idea that she would be able to use frost breath and then switch to a fire breath in the next attack without pause. That idea excited her and became a slight distraction. The interruption of her meditative process caused a coughing fit and the centennial ice to fall from her mouth.

The ground around her had a small amount of frost on it which was much less than the ground around Illia. The ground around her had become thick with ice showing that she was close to a breakthrough if she continued for some time. But there was also a few scales that were cracking under the pressure she put her body under. Midnight did not experience such a thing but she had not pushed herself to the extreme. It was clear that Illia would lose scales and grow new ones constantly because of the harsh training she did.

Before Midnight could move and get Illias' attention she was wracked with shudders. Her body was warming itself from the state she had been in from circulating the water elemental mana in the centennial ice. This was the result she had to deal with after training her body in this way. But it was a worthwhile method to use in the future. The real question was, what other methods of training could she use that mirrored this but with other elements?

Chapter 888 In The Air Again

By sitting in the sun the first slowly melted and the shudders stopped shaking Midnights' body. She regained her normal body temperature in time to see that Illia was beginning to struggle. The distance she was pushing herself was much further than that of any other dragon Midnight had seen and it left a permanent imprint in how determined dragons were to train their affinities. For a dragon, levels would come in time. But strengthening their elemental understanding and purifying their bloodline could make them much more powerful in the long run. That was how a dragon could become an ancient. Levels would not be enough.

The scales that fell off were already showing their strength when it came to water elemental mana. The frost that formed around them did not leave them and traveled to the ground beneath them. Illia herself didn't heed these cracked scales since she knew her body would replace them with stronger ones over and over as she trained. The safety of the village gave her the ability to train to this extent without much worry.

After another hour of watching and learning, Midnight witnessed Illia finally breathe out a deep breath of frost that precipitated in to a soft snow. The centennial ice she had in her mouth had been completely consumed and her body showed the cold ice as a sign. Unlike Midnight, Illia did not shudder after the training. She was a frost dragon and the cold was natural to her even though she had dropped herself well below what she was used to.

"You appear to have taken the training well. For your first time, you were already ahead of where I was when I began. That is a champions' blood showing. You are lucky not to have broken scales. It seems you were very adamant about strengthening them with elemental crystals before."

Midnight growled a few times in response to Illia's words and praise. "And bones? Yes, that's right. Your father is a skeletal dragon. You can strengthen yourself with the bones of another creature. That would make your elemental training even smoother since the bones you eat will contain some of the mana they absorbed in their life time." The connections between this and how a dragon trained explained why skeletal dragons were thought of as very powerful wandering dragons.

They were more of a lone wolf and would jump at any battle. The fact that they could process the mana within bones was why they were able to make leaps in strength and could survive without a village or the traditional training of dragons. It was also why they were such a rare dragon species. They did not care to join a village nor to have a partner most of the time.

"You should use the bones of other monsters to jump in strength. Your body can grow much faster and you will properly grow in to your stats. I am sure you have noticed that you have higher stats than your family member and the lord. But that is because they are pushing your body higher than it should. For about forty levels I was not gaining a single stat point because I was pushing my body beyond the limit." This was common knowledge for most dragons when they were being raised by their parents or elders.

The dragon blood would force them to have higher stats earlier so they could survive. It would spur their bodies to always be pushing themselves higher than they should so they would grow faster and stringer. It was one reason why the dragons were one of the oldest and most powerful races. However, it did come with a downside.

If a dragon did not train and make their body grow in to those stats, then they would become weaker instead of stronger. It was one reason why dragons were always lower in numbers when it came to population. The power and longevity was the reason that this was not an issue for them. That and the dragonkin race was always near them assisting and growing with them. As much as they were separate races, they were connected closer than any other two races.

The dragonkin had once been a humanoid race similar to lizards. There were lizardmen in the world but they were unintelligent monsters. They found refuge with dragons and split off from the lizardman race following and learning through generations. Once they had done so they received the blood of dragons and changed forever. This brought an unshakable loyalty that never left them. Even the dragonkin that were exiled from villages would never betray or shame the dragons. It was something that even in shame they would hold true. Loyalty was more than just a promise to a dragonkin. It was a vow.

Midnight considered this and understood that her level was capped for now because of her body's growth. It also explained why she was always hungry and needed to sleep to absorb the elemental mana crystals. Her body was weak and she was not even close to being able to properly use her stats. She may

be stronger but it was just on the surface. She could not actually use that strength to properly defend her family.

