

Master 91

Chapter 91 - 91. Elemental

The scroll had vanished from their hands, completely consumed now that the spell sealed within had been used. Su looked a bit weak as she had less mana than Walker and used most of it. However as they looked to Helena the changes were great. Helena who had previously been pale was now rosy cheeked and her eyes shown with energy.

Frederick saw this change and had jumped up standing in front of the bed, his desire to grab her and swing her in his arms was barely held back.

Walker knew that they would have a lot to go over so he was ready to excuse himself. "I know this is a lot to take in so I'll leave you all to rest." Before Su could stop him he left through the door. As his steps faded the sounds of excitement and crying had filled the room.

Walker was finally free to proceed with his studies. He had decided to first experiment with earth since the ground was everywhere. It was much like the same he did with water. He started by throwing a rock...nothing. Stomping the ground....nothing. Yelling earth wall in different accents....nothing.

He had the drive to try many things but felt again like a fool. The next hour of doing so made him look just as such. The sun had now risen enough to give him adequate light which was greedily absorbed by the abyssal serpent egg.

After almost two hours Walker threw some dust in the air "sandstorm!"

'Due to actions from the user in relation to elemental fusion skill two skills have been taken .

The skill earth manipulation has been taken from the earth elemental system.

The skill wind manipulation has been taken from the sky elemental system.

Would the user like to learn the skills?'

"Y-yess!" Walker pushed past his minor shock seeing two skills pop up.

'Skill wind manipulation has been learned.

Wind manipulation- mana 1+

Give the ability to manipulate the air. The more mana used the more the user can manipulate. This can not create air but utilize the air in the environment.

Skill earth manipulation has been learned

Earth manipulation-mana 1+

Give the ability to manipulate the earth. The more mana used the more the user can manipulate. This can not create earth but utilizes the earth in the environment.'

Walker was thinking, now that he had earth, wind, and water he would have to get light darkness and fire. The question was didn't he already have a darkness and a fire spell? Or what's evil consuming flame a light spell? Would he also try to manipulate time? He had a spatial skill too. He didn't fully understand the last two elements relation to the other six so decided to forego them for now.

Deciding to start with light and fire walker used evil consuming flame skill to create a white fireball in his hand. The theory he had come up with was that keeping it within his palm and keeping it burning he could manipulate the strength by forcing more mana in to it. To enhance this and relate it also to the darkness element he used the shadow of the mansion as his workspace.

Slowly increasing the mana would make the white flame brighter and larger chasing away the darkness of the shadows around him. However decreasing the mana the shadow would return to its normal strength. Walker could feel some heat coming off of it and was trying to ignore the slight burning feeling in his hand. He judged he had enough mana to test this for about three hours as long as he didn't use too much.

Unknown to him the abyssal egg had absorbed a significant amount of the light given off from the white flame.

The time passed and as walker noticed his mana dwindling he became a bit more reckless. Sometimes he would force the flame so small that the shadows looked to be swallowing it and others he would push it to its limit and have the shadow almost disappear. His hands felt dry and almost brittle from the constant heat but he refused to give up. He had sweat dripping from his brow. A complex expression showed on his face as he knew only a few precious minutes remained before he'd need to stop for the day.

Finally he hit one mana remaining and completely extinguished the flame. He fell to hit butt leaning back with a huge sigh. "Sooooo ttttiirreeddd!!!" He didn't want to move anymore he just wanted to nap in the sun that had now risen to conquer the shadows on the side of the house walker had been experimenting in.

He drifted off to sleep not even taking notice of the system in action.

'Skill darkness manipulation has been taken from the lord of the dark system

The skill light manipulation has been taken from the angels system

The skill flame manipulation has been taken from the flame elementals system.

The system has detected six elemental skills compatible with existing skill elemental fusion.

Skills have been fused:

Light manipulation, water manipulation, wind manipulation, fire manipulation, earth manipulation, darkness manipulation.

Skill grand elemental manipulation has been created and learned.

Skill grand elemental manipulation- mana 1+

User can greatly manipulate any of the six core elements: light, air, water, earth, fire, darkness. The user can not create these

elements where they do not exist.'

