

Master 891

Chapter 891 Runes!

The metal plate that had been placed on the table was scrap. Completely useless in any other terms. It appeared that the wandering blacksmith had found scrap metal and melted it together. The result was a hammered flat piece of metal with varying degrees of toughness. It would be absolute garbage if it was for armor or anything else. However, it was ideal for practicing rune carving.

Carving runes on different materials was easier or harder depending on what they were. Soft tin would be the best but the rune would cause damage to it the longer it was there. A single fire rune would cause it to heat and melt making whatever the item was, unusable. If it was something tougher and more resilient, the carving was harder but more runes could be added.

There was also the perk of being able to see how the scrap materials reacted to runes. Walker had zero experience when it came to runes and he didn't have any knowledge or innate feeling for how a metal would hold up to them. The wandering blacksmith had made sure that more various parts of scrap metal were in the plate than would have been from the basic scrap metal. Once upon a time, his own mentor had done the very same thing to him.

Walker looked at the table and found that there were multiple tools placed here and there. From what was written in the aged journal the wandering blacksmith gave him, he needed to find the tools that fit what he was doing best. The fire runes did not need to be extremely detailed and would be fine with thicker tools. Same with the earth elemental runes. The water and wind runes were the ones that required the smaller fine tools.

The wind and water patterns to the runes were very fine and swirled in different ways than the fire and the earth did. This presented a challenge since copying the runes would be harder. The shape had to be more exact than he was used to creating. Walker had little to no experience drawing, carving, or even shaping without using his high earth sculpting skill. He was out of his depth.

"It says that I should channel my mana through the tools and it will create the runes. If I don't use mana in the runes then they are just pictures. That must be the same for the patterns sewn in to fabrics." Walker spoke out loud and prompted a small smile on the wandering blacksmith's face.

"These are very simple. There were very complicated runes on some scrolls and books that we looked at before you got here. They are the draconic runes, but I don't understand what they did at all." It was unfortunate that Onyx didn't understand them. It was something that really annoyed him since he had been working hard to be able to properly read and understand things since he was born. The thirst for

knowledge he had was too great and when he found something he didn't understand it was constantly on his mind.

Walker was curious as well and the wandering blacksmith paused for a moment unsure if he should share. Walker was just learning the basic runes and knowing the more advanced runes too early could ruin an item or equipment. "So they are the body strengthening runes. The dragonkin and dragons royal armors use those to make their scales stronger and bring in certain manas faster. I didn't think elemental runes could be changed and made to do those things."

The wandering blacksmith had decided to give up since he trusted that Walker would not rush his learning. The draconic runes were the product of years upon years of experimentation. One such scroll detailed seventy years to figure out how to make a wind condensing rune for a helm instead of a large piece of armor.

"That sounds like it would be very hard to make. If they are more complicated than that I don't think I will be able to use them for some time. I doubt that I will even have the time to sit down and get a feel for these anytime soon. I need to practice this so my hands gain a muscle memory for how much pressure and flow to use. Not to mention fine mana control since I seem to be using large amounts of mana more often."

The analysis was simple and made sense which was very appropriate for how Walker thought and what the wandering blacksmith thought. Since he had already decided to focus on these elemental symbols he looked at the very simple star shaped light elemental rune. It was overlapped pointed stars and had a simple patten that Walker could make using one of the medium carving needles.

When he picked up the needle he felt that his mana was easily pulling in to the tool and that he would have to focus much harder to be sure that it was going to be controlled. If he used too much he would carve out a bigger piece of the metal and create a weak point which could spell the end for an adventurer in battle. Too little and the rune wouldn't work well.

The reason the light elemental rune was useful were the myriad of effect it could have. Simply, it could attract light elemental mana and glow in a dark environment. It could counter some of the decaying effects from darkness elemental mana or even poisons and purify it. Finally, there was a minor healing aura it could produce. It all came down to how it was carved. This rune though, was the basic light elemental mana gathering rune. It was the simplest format and the first that anyone learning runes would have to memorize and be able to use perfectly because it was the base for all light elemental rune formations.

Chapter 892 Light Rune

The time that passed was completely forgotten. The wandering blacksmith had moved on to another batch of smaller tools that he had forged in a matter of few short hours. On the extreme other hand, Walker was still perfecting the light elemental rune. It was the fortieth attempt at carving the rune and the feeling was finally getting to be normal. However, there was a constant ache in his fingers from holding them in the same position for so long.

'The skill rune carving has been taken from the rune smith system. The user had automatically learned the skill rune carving due to user actions and repeated practice.

Rune carving- 1 mana cost per five minutes

The user uses their mana to flow through a specified carving tool and carve away metal, wood, and other materials to create a rune. The rune quality is dependent on the users' understanding of the rune. The more mana used when carving will cause the rune to be engraved deeper or shallower in what is being carved. When this skill is used in tandem with the rune sense skill the user is able to carve runes double the speed with higher quality.'