If Midnight could strengthen her body more using different elemental manas and also improve her elemental breath attacks, then she would be able to grow in to her stats. The chance of her flying sooner would also increase.

"We have rested long enough. I hope you were able to grasp a new understanding. I expect you to be able to battle against me in a few years. I wouldn't mind saying I could defeat a champion." Illia was surprisingly playful now that she had seen Midnight was able to train the same way as her. It was a new occurrence for her. "Time for you to try and fly again. I want to see you flap your wings at least three times while you glide. You will do it ten times." Before Midnight could process the words, Illia swept her ice covered tail and knocked Midnight off the edge of the gardens and in to the air.

Chapter 889 New Hammer

Midnight had started to train her flying again with Illias' rude tactic to surprise her and force her dragon instincts to take over. It wasn't a bad idea but Midnight had fully decided she hated it and would get revenge when she was more powerful than Illia. Meanwhile, The wandering blacksmith was carving the pieces of the centennial ice he would be fusing with the metals he had. The cold iron ore, blue koi scales, and centennial ice would be his base materials with the cracked frost dragon scales from Illia as the melding material.

He had drawn out the hammer and planned to allow it to have a cooling effect on metal. This would help when he was forging against Midnight's golden flames to keep the metal from getting too hot and melting in to a molten puddle. It would also go to preserve the mana that was naturally in the metals and balance the parts that would come together to form the weapon that was being made for Walker.

Walker burst in to the forge with a slight sheen of sweat on his face from training still. He had realized the time and rushed over to the forge so that the wandering blacksmith wouldn't feel forgotten. He also wanted to see the progress being made on the tools that were needed. It was also a good chance for the spirit mark to absorb the remnant mana from the materials used to strengthen Fleur who was still slumbering after awakening.

"I made it. What do you have that you want me to work on? Just name it and it will be done." Walker's confident voice was enough for the wandering blacksmith to smile. He was glad that Walker had come on time since he needed help preparing the smaller tools.

Once the blue print had been thrust in to his hands, Walker was confused and curious, "Do you really want me to make this small carving hammer? It is one of your most used little tools. I don't want to mess it up. You would be wasting materials on my failures." Walker feared that he would end up just throwing away the materials that they had worked hard to get. If so, he would be the worst kind of blacksmith. One that did not result in anything.

There was a slight wave and a smirk from the wandering blacksmith before he focused on melding the frost dragon scales in to the cold iron. It was a process that required low and slow heat paired with an extremely watchful eye. This was a test for even the most experienced blacksmith and Walker would need to copy the wandering blacksmith here to make a smaller tool compared to the large forging hammer that was being made first.

The materials were already set out of each other tools being made today in the table. They had been paired with their blue prints and even some hand written notes so that neither of them would forget the important details of each. It was a wealth of experience and knowledge that Walker was soaking up. He had started to create a small journal called the trick of the wandering blacksmith. It was sure to be a journal that many would kill for one day, however, it was just a personal notebook for Walker to refer to when he was forging or learning by himself.

The very low flames in the forge were not what Walker had become used to. They were just enough to heat and cause the cold iron to melt. This was a surprise to Walker since normal iron would need much hotter temperatures than this. The water elemental mana was causing the heat and iron to meld much faster and the cold iron to act like melting ice.

What was more interesting was the fact that the first scales began to soak up the cold iron and fuse with it. This was similar to a sponge and water but the scales then began to change shape and glow like metal. This was the wide difference when it came to elemental affinity materials. Each would react differently and learning how they would be the key to working with them.

The blue koi scales were the next added material. The wandering blacksmith pulled the metal from the fire and added the koi scales. They were folded in to the metal and slowly became part of it. The result was a metal that became more dense and harder to fold over and over. When the large piece of carved centennial ice was added things became frantic.

The wandering blacksmith was moving incredibly fast to fold the metal around the chunk of carved centennial ice. The centennial ice was becoming the center of the hammer while the metal was sealing it up. This would trap the water elemental mana and also the ice inside. It would then be carved with runes so that the cooling effect could be manipulated as desired with the wielder's mana.

This was not the end though. The wandering blacksmith pulled a round metal rod made from cold iron and hammered it in to the bottom of the piece of metal. This was the handle being attacked before the metal fully cooled due to the centennial ice. It was a process that used the most strength and finally sealed the centennial ice within.