Walkers nap produced strange dreams of fire and water mixing to create steam. The earth burning endlessly creating lava. The wind throwing water and dust creating tornadoes and typhoons. Darkness water and earth creating poison swamps. Light, water, and air creating clouds of the heavens. So many ways for the elements to combine and natural phenomenon. For walker who was often lost in thought this dream was better than reading any book or tome. Lucky for him his dream was being recorded in his mental archive.

Subtle cracking sounds could be heard near him. Scratching and more cracking grew in volume.

Chapter 92 - 92. New Friends

Walker was awoken from his nap by something cold wrapping around his hand. Rubbing his eye with his opposite the blurry black form took shape.

A small black snake was curled around walkers left hand. It's head not even the size of a gold coin. It's black scales shimmered with a faint amount of light. It's small forked tongue flicked in and out of its mouth and its gold eyes focused on walkers face.

Walkers spun his head to where the egg was to find only shells.

"You hatched!!!" Walker let out an excited Yelp. He had been eagerly awaiting this little ones birthday. He could feel through their connection that the little black snake was cold and had decided to wrap itself in the warmest place which was walkers hand.

Walker was trying to contain his excitement as he slowly stood up. He didn't want to frighten the little abyssal serpent. However it didn't even flinch as it was comfortable being near walker. The blood contract had made a perfect connection. The serpent could feel walker intention and knew it was not in any danger. It could feel the warmth of the excitement in walker and was resting easy.

Walker went to collect the shell shards but decided to use his skill first curious if he should just throw them out. Especially since the shell which had been black was not pure white which made him more curious.

' abyssal serpent egg shells

Once the abyssal serpent has hatched the energy within the shell is absorbed in to the newborn creature. The leftover shell can be used as a stabilizer in antidotal potions. It gives an enhancement to the potions ability to absorb poison due to its new lack in energy.'

"Huh interesting." Walker mumbled out loud while mentally scolding himself for almost throwing something important away. He picked up the shell and brought it to the alchemy lab finding a place on a shelf so that it could be used at a later date.

Walker had an extra bounce in his step as he walked inside. All this excitement was invigorating. He knew Gil was away and Remey was at the orphanage. He didn't want to interrupt Su and her family anymore today since they were celebrating Helena's healing. His father was likely still out and distracting Lisa from her work could anger her. His mother had left to deliver some breads to the guild so she could get fresh air and out of the kitchen which was understandable. Walker thought in the very least he could head to the kitchen and show the little serpent it's sister so it wouldn't be afraid of midnight when she was awake and moving about.

Upon entering the kitchen the same grey and black whisks of energy were softly flowing around midnight scales. She was breathing slowly deep in slumber. Walker lifted his hand so the little serpent could see "that's midnight, she's be your big sister. We found her in a forest and got her away from some dangerous people. She's part of the family just like you are now." As walker spoke he realized he hadn't even thought of a proper name for the little serpent. Through his connection with it he could tell it was a male which made him happy because he'd never had a little brother only two little sisters Lisa and midnight.

"Hmm a name...venom?" The serpent recoiled a bit. "That's a no...how about slithers?" More recoiling "another no...hmmm onyx?" Walker knew there was once a family with the onyx name but it had long merged with another and given up the name. The little serpent relaxed its slight coil and almost seemed to nod. Walker felt it was accepting this name. "Then onyx it is, my name is walker, that is midnight and you are onyx. Later I'll introduce you to my sister Lisa, my mother Hilda, my father Gareth...." walker began rambling about everyone the little serpent would meet in the mansion. It would be a big day.

As walker chatted in the kitchen Lisa who had grown hungry having skipped lunch to keep working found him on the floor talking to his hand like a nutcase. " oh no my brother broke his mind!" Lisa was convinced Walker had gone crazy from training.

" Pfft boo I'm fine you're the crazy one locking yourself away to work. I remember when you didn't want to practice." Walkers witty response was just as an older brother should. " no I'm here talking to little onyx who just hatched today. Onyx this is my little sister Lisa, Lisa this is onyx our new little brother."