Walker did not even look at this skill. He was too busy watching the newly created light rune on the piece of scrap metal start to glow slightly. He could feel the light elemental mana coming toward it and attempt to gather. Since there was nothing for the mana to gather in to it just condense in the immediate area. Onyx found this very pleasant and began to absorb the light elemental mana. He had been watching and learning this while time while also commenting with the wandering blacksmith's advice here and there.

"My first rune is done. It only took half my life." Walker was laughing at his own joke as he tried to straighten and relax his finger. The wandering blacksmith clapped him on the back in congratulations. It was a strange feeling since the comparison of the work they had been doing was night and day. Walker had managed to finally carve one rune in the time it took the wandering blacksmith to carve many on to many new tools. This was the level of experience that separated them.

" Now I understand why you are so driven. You must have practiced for hours on end to master these runes and you can use them to your will now. I can't wait to see what you end up doing after you learn draconic runes." The pair were both excited by the draconic runes. But it would take a longer time for the wandering blacksmith to learn them and put them in to use here. There was the potential that they would be used on Walker's armor for when he went to the main dragon village along with his new weapon if need be.

There was no way that Walker could stay and keep working on runes for more hours. It also appeared that the wandering blacksmith had more or less finished the new set of centennial ice carving tools. They all had a frost layer on them but more interestingly they seemed to be controlled and calm. The mana that they held was a very consistent water elemental feeling similar to a silent cool day of winter.

"Calming snow set." Walker was about to ask the name of the tool set and the wandering blacksmith had the sixth sense to say it out loud. He had long thought of the name while making the first hammer and was very happy with his work. This was much more than he had imagined he would be making when he was in the mountains. He even had goals now to make other elemental sets to forge with which would give him a better control when he made elemental items.

"It's a fitting name for sure. Can't wait to see what you make with it. Whether it's used to cool an item while you work or completely create something water elemental, I know it will be of the highest quality." The praise was welcomed since they both knew just how good these tools were.

The pair started to clean their mess and decided to call it a day. The night had already long come and they were feeling the drain of energy due to their constant work and training. When they left the forge they found that the clearing at the center of the dragon village was now occupied by the dragonkin carpenters creating something.

"Lord, I am honored you would come to see our work on your flying basket. Lady Illia told us that you would be carried by her, personally, home and that she would never touch anything makeshift and ugly. Therefore, we have created a basket to carry you and your companions. By the morning it will be ready to depart whenever you desire." The dragonkin was holding a few tools and appeared very excited.

The craftsmanship of the large basket was truly impeccable. There were carvings that made it seem to be a piece of art instead of just a basket. The wood was definitely taken from a very old and large tree to become this and Walker was amazed that they were able to find it to carve from.

"This is a surprise, I didn't realize you would make something like this just for us. Your hard work is appreciated. I will see if we can leave sooner so that we can enjoy this to the fullest." Walker's words were like a shot of adrenaline. The dragonkin carpenters began to visibly move faster. This was one of the fastest works they had been asked to make and they were giving it their heart and soul. Not many dragonkin carpenters had the chance to make a single thing for a royal. It was an honor that they would brag about their entire lives.

Chapter 893 Don't Wake Me Up!

"You three were late today. I thought at least Onyx would have come back first to rest and stay by the fire with Midnight." Gil had managed to shoot down some white sparrows and was currently roasting them on the fire. They were a common mountain bird that had pure white feathers to match the snow in the mountains. They were small and hard to hunt but had immense nutrition. The skills that the white sparrows had were all directed at camouflage and storing nutrients for the colder months on the mountain so even a small one could feed two people.

"I was warm in the forge. Brother also made his first light rune and I wanted to have a snack." The smug tone in Onyx's voice as he spoke in to their heads was a little more so than usual. Walker could only gather that it was because he had the chance to absorb the light elemental mana from Walker's successful light rune and he thought everyone would be jealous.

"Leader, if you are making runes then you should be able to forge better items by yourself soon, correct?" Su wanted to hear what he was planning if he had a sudden new skill in rune carving.

"Not at all. I spent hours just to be able to carve a single working light elemental rune. It's the most basic one and doesn't do anything other than slowly draw the light elemental mana toward the area it is in. To get the results we would need on items, I would need months of training. But it is exciting that I will know how to do these things." There was a small glimmer of excitement as Walker imagined that he would be making near invincible rune carved armors and flaming rune carved spears.

"Well, while you were forging I decided to visit their alchemy lab and discover that they barely use alchemy up here. They are slow and don't have much need. They had stored potions that can last them years. The alchemists just preserve knowledge and lack refined skill. I brought it up with Illia and she agreed but they would not need to force their alchemists to work and learn. I really wanted to bring a dragonkin alchemist to the guild." It was safe to say that Remey was overall, miffed. She had wanted to expand the guild and more importantly, connect the village for it to trade more securely.

"At least you have the deal with the snow bell flowers. You shouldn't try and force them in to things they don't want to do." Gil was still working on some of his arrow shafts while watching the white sparrows roast. But he had enough attention to pause and tell Remey that she had some good deals already.