The heavy breathing was clear to Walker. It showed the great effort needed to make this new hammer and how much skill would go in to it over the next years. The work was far from done however, the wandering blacksmith had to carve the runes and wrap the handle with leather. This left Walker to start on the small carving hammer made of the same materials that the wandering blacksmith had just used. It would be a true test of any skills that Walker had developed in forging.

Chapter 890 Test

The wandering blacksmith had moved away to give Walker room to move and forge. The small hammer that he was going to make was nothing compared to the large forging hammer that had just been working with. However, it might be a little more challenging in a way. The small amount of metal might cool even faster. Which meant he would need to work even faster too.

When Walker had put everything in to arms reach, he started to heat the metals in the same way. It was still a wonder how they melted like ice and absorbed in to the frost dragon scales. The cold iron ore was a great mystery in this aspect and Walker felt that the only way the wandering blacksmith had learned it was through experimentation with the metal.

"Pull it out now." The wandering blacksmith wasn't even looking at Walker but his voice picked up just enough to tell Walker that it had been heated properly.

The metal was out of the heat in an instant and Walker had added the small number of blue koi scales. He was folding and following the shaping method that he had just watched and learned. It was much smoother since the metal was in a smaller amount than the larger hammer. Walker was able to smash it flat in a few swings and found that the warmed anvil from the previous hammer made it easier.

"Now, the ice." The guidance was still an unknown since the wandering blacksmith was hyper focused on carving and not at all looking at Walker. However, the piece of strangely shaped ice was set in the metal and Walker began to pull it up around the ice evenly. This was a lot easier than it had appeared.

'The skill casing has been taken from the butcher system. The skill casing has been automatically learned.

Casing- passive

The skill casing is a multi system skill. It is passive due to the innate knowledge that the user gains in creating a layer around another item. This can be used with metal work, wood, meat, and many other things. The common use is sausage. The user is better able to manipulate a casing to fit snugly and evenly on the desired item. This is an important skill for any making a sheath for a sword or dagger.'

Walker felt that his eyes had just opened and he was able to better shape the metal around the centennial ice. The strange hooked part of the small hammer now made more sense. It could be used to carve and pull away pieces of metal from the overall creation. Then there was the handle. The wandering blacksmith already had a metal piece for it and all Walker needed to do was hammer it in and make sure the ice was still sealed.

The process was much faster than the large hammer. However, Walker was not sure if it would live up to the desired quality the wandering blacksmith wanted. With a slight worry and tremble, Walker placed the small carving hammer in front of the wandering blacksmith. He picked it up after a moment more of carving and examined it.

His fingers traced the edges and the curves of the hammer. The spaces he felt were a search for the centennial ice that might be losing its mana through a crack. Or potentially finding a spot that was too thin and would break while in use. "You pass." The wandering blacksmith placed the hammer down and unrolled an old parchment.

"Wait, that was a test? A test for what?" The lost feeling was increasing as Walker tried to understand why the wandering blacksmith would test him.

"Brother, he tested you to see if you were ready to learn rune carving. He is showing you the elemental runes used in metal carving. He was given this forge and there were books about draconic runes that he will be learning and it made me wonder if you should learn runes yet. Your progress is fast enough." Onyx had been there the entire time watching. He had made a deal with the wandering blacksmith to secretly explain every single detail while the wandering blacksmith pretended not to be paying attention. It was a part of the test that any apprentice would get.

"I, well. I am honored that you would show me. I know that blacksmiths take years to refine their own rune designs. I hope that I can live up to any expectations you have." The response was a simple pat to

the second work stool next to the table and a flat piece of metal being placed in front of the unfurled scroll.

There was no hesitation. Walker sat down and memorized the rune designs. They were similar to the way one would imagine the specific element. Fire was flowing but sharp whereas water was flowing and smooth. The earth rune pattern was jagged and flat while the wind was smooth and curling. These were the four basic runes. The light rune was star shaped in many ways where the darkness rune was the same without the points and instead rounded like an irritated slime.

Walker could tell that the elemental mana was attracted to them and that they would be the key to improving items beyond their limits. The small book that was placed in front of him was worn and looked to have been held on to for many years. "The working of runes and their relations. This looks like a very old book. I can copy it for you when we get back. I don't want you to lose something that's obviously important to you" The response was a slow nod as the wandering blacksmith slowly returned to his carving to let Walker read and learn about runes. This was a touching and valuable moment between blacksmiths and Walker did not say anything that might take away from the awe he was now feeling.