Lisa did not expect a little black snake to be curled around her brothers hand and instantly became infatuated. "He's soooooo cute and tiny!" Lisa carefully stretched a finger out to pet the top on onyx's head. Onyx rubbed his head in to her finger obviously enjoying the warmth. Him and midnight would get along very well hanging out by the oven.

Lisa had known they found an egg as walker had explained it at dinner the night prior however she did not expect it to hatch so soon. For her it was almost like it happened in the blink of an eye. " you're going to have to be a good big sister and make sure you help me show him around the mansion." Walker was just as excited but decided to let Lisa take the lead for the tour.

Springing up from the ground "I can do that! We can take a tour right now!" From that moment on the spent a whole hour touring the mansion telling onyx where everyone's rooms were and what other rooms were used for. They even visited the library which seemed to peak onyx's interest greatly. Maybe onyx was a bit like walker and craved knowledge. He had just hatched after all. Being in that dark egg for much longer than it should have before finally being able to meet the right conditions to be born in to the world. Walker made the mental decision to show onyx the world!

Chapter 93 - 93. Preparation

The rest of the day passed fairly uneventful as everyone met onyx as they returned home. Gil and his father had been the first to return and had successfully caught a wild boar for dinner.

As they had eaten Helena had thanked the party profusely, and Frederick continued to offer anything they ever needed. Su seemed to be in a radiant mood. She appeared even happier every time her mother started a conversation or spoke with emotion since it had been a rare occurrence with her previous illness. It had seemed Gil's mother and Su's mother were hitting it off as they spoke of the garden and places to relax for tea. Apparently, a gazebo would be built in the spring and a swing was also on the list.

Walker could feel onyx had become tired through their connection. He looked at onyx and wondered where he would like to sleep. Instead, as Walker was about to ask the system notified him.

'Bonded creature onyx has used shadow ink skill on the user.

Onyx has gone in to a form of slumber.'

Before his eyes onyx melted in to a black ink like liquid and absorbed in to Walker's skin. What was left was a snake like tattoo. Walker could feel onyx was asleep and thought this was a great way for onyx to remain safe and warm while he rested. Walker knew he would need to research some more about abyssal serpents on their way from the auction. He wanted to find a book shop or even attend the city library.

Since midnight would still be slumbering to absorb the condensed understanding it would work out well for the party to go to the auction. Walker had a feeling brining a young dragon to a high society event might cause some trouble.

Walker had been lost in thought too long and before he realized it everyone had finished dinner and started to head their own ways for bed. With a quick reminder to the party about the auction he followed suit.

Sleep came easily and ended just as easily, however, the morning was goi to be a bit more interesting.

' daily quest

Purchase any item to enhance your ability within the party.

Reward:

Skill pertaining to the item.'

Walker rubbed the sleep from his eyes seeing the new daily quest. The system had been silent for a few days as if giving them time to rest. Now it had finally come with something new and it was interesting.

Walker knew this was going to be the wildcard in the group since anything he chose could affect the party. However, the question was what kind of daily quest did everyone else get? Would Midnight get one while she absorbed the condensed understanding? These things could keep him theorizing for hours but sadly he could not afford to do so.

The door sounded as if it would fall from its hinges as someone pounded on the other side. "Hey Walker, you got this weird daily quest too right? Walker! Get your butt up and meet in the front hall!" Gil sounded impatient. He must have gotten a daily quest too and wasn't sure what to do with it. Not to mention I'm sure he was faced with Remey and Su as well.

Once he was dressed in his finer clothes he decided to top it off by wearing his travel medal the king gave him along with his new silver tier adventurer plaque. These would surely allow them an easier time conversing with the other guests at the auction. Knowing how nobles thought to a certain degree showing off their standing in both the guild and with the king could get them a significant amount of respect and if not that some common courtesy.

Once Walker had adorned himself as such he met the others who had definitely thought the same. Each had worn their travel medals from the king and also their plaques. They all smirked at each other knowing their smart thinking.