"Actually, when you open the alchemy guild you might attract some of their attention. They are alchemists that have not been able to fully study to their desired level. Maybe they are just waiting for the chance to let loose and try new things. Plus, there will be a lot of knowledge in one place. The dragons would be foolish to miss the developments in any field that they could use." The logic Walker

had made a lot more sense and was exactly what Remey needed to cheer up. Her face became less scrunched and a lot happier even though she did not openly smile.

"By the way, did you see what they are making for us? I thought we would stay for another day but it looks like they are preparing for us to leave already." This made them all a little sad. Gil had asked about the flying basket as well and was sad that he couldn't explore more of the small village longer.

"I want to say that they are preparing it too early, but since we said we would leave in three days maybe they counted the day we got here. Or there's the possibility that tomorrow we will need to meet with Adair and say farewells. To be honest, there are a lot of royal traditions and this feels like one of them in the dragon culture." The party agreed and started to eat what Gil had caught. The wandering blacksmith managed to have a few bites before he had started to fall asleep. The mana that he had used to carve the intricate runes was already exhausting him. Working with a new material and creating the new tool set was the final nail in the coffin that sent him to dreamland.

The rest of the party followed suit and stoked up the fire before they put their heads to their pillows. The only one that was still awake was Midnight who had taken it upon herself to gnaw on the bones and make them her dessert. She was spurred to get stronger and be able to fly sooner than later and this was one of her small actions to make it happen.

When the morning came, Walker found himself having serious trouble waking up Midnight. She had been awake much longer than she should have to practicing some of her elemental breath attacks. She kept things close to her and breathed only small amounts. Her goal was switching between elements so that she could one day do it instantly. The downside was, that she had not slept normally and was not fighting Walker at every turn.

"Midnight, you are going to miss breakfast if you don't get up!" Walker thought this would do the trick but instead, he found her burying her head deeper under her wing to avoid the light. "Fine, then I will just eat all of the food that Shay said they are preparing for us. It's a shame you will miss traditional dragon village dishes." Walker was nearly knocked to the ground when Midnight jumped up. Her enthusiasm had been completely renewed.

Chapter 894 A Proper Meal

"Lord, the elder had requested you to visit her chamber before you are to leave. She wishes to have a final meal with you." Shay was uncanny with her timing having returned again to lead them formally. The party had just finished cleaning up the place they had used as their temporary camp and Walker had lowered the earth walls. He could only blame it on the dragonkin that had impeccable hearing.

"Then we shall follow your lead." It was a simple phrase but one that Walker was sure to act to the fullest. He was going to attempt to show Adair his best. He wanted to make sure that he had taken her advice and words carefully so that he could show up and act the part of a royal dragon when he went to the main village in some months. Midnight's learning then would depend on how they acted and he could not let her down.

Seeing Walker acting and feeling his determination, Midnight followed suit. She walked to his front with Su falling in line in front of her. Su had her head high and the earth dwelling shield ready for an instant movement. Midnight was holding her head as tall as possible and even had her wings slightly outstretched to appear larger and more intimidating. She wasn't sure where this posture came from but it felt right.

As they arrived Gil took up the rear with Remey. Onyx left Walker's shoulders and took the side while the wandering blacksmith took another side. It was a strange formation since Walker would prefer the wandering blacksmith with his weak combat abilities to be center. However, this formation made Walker who was acting as a royal stand out.

The dragonkin of the entire village lined the entrance of the carved cave that Adair called home. The scene was silent and powerful with every draconic warrior wearing armors. This was a show of power and pride as dragonkin that only would be presented when an ancient dragon or a royal dragon came to the village.

As Shay guide them, she began to glow with mana and an armor began to appear around her. The spikes along her tail and back became apparent and she looked closer to a dragon than any other dragonkin. The armor was made from an unknown flexible scale that seemed all too similar to a blue snakeskin. It flexed just right and it was clearly the perfect armor for a martial artist that would bend and twist during a fight.

"Elder Adair, pure water dragon and appointed head of the fourth branch village of water dragons. Your loyal Dragonkin warrior had brought the honorable royal and his champion to meet you for a meal." Shay was kneeling on the ground with her head down and palms on the earth. It was a symbol of utter and complete respect for the leader of the village.

"You have done well in your position today. You live up to the villages expectations as the most powerful dragonkin warrior. You may step aside." Shay stood and moved to the wall where she lowered her head to signal her movement was done. "Lord, I greet you on behalf of this branch village and welcome you to my home. I have prepared a meal fit for your prestige and hope to converse with you." The fact that

Adair was in her dragonkin form and lowered her own head for a moment was different. Walker had expected her to be in full dragon form but had the feeling that it could be construed as rude of her.

"Then we will eat. I expect good things from this meal. We shall see if my champion approves of this as a use of her time." Walker's high and mighty attitude made him want to flinch and apologize. Yet, Adair moved to pull a chair at the head of a stone table. There were already many dishes around it with easy access from Midnight to eat as well.

"These dishes were prepared using the unique and high quality ingredients from the gardens and game around this village. They perfectly represent the tastes of the village." Adair watched as Walker gazed at the table and finally sat down after directing his group to sit. Adair was the last to sit showing respect.

Walker had read that the draconic guardian would usually eat first as a test of the food and to show that they were the front line of the defenses for the dragon champion and the royal. Su had also learned this and reached out to the roasted meat she was sure you be the main focus of the dishes. After she took a bite everyone watched her for a moment and she started to cut and serve it. This was the signal for everyone to eat and freely speak.

"That was a very good entrance. This is how many royals visit and expect a village to respond. The main village will be different but you will be welcomed by the court members that stay in the main village. Currently, it will be the earth, light, and water royals. The dragons which stay changes with their whims. It is rare though that they leave or come." This was good to know. "I also recommend that the formation you have places the rest of your party behind you. Having people on your sides shows you are standing equal with someone and is seen as weakness." Walker took note for the next time he would encounter dragons. "I hope you enjoy the food. Illia personally hunted the jagged mane boar for this meal."

Midnight could barely control herself when she had been given a piece of the roasted meat. The jagged mane boar was proving to be a hidden delicacy. Not only was it roasted and seasoned to perfection, but the energetic feeling they had while eating it proved that it was a high quality and most likely some of the best they had ever eaten.

Chapter 895 Written Invitation

The entire group ate to their hearts' content. The food was extremely well prepared and was enough to fill their bellies. Midnight was even ready to try and nap if she didn't have the mental strength to remain awake for more conversation. "It is acceptable to compliment the food. It is actually a very big compliment to the entire village. The chef may even be asked to come out and bow to you if you are extremely impressed." Adair had seen that everyone was happy and wanted to make sure they knew that compliments to the village and small details are very welcome in the main dragon village.

"In that case, the food was exceptional and I hope that the chef is told that every single day," Walker spoke for all of them. The resounding mhm, and best food ever, from the group, just added to it.

"Thank you very much. I have not cooked since I was younger." Adair surprised everyone by admitting that she was the one to cook. It was clear that Shay had known though due to her smaller smirk showing. It was interesting that Walker was able to see the smirk on Shay's face even though she was fully shifted in to a warrior form. It was something he had a sixth sense for due to being around Midnight for so long.

"I know you plan to leave and I will not hold you long. The journey will take some time since I have asked Illia to take you on a tour of the mountains around here. She will also be teaching you about the trails for you to take when you travel back here in your lifetime. They are best visible from the air." Adair knew that the party may return one day and seeing the view would be ideal. This was also a good chance for humans who couldn't fly to get a feeling of what it is like being a dragon in the sky.

"We would appreciate that. I will memorize them as I look below. It will be very good for the travels in the future. I am sure we will need to go through the mountains if we ever want to go to the desert in the future." Walker knew that their quests and adventures may one day take them through the mountains. He was not foolish enough to ignore such a valuable chance as to see the shorter and more efficient trails around the mountain range.

"Now for some final advice. When you go to the main village, bring some monster meat as a gift. Many hunt monsters on their way there and give it to the village so that the hatchlings can have strong meals." Adair pointed at Midnight who was still slightly snacking even though it was clear she was full.

"Also remember this dragon saying, never fly too high in the sky. You may not be the only one with wings. It has been around for some time but it is to tell us that sometimes we must think of where we are going. Control ourselves. And avoid unnecessary risks. I wish I knew the origin." Walker wasn't sure either because dragons were the dominant species in the sky. Yet, he memorized the saying anyways so that he might hold himself from saying anything foolish in the future.

It wasn't the most fluid saying but Walker remembered it easily. "Your hospitality has been appreciated. I still don't know how you knew that Midnight and I had an equal contract but I'm very glad you did." Walker believed that they had gained immensely from this meeting. He was both interested and worried about going to a larger dragon village.

"When you get old enough you start to get some interesting instincts and sight." Adair laughed a little keeping her secret. "I hope you know that you will be welcome at this village anytime as long as it is allowed by my lord." Adair would leave the invitation open but knew things may change after they visit the main dragon village.

"This may be a little forward since dragons don't often participate in other races' affairs... there is a summit with multiple races in a short time from now. It's based on a new city being built and is like to invite the dragonkind as a race. Do you see that as a viable option?" Walker had thought of this in some depth and decided it would be wise since Midnight and he would most likely be in genesis often. And with a trade deal for the alchemy guild, a dragon or dragonkin could visit the city anyway.

"I can not promise a thing. However, I can send a letter to my lord. It is rare for the dragons to act as a race. We usually act as a species under our lords. If it is interesting enough my lord may send someone or potentially go themselves. I will give my best. It sounds as if having relations with your future village will be beneficial. Being related to another royal's village is very touching."

Adair was misinterpreting this as Walker's invitation to his village. Yet, as Walker thought about this, the Genesis city was his village. He and his party's will had pushed it in to existence. The other races and rulers also played a part. Since he broke norms for most races what was another? The city could be his village but run without him as a ruler. It was perfect to welcome dragons and put the races on a more equal footing.

"That is a good idea, I will make Genesis my village but it will be different." Walker did not fail to notice that Shay began recording his words about the races coming together. Adair even seemed to smile wider hearing something new for the future instead of the same old secluded boredom.