"So the quests, I got one saying on I need to buy an item based on my Ranger system so like do I need a new bow?" Gil couldn't wait any longer, Remey and Su had tried to calm his worry but failed. Gil had just gotten his bow and feared he would have to give it up. It was his dream now how could he trade it away.

Seeing this worry Walker knew immediately where Gil was coming from but had an answer. "No of course not, it just needs to be something related to your system right? So maybe some boots that help you sneak? Or maybe some strong arrows? It could even be new bracers to protect your arm from the bows reverb." The one key thing Gil had missed by focusing on his weapon was that there were many other aspects in his system. "That goes for you too Su, don't only focus on your shield. Remey you and I both know you could use some better armor but if not that then please nothing too crazy." Walker feared Remey would buy some insane claws or metal knuckles that she wouldn't use or lacked proper skills for.

"Pfft I don't even know what you're talking about. Like I would even want to buy spikes to put on my boots..." Remey had let it slip. She could feign not wanting them but her attitude spoke the opposite. Everyone else had hope that Walker's warning would be enough. They all also feared Remey getting angry and kicking their butts with spiked boots. Not a pretty sight to imagine.

"I might still buy something for midnight if we see it but I feel like she won't care unless it's food." Walker laughed a bit sure that midnight wouldn't even be interested in the auction anyways. Yet he did know he might encounter something unique to purchase for her.

"Well not to rush everyone but how about we all head out and meet Clara to pick up our tickets at the guild. We can also ask for the results of the basement. We might just have some extra funds for the auction itself!" Walker slipped up allowing some excitement to show. As much as a peaceful morning enjoying the city could be, it seemed all they could think about would be the auction.

Chapter 94 - 94. Claras Advice

The party drew many looks walking the streets, this time many weren't as negative as usual. Just the addition of nicer clothing and a metal was enough to change the onlookers perspective.

The guards had recognized the kings travel medal and immediately allowed the party to pass. This was proving more useful than usual since the party normally had to stop and wait for them to allow them in or out of the higher tier.

They also attracted looks from those out and about in the lower tier. The difference here though is every once in a while someone they knew with give a shout.

"Hey walker y'all headed to a fancy party!?" One guard who recognized him teased as their patrol passed.

This scene reoccurred three more times with a few craftsman and even one of his mother's friends who thought they all looked cute. Overall it was an embarrassing morning so far.

The guild came in to view and they sped up soon entering the door. Surprisingly the guild was fairly empty today. Easily finding Clara at the front counter "good morning Clara!" They all said their hellos and good mornings.

"Ah it's nice to see you here early, already dressed for the auction I see. Here are your tickets." Clara produced five tickets with inscription of the garnet family. Clara had been planning on giving them five so midnight could attend how're found midnight not to be present. " is midnight not feeling well?" Her worry evident in her voice.

"Oh no she's just sleeping away after the trip. She'll be asleep for a while longer. By the way why is it so empty in here?" At this point everyone seemed rather curious to why the lack of commotion in the usual busy guild first floor.

Clara had heard this question more than a few times today therefore the response was instant. "There's a mug merchant party that left and hired many guards. It's heading to another country so it's expected for them to get many guards to properly protect the cargo around the clock." They had all left before the sun rose this morning making for a fairly peaceful sunrise. For those that worked on paperwork today was a lucky day to get ahead and really maximize their effort.

"So on to another matter, the research and dissection division finished the evaluation. In total the equipment, weapons, monster parts, and other items were traded for a significant amount of gold. Your total within your party bank now is 3476G. Please do not get too excited tonight at the auction. I would hate to see another party lose itself in greed." Clara's advice was not unfounded it was fairly common for some parties to fall in to the trap of spending all their money as soon as they got it.

"Actually about that, can we pay using our plaque as identification? We all received a quest and will be making some purchases tonight as well as selling." Walker definitely didn't want to show off their gold by bringing it with him. It would have been much too showy to use special over and over to pull out payments.

Clara was surprised they didn't already know, "those plaques are bound to your specific mana, if you use it as identification the auction house can accept it and the payment will be transferred from the party bank." This was a relief. One less thing to worry about. "I know it may be rude but I don't remember you having a tattoo Walker, where did it come from?" Clara was a bit worried walker had u kicked a strange skill or even worse fallen in with a sketchy group.