Chapter 896 Proper Farewell

"I will do more than just send your letter. I will put in a personal recommendation. I have been watching you and your family since you arrived. I do not see any reason to fight against you and I have been alive for long enough to become an elder. I like to believe I can judge someones' character by now. " Adair was impressed by the depth of thought that the party and the other races had put in to a new city. It was even better that it would be a dragon village because it could be seen as a boon for them. However, there was also the chance it could become a frowned upon happening. But the fact that Walker was considered a royal fixed that. Royals were absolute.

"Thank you very much. I am very grateful. Midnight and I are very excited to see what the main dragon village will look like. I am sure we will find too many things for us to learn in just a short time visiting there. Luckily we have plenty of time to prepare. I will have ornate armor for myself and if Midnight wants it maybe she will have it. But she can make her own armor so may e not." Walker was referring to

Midnight's bone armor skill that created armor of bones from the ones she had eaten. Any armor would just get in the way of that skill.

"Ah, yes. Skeletal dragon skills. I see. Then she should use that skill consistently while in the main village. It will show off her strength. I would actually recommend training it to be on all the time. A skill like that will make her stand out above the other dragons." Adair was sure that more than just one royal would be able to see this. "You should also be ready to stand in the air constantly. It will make you appear to have an endless mana pool. The royals might struggle to do such things after hours or maybe days. But if a human manages to constantly stand in the air with a skill, well, they will have to respect you more." This was a little touchy advice since Adair was telling Walker to outright do something to butt heads with the royals.

"I will begin to train more as soon as I am back. Midnight on the other hand...well, she can wait too." Walker saw that Midnight was in no shape to begin harsh training. She had eaten way too much food and was forcing herself to eat a few bones so that she could get stronger. If she could not use her skills to process food the way she could, she would be a fat little dragon by now.

"I hate to say this, but I believe that Illia has just finished preparing to escort you home. She has prepared a package of what was promised to you all with a few things from the treasure room from me. It should help your little alchemy guild to grow. I might even send my villages alchemists there to explore." Adair hinted this to Remey who became wide eyed and fidgeting with excitement.

"Those arrows you made with the honorable grand spirit were very impressive. Even I would feel some pin pricks from that." Adair was very tough at her age and level. But Gil's arrow used very potent wind elemental mana and could give her what was akin to a paper cut to a human. It was an impressive feat for someone at his level and age.

"My warriors wish to see you again in the training area. Shield users are rare and you have broadened their minds with new style ideas. New people to train with are very rare and usually happens every few years. I was also told that you have a knack for the defensive skills in the book I gave you, please keep it. I would much rather see it going to good use." Su was quick to give a slight bow. She didn't want to show how happy she was to be praised and able to keep the book she had not finished reading yet.

"I never expected to meet an abyssal serpent again. It is rare for your species to roam around and have such high intelligence. I hope that you can follow the heroic actions of your family and avoid the false myths about your species. Maybe one day you will bring them back to a state where they could become a race. I do not know much about your species but I do know that you may live close to the same age as

I will." Adair left that with Onyx which was a very large surprise for him since he didn't think he had been noticed.

"There is also something for your forging. I hope to see the armor you make the new lord." The wandering blacksmith placed a hand over his heart and bowed. He had appeared before those with higher status before and found that this was an appropriate thank you. If he refused he knew that the worst could befall him.

"Shay, please escort these guests to the edge of the village." Adair grew serious and looked at Walker. She stood and bowed her head. "Lord, I thank you from the depths of my heart for your enlightening visit. I hope to see you well when we next meet." This was a proper goodbye and Walker was sure to memorize it.

"Your hospitality was welcome. I have seen your village and feel it is up to standard. I will visit yet again Adair." The acting came back in to effect before Walker and the party left with the same formation they came in with. However, Onyx and the wandering blacksmith were behind Walker this time. Adair just smiled as she felt that her race might just start to open up and look at those beneath them for once in their history.

Chapter 897 Memorize The Trails

The outside of the carved cave had been changed. The dragonkin were nowhere to be found. They had done their duty and now were required to make themselves scarce as not to be in the way of the royal leaving. It was the normal measure taken when a royal left a village. Mostly due to the large wingspan, a dragon would have when taking off.

The carved wooden basket was now painted with brilliant blues and some gold highlights. The entire thing was much more than what the party had expected. They would have a lot of room to even lay down during the flight back. The dragonkin carpenters had used many of their finest skills.

Walker found the large crate that had been left for them. Remey almost went to work opening it without thinning since she knew there were herbs inside that she could use and study. However, Walker had been faster and stored it away before she even touched it. There was a slight glare from Remey but she understood that they would need to wait until she was at the alchemy lab for them to really get in to exploring what herbs and seeds she was given. However, she had a sneaking suspicion that they were the ones she had been looking at and studying.

"I shall uphold my deal with you, Lord. Please prepare yourselves for the journey back to your home. IO will show you the start of the trail to the main village. It is only able to be seen from above due to the

other trails around it. "Illia was sure that she could fly to the human kingdom in less time than any other means of transportation. But if she rushed and did not do what Adair had told her, she would be in a poor position when it came to the guidance she would receive. She also had gained some respect for humans for the first time in her life, although, she was a little annoyed about the fact that they had touched her centennial ice. She now made sure there were markings all around the area to show it was hers.

"Alright, Midnight, make sure you pay attention to how Illia flies. You can learn a lot from this." Midnight had already been paying very close attention to every movement from Illia's wings since she met her. But after Walker told her to do so she came to the realization that she would be able to learn a much deeper detail of flying from directly underneath Illia. The response was a sharp growl of energy. "And Onyx, it will get cold up higher so you might want to slip in to your tattoo form to stay warm." Onyx had thought of this too and followed Walker's advice.

Zephyr had left the bow slung on Gil's back and already rushed in to the air. There was nothing that he could do. Su's partner the earth spirit had also returned to the shield to rest after exploring the carved cave with vigor. The only spirit that had remained around the entire time was the alchemy fire spirit that didn't seem keen on leaving Remey or a fire nearby. Their bond seemed to be much closer since Remey needed its help consistently while making potions. The two were more like the same being than two separate spirit and human.

Illia took off from the ground in a gust of wind while the group boarded the large wooden carved basket. It was easy to say that it was similar to a boat in some ways and would have been able to hold twenty more people with ease. Seeing that Illia was flying toward them in a speedy glide Walker shouted for everyone to hold on. The jerk that came next was expected of Illia since she was lifting the additional weight in the air. Yet, it seemed like this was nothing to her. The entire party knew she could easily lift up ten times the weight that they were at her higher level and age.

The rush of wind was too much for them as they rose higher and higher toward the clouds, It was not as high as they thought but it was much higher than they had flown on the way to the mountains. Walker was the only one that forced himself to stand and look over the edge. "That path marked with ice on one side is the trail I have marked for you. Memorize the turns and small stone statues we placed there of those who built the village."

Walker could barely make out the statues. They were definitely larger than a normal statue but nowhere near the grand size of an adult dragon. The key thing was that these statues were always at intersections and the tails that he could see pointed toward the proper direction to travel.

From the height they climbed to, it was clear that the branch water dragon village was far from any other village and considered the outskirts of the mountains. The taller mountains in the range were nearly impossible to consider traveling to if someone did not follow the trail marked completely. There was also the fact that the entire trail was not shown, just the part that passed by the branch village. Walker would have to learn from what he saw now how to get to the main village the rest of the way.

When Illia glided over the ending of the trail at the base of the mountain range, Walker made out a small and still green forest. He knew it must be keeping it that way and wondered how he had never heard of it until he remembered the extremely complicated draconic runes that had been mentioned. With so many years, it was clear that the dragons could make amazing things.

Chapter 898 Flashy Return

After they had left the areas that Walker needed to memorize, he sat down to find that everyone had adjusted to the wind and the ride in the air. "I'm telling you, the water elemental arrow is close to being the best water elemental arrow that's reusable." Gil had taken out the arrow he had been working on to show it off. He still wanted to show everyone the wind elemental arrow but this was his current project.

'Sea foam arrow

This arrow has high water and a small wind affinity. When fired it gathers a great deal of water elemental mana and a small amount of wind elemental mana. It does extremely minor elemental damage to the target. It truly shines when it comes to the form the water and wind takes upon impact. Foam will be created from the gathered water and wind to create a sticky and salty blinding foam all over a portion or the entirety of the afflicted opponent. This lasts until it is physically taken off. This is ideal for stalling and blinding opponents temporarily.'

"So it can blind a monster that is attacking us. That could be great. You don't like it because of the damage but because it could make a battle safer. A blind opponent could be easier to deal with than one focused on attacking and defeating us." Walker's evaluation was perfect.

"Exactly. So Su taunts it, I blind it, Midnight and Remey go in for attacks and you finish with ." The proud look on Gil's' face was all too telling.

"Are the fins made from the blue koi scales?" The find that Su was looking at appeared to be thin and carved. They were perfectly shaped and had the same color and patterns as the blue koi scales.

"Yes. When we were experimenting with them we found that they were able to react with the tiny amount of water in the air and help guide the arrow. It gave me some insight in to the curve skill that can change the direction of my arrows after I fire them. Eventually, I might learn it and be able to change the direction completely with wind." There was only pride in Gil's voice. He was very proud of what he had discovered.

"I'm pretty sure that your new arrow will be useless if we are in a watery environment." Remey was looking at the potential downsides. The party had never traveled to the Oceanside ports or villages. If they were there the water affinity monsters would not be affected at all by Gil's new arrow.

"That's where you might be wrong. Yes, the monsters might resist it. But with so much water elemental mana around it might amplify the effect and cause a smoke screen, or well, a foam screen. Perfect for escaping in a dangerous position." This fact was up for testing but made much more sense.

"Please hold on. The humans seem to have seen us coming and are very agitated. I will land as carefully as possible Lord." Illia spoke up and surprised everyone. They had traveled the distance I a quarter of the time it had taken them to get to the mountains. The speed of a dragon was not to be underestimated. Walker even knew that Illia had not moved at her maximum flying speed as to protect them in the carved wooden basket.