Walker looked down remember onyx who was still asleep. " oh would you like to meet our unofficial sixth member?" Clara's eyebrows hunched up in confusion. New member? While Clara looked at his hand walker used his connection with onyx to softly nudge him awake, it would also be good for onyx to meet Clara and get used to busier streets.

The black ink started to pool up over walkers hand revealing a small black serpent wrapped around. "This is onyx an abyssal serpent that recently hatched! Onyx this is our parties manager, her name is Clara and she works here at the adventurers guild. Well come here often, it's lucky it's not too busy today so you can take a better look." Onyx's head was on a swivel, he couldn't take in the new sights fast enough but eventually focused on Clara. She was extremely smitten with the little black serpent which had miraculously appeared. This type of was rare for a contracted beast/monster to have. Knowing this Clara had an idea of what a manager should do.

"Ah well nice to meet you onyx, and welcome to the adventurers guild. Once you grow large enough we'll figure out a plaque for you as well. Walker, should I take it you'll need more information on how to properly raise such a creature? Also maybe more materials on dragons like Midnight?" Walker nodded his head since Clara perfectly saw his plans. "Good then as your manager I'll take a look through our archives, we gather many materials not necessarily housed within the libraries due to the guild specifically gathering them." Clara smiled triumphantly knowing she had executed a perfect move for a parties manager.

"Yes that would be excellent, we were going to search bookstores in hopes of finding something on dragons or abyssal serpents. Now we can focus on other things." Seeing that their afternoon would be free the party started thinking on what else they may do.

They said their farewells to Clara who seemed excited to go find some different materials from the archive. It was a rare opportunity to be able to peruse the archives for something related to rare monsters. Especially dragons.

Now with the afternoon off Remey had decided to drag everyone to the orphanage, she may usually be a bit rough around the edges but since almost everyone was with her she wanted to show them off.

Chapter 95 - 95. Auction House

We passed the hours talking and playing at the orphanage. We'd stopped to get food and had a pretty nice picnic outside in the front yard. It may have been cold but the sun was still bright in the clear sky. Even son wouldn't stop the vendors in the market so why would the cold stop us from enjoying the sun?

Once our meal Had finished we headed straight to the auction house. It was within the higher tier and near the main barracks. That was another reason why the garnet family was able to gain such airtight security.

The barracks were where most of the soldiers trained and some of the higher ups held offices. Often promising young soldiers would be chosen from the classes of the academy and brought to the barracks

to learn under the higher ups. They would usually be given specific weapons and guided towards certain skills. This was a frustrating point for some since not everyone system supported their option. Luck could play a huge roll. Nobels often also had a step up since they had more resources to make whatever system they unlocked viable.

Approaching a tall marble building the party was in awe. Large grey and white marble columns held up a strong stone roof. The massive wooden door was painted with gold leaves and vines. Two well dressed men stood waiting in front accepting tickets.

The party climbed the ten stone steps to the entrance, "hello and welcome. May I ask to see your tickets sirs and madames?" The man to their right held an open palm awaiting their tickets. Each member of the party places them in his palm. The man pulled a small pen which glowed slightly as he marked the ticket. "Your admittance is verified, I wish you luck today. If you are just purchasing you may head forward to the main room. If you are selling you can stop at the counter." His instructions were short and sweet. The party proceeded inside.

Lush red carpets and intricate paintings lined the floors and walls. Here and there a table with refreshments waiting for someone to need them. They could see the open space with a group of people chatting. But a few feet from the room there was a woman standing in front of a counter. An older man was sitting behind the counter with man different monocles dangling from his neck.

"Hello sir, would you like to have items appraised and registered for the auction?" The woman bowed slightly as she asked in greeting.

Walker began pulling things from his spatial storage. The old man didn't even flinch while the woman was fairly surprised. "My party would like to auction these corps spider eggs as packages with these undead bones and zombie flesh. Each package is ideal for a tamer who would like to raise a corps spider or potentially a skeletal spider. Also we have some aged berry wine. We Know how old it was and we personally procured it from the ancient ruins." Walker had said the last part to see if the old man would try and attempt any tricks.