"Walker, It looks like we will have a full guard squad at least when we land." Gil could see with his sharp eyes enough movement to understand that the guards were gathering as some rushed to prepare for whatever may be happening.

"I can place you anywhere you desire lord." Illia was waiting for Walker to speak up so she could drop them off. It was already well past noon and she wanted to return to the village sooner.

"I would say in front of the adventurers' guild but there isn't enough room. The cathedral is too far from the castle where the guards will want us to go." After a few mumbles to himself, the decision was made. "Drop us in the castle courtyard where the soldiers train. It will cause some commotion but it will be easier to explain things." Illia moved the distance in just a few flaps of her wings.

The party braced themselves as they carved wooden basket touched down on to the stones. "I expect you to be able to fly when I see you again. I will look rather different as well." Illia didn't wait and flapped her wings to rise higher and rush off.

By the time the group exited the basket the guards and soldiers around were already around them with weapons drawn. "I wouldn't think that any of you could record a letter and bring it to the king explaining a few things? Could you?" One man with heavy armor came forward and motioned for the group to follow him to a receiving room.

"That was a very interesting entrance. I will forgive the fact that you landed in the castle this one time since you saved my parents. They were carpenters inside the carpenters' housing when the building burned and you helped get them to a healer. That being said, I do not speak for the generals above me or the king. So speak." The man was nice enough and Walker soon found out that he was the son of two carpenters. His parents chose to remain in the carpentry building to pursue their passion while he became an elite guard directly under a general.

The situation was explained to a degree and a letter was sent off. The group was actually lucky that the king was busy at the moment. Planning a trip to a new city was more work than any would believe. There was also the fact that the queen would be having a child in some months and there were too many things to arrange. This allowed the group begin their walk to the mansion faster than expected.

Chapter 899 Home Again

There was no surprise when the group faced the chaos of the streets. Many people had come out of their homes and places of work to view a dragon. This was something they didn't believe would happen in their entire lives. The simple fact that Illia had just arrived at the castle sent even more people in to some minor chaos. Some yelled about dragons attacking and others praised the dragons. Overall, it was a nightmare for the guards who were looking for answers as well. It took the entire night for the word of safety to come down from above.

"You think they would be used to dragons since Midnight has been here for like over a year." Remey was a little annoyed that she had to deal with the crowded streets.

"Midnight isn't as big as Illia and literally has frost coming from her scales. She also isn't big enough to cause wings with every flap of her wings." If Gil hadn't tried to rebuttal what Remey said he could have avoided the harsh punch to his shoulder. Unfortunately for him, he just had to try and argue with her.

"We literally just got back and you two are already at it again. Don't you want to rest and get a hold on what the heck just happened?" Walker was the only one seeing sense here. He had the feeling that everyone was just going over the fact they had somehow ended up with a dragon village.

"Leader, we have long accepted that this sort of event may happen. Even though we have strange and wondrous things happening every day, we are still a little shocked. However, there was a great boon

from this trip. We have a relation with the dragons now. We learned a lot. We still have the goal to prepare and travel with everyone to the new city." For Su, this was all just another amazing event to add to the pages of the story they were writing. It was to be expected that Walker would be the most affected by this other than Midnight thought. He had just been tossed in to a position he didn't know enough about and he had never thought would be his in the first place.

"I know you're right. But I think we should all call it a day and rest early. Tomorrow we will organize those herbs and materials we have left. And I will go from there." Walker trudged to his room and fell in to bed to sleep without even thinking about cleaning up first. He just wanted to sleep for the time being and that was what he did.

While he slept, Walker found himself in dreams of giant dragons flying through the skies. He also had many instances of food raining from the skies. When the sun brought him back to the land of the weakening he had the feeling that Midnight had some influence over his dreams. Especially because he could tell that she was hungry through their bond.

He cleaned himself up and made himself presentable before heading downstairs to find Gil, Remey, and the wandering blacksmith all in the dining room waiting for him. Su was out with Midnight in the training field trying to grasp some moves for blocking and defending. Midnight on the other hand was visibly trying to make her breath attacks do some damage. Both were working hard and it sparked Walkers' own desire to grow more.

"Sorry if I kept you all waiting. I was a little dazed yesterday. I managed to organize my thoughts. There is a lot to do..." A lot was an understatement. Between preparing to go to Genesis for the first time and making his own weapon, Walker would be fairly busy. There was also learning more about herbs and potions with Remey along with mentally preparing to see the rulers of the other kingdoms again. The simple fact that dragons may arrive also brought some added stress to the situation.

"Let's just focus on the most important and immediate things. The materials in the crate that could have use for my arrows." In fine fashion, Gil smirked and threw an arm around Walker's shoulders. He had been much too excited to make another new arrow and now was the only free time he had to bulk up on them.

"Oh yeah, right. That's the most important part. Forget the seeds and herbs that I could use you, you know, create a god damn guild, Gil!" Remey nearly tackled Gil trying to take him down. The only thing they managed was an awkward dance of pushing and shoving before toppling over the couch with Walker being pulled down with them.

Naturally, the wandering blacksmith was the one to laugh loudly at the three. He had been a lot more animated since they went to a dragon village and before Walker had gotten down from bed shared some words with Remey and Gil. They felt that he had become deeply bonded with their party and was truly part of their family now, more so than before.

"I guess this is one way to start the day. But if we are going to open the crate we should move the table again. I think there is a decent amount of items inside and I don't want to try to unpack it in a corner." The other two hefted Walker up with them and they moved the table. The large crate was bigger than the ones that had been delivered to the mansion and it was fairly impressive. The wood itself would be a good reusable material since it was the same as the carved wooden basket that they had flown in. Walker also had stored the wooden basket away before they went to leave their letter with the elite guard.

"Let's open this thing!" Remey cheered while the wandering blacksmith took the lead to pry open the top of the crate.

Chapter 900 Coal

The floral smell that assaulted their noses when the wandering blacksmith popped the top off the crate was overpowering. Remey was the only one unaffected as she plunged in to it to get to the herbs that she wanted to grow and experiment with. Before Gil and Walker could even make a move she had already placed everything on the table.

"These are the ones I studied the most and should have a use in greenhouses. They also can be used in the experiments for making affinity boosting potions. I need the old man now!" Remey was gone with a few herbs clutched in her hands. Walker would have followed her if he didn't have more to unpack.

The wandering blacksmith and Gil were already checking out the materials. Some were the same wind elemental materials that Gil had already collected. He was in awe at the amount of them packed in them. "I can make a hundred arrows at least from all of this." The sound of his voice trembled in excitement. Walker knew that Gil would be more than busy for the next two or three days.

There were multiple cracked scales from Illia in the crate as well. Each appeared to be perfect for what the wandering blacksmith was planning on experimenting with. However, there was still the matter of Walker's weapon. They now had the centennial ice forging hammer that should be able to counter Midnight's golden flames.

What had been left in the bottom of the crate was a simple copied book. It didn't appear to be special until Walker opened it to find that Adair had left him a second volume of dragon etiquette. The funnier part was that it was written by none other than Adair herself. "She made this just for me. I swear. She was really a lucky break." Walker had a great deal of respect for Adair and knew that this was more than just caring for a royal that could become powerful. It was a real friendship forming.

"How about I get Midnight and see if we can start to work on my weapon? You need to show off your new tools and hammer right?" The wandering blacksmith just gathered up the cracked frost dragon scales and made his way outside. Gil had already organized the arrow materials and planned to sit right there in the dining room to start his production. No one would stop him and Remey would be back to clean up and organize the herbs more. Walker had nothing to stop him from getting Midnight.

The timing was lucky for him since it appeared that Su was taking a break to practice her mental strength. "Hey, I could use your help in the forge. The components need to be made for my weapon. While you heat the fires I will try and absorb some natural mana to help get Fleur ready. I'm not sure how it will go though." Midnight bounded over to Walker. She had been getting bored of the training and waited to find something else.

"Good luck. I need to replenish mana and try to learn this calm mind skill. Apparently, it can be trained with the calm body skill so that I won't panic and react on instincts to run or block something I shouldn't." Su was struggling with the skill since it was a cooperative skill with another. Balancing mind and body would be a difficult task for everyone.

"I know you will make it work. I will leave you to it." Midnight and Walker left Su who was slowly trying to find the center of her being and truly understand her own body. Both skills would be perfect for her overall strength and would make her a much better guardian.

"I'm going to let you take the lead. I need to focus a lot on my natural mana absorption. If we can get the entire weapon done today then I will be able to train with it this week and be ready to use it for the journey." Walker was already thinking about what he would be able to do with the weapon that the wandering blacksmith thought up. However, it was all going to depend on how well they worked. There was a chance this wouldn't work at all.

The pair entered the forge and were greeted with the entire inside being rearranged. There was ample space now to move and work along with a singular work table instead of multiple. The wandering blacksmith had a pile of stacked diamond shaped plates the size of his hand next to him. Walker knew that they would be forged then engraved with runes once tempered using Midnight's golden flames.

There was also the moldable crystal ball which Walker would be responsible for altering to house every single elemental mana. The other materials were all around and had been prepared properly for an easier and more efficient process. The tools were also lined up in the order that they would be used.

'Burst stone coal

This is a rare form of coal used in the desert land to create tougher items. The coal is specially brought through the flame mountain pass and sold to forge masters. This coal burns for triple the length of time and shatters when heated to a certain degree. This released condensed earth elemental mana which allows the item being forged to be more malleable before it cools and hardens stronger and much more dense than before.'

"Burst stone coal? I have never heard of it before now. I assume you have a hidden stash for special items?" Walker couldn't help but be impressed by how sneaky the wandering blacksmith was. This burst stone coal was going to make their creation all that much better. There was only a small smirk as the wandering blacksmith tossed some coal in to the forge furnace and Midnight took a deep breath to light it. The process had begun.