The old man shifted through four different monocles examining the eggs. Small hmmm sounds and gruff hus sounds were common yet he hadn't spoke . He then looked at the wine, walker had only taken out eight bottles. He intended to share one with the king and hold the last for an extremely important moment for the party. He wasn't sure what moment but he knew he would like only the best for his comrades.

The old man shifted through every monocle he had before scrambling in a drawer in the counter. He pulled out a gold rimmed monocle inscribed with a star pattern. The look of concentration in his eyes was permeable. Even the woman who had first spoken seemed intent on hearing the appraisal.

"the egg package starts at one hundred and fifty gold. Rare monster but expensive to grow. Hmm you are lucky some from the tamers guild are attending tonight's so well boost the price to one hundred and seventy five gold." This was the offices lucky day! The tamers guild was rather small and often known to travel. This meant it had no set base of operation. The main reason being that it's members were always hunting for ways to improve their skills, tamed beasts, and finding new monsters to tame. Occasionally the adventurers guild would have a tamer leave and join the tamers guild or have dual membership. The relation was actually very good.

The old man didn't stop there and went in to the wine. "this wine is almost too exquisite for my skills. I had trouble viewing its quality. That being said you children are very wise to sell this. I'd say it's almost two hundred and fifty years old, that's to say the aging process. A truly knowledgeable person knows wine can sit and taste the same after a hundred years until it hits the perfect time and enters the aging process. This can be from the makers mana being diffused within. Even the lowest quality wine can become perfection if the mana within has enough time to bleed from it. In this case you found wine that was once thought of as swill. However it entered its aging process and was left for an extremely long time in that state. It went from swill to elixir if I were to compare the quality now. Starting but will be...Hmm I could start at nine hundred a bottle but i believe an even one thousand is more respectable." The old man finally gave up his facade of seriousness at these last words. Walker and the party were stunned by this starting price. They had really found a treasure!

"Now before you run off my name is Avis I have an appraisal system. I may not be a master appraiser yet knowing someone such as myself is always useful. May I inquiry your party name?" The old man now introduced as Avis had seen more than just the items presented. He saw promising youths who would most likely be returning here again with more and more interesting things to sell.

Chapter 96 - 96. Small Talk

Walker was glad to meet someone with such a system. He knew that his all around appraisal skill could indeed be limited as he progressed. Making a friend here could be a strong choice in the future. "Glad to meet you sir, you may if heard of us recently but we are the omnipotent party. I am the leader walker. My fellow party mates are Su, Remey, and Gil. Unfortunately our other member is currently busy and unable to attend." Walker didn't want to say sleeping, he felt that would sound insulting to the auction house.

The old man's smile became wider "ah so your the young ones causing all the commotion. I heard stories of the hero title, a dragon as a party member, and even that you've become silver rank. The last of which you show off to the world. Hmm wise indeed displaying your party status and relation to the

king. Well in any case no more dawdling here. I Avis Garnet welcome you to your first auction." Avis sat back down smiling and making shooing motions with his hands to send them in their way. It had been many years since adventurers caught his eyes so much so that the woman partnered with him at the counter had never seen him act in this manner. She had never witnessed Avis welcome a single guest in the past ten years she'd worked.

The party moved on leaving the woman stunned. Avis was thinking to himself that tonight would be an interesting auction.

The main room was large and lavish. A brilliant crystal chandelier was cent of the ceiling causing rainbow light refractions to dance in the air. Some armed guards dressed in highly decorated armor waited at the walls of the need arose. In total there were a little over thirty guests. Some wore pins or clothing with family crests. Walker spotted a group of three in the corner wearing cloaks embroidered with a beast claw and whip. Those must be the tamers guild members. Walker thought he should attempt to introduce himself before the start.

As they scanned the room Gil nudged his shoulder " isn't that the guy from the castle that wanted to get rid of midnight?" Gil pointed towards a mad who was wide eyed and almost fearful.

Nodding his head Gil then wondered "why do you think he's moving so far from us? Did your skill scare him that bad?" Gil was referring to walker dragons intimidation. It definitely engraved their party name in to those members of the court and guard. However the reason Markus raven was currently staying far away was smaller and cuter.

Onyx had climbed up to walkers shoulder to get a better view, thus letting others easily see him as well. One such person who immediately took notice was Markus raven. "If I remember right Markus Raven has a fear of snakes and little Onyx here is probably the reason. Hopefully he won't act out but who knows if he'll bid against us." Walker was fortunate not to have to deal with a dramatic scene but was also worried Markus raven would go out of his way to block them from making bids. This not only could effect their quests but also damage their growing reputation.

Remey was staring at a table completely ignoring the guests along with walker and Gil. "Hey I'm taking Su we're going by to grab a snack!" Remey dragged Su to a small table. Various candy coated fruits and miniature pastries had been put out for the guests. Remey had immediately zeroed in on some tarts with red fruit that shined with sugary glaze. Gil and walker gave each other a look, at least they knew Remey wouldn't be picking a fight with someone. Su looked just as happy.

"Well while the girls bond I'm going to walk around a bit and get a feeling for the room. Maybe I'll meet someone interesting." Shrugging his shoulders Gil made his way towards a small group of people who seemed embroiled in conversation. As walker tried to listen he heard the odd sentence about arrows being auctioned off. This must be why Gil wanted to head that way.

Since he was left alone and he could feel onyx's curiosity he headed towards the tamers guild members. He was also curious. The tallest one among them was a skinny man with long pulled back black hair. His features were sharp and he wore thick gloves. The thick gloves weren't normal attire so it must be related to the kind of tamed beast he had. The second member was rather short and plump man with brown and blond peppered hair. He had small mustache and seemed to be very distracted by food. The third was a slim athletic looking girl about walkers age. She had shoulder length reddish brown hair and too many freckles to count. Her emerald eyes seemed to pick apart any details, the phrase eyes like a hawk fit her well. That being said she noticed walker coming first and a flash of curiosity appeared within her eyes at the sight of onyx in his shoulder.

"Hello there, I see you're a member of the tamers guild. It's nice to see others with tamer skills tonight. My name is walker and this is my little brother onyx." The fact that he'd said, others with tamer skills, was not something the taller man missed. This basically said that the person introducing themselves as walker had a tamed beast but wasn't necessarily a tamer.

Casually extending a hand the tall man grasped walkers and gave it a shake "my name is Laurence I am the leader of this trio. The little lass to my left is Elise don't let her energetic personality offend you she doesn't mean to be rude. And well the other is Riley, I can't speak for his table manners." The man Riley didn't even look up and kept eating, conversation didn't even interest him in the slightest. On the contrary Elise walked a full circle around walker and closely took a look at onyx.

"Baby little snake there huh? It's cute but it could easily get eaten by birds. Are you sure it's ok to have the little fella out? What species is he? Does he have venom? How big will he get?" The bombardment of questions was too much to answer at much and if Laurence hadn't given a warning Walker may have taken it as rude.

Laurence grabbed Elise's shoulder stopping her a moment. She made an angry scrunched up face at Laurence for ruining her analysis. Walker took this opportunity to reply to some questions. " Onyx is an abyssal serpent, I don't worry about his safety if need be he can hide on my skin as a tattoo. And for his venom...well let me check" Walker looked within the system only to find something surprising.

Chapter 97 - 97. Baiting The Bidders

' onyx

Abyssal serpent hatchling

Level 0

System locked

Stats locked

Abyssal serpent hatchlings must enter growth stage to gain access'

"Ah yes he needs to grow a bit more before I can tell his characteristics. Well that's fine I am procuring some books on his species soon so that should help." Walker was a bit disappointed but also half expected onyx to need more time before being able to use a system. It was interesting considering that onyx had used his skill to become a tattoo. Thinking on it walker believed it was a natural born skill to protect itself while vulnerable and small.

"Awwwwee that's not fun, but at least you know he'll be little and cute for a little bit." Elise was all smiles as she held a finger to onyx. Onyx was studying this new person intently also studying. While the two gave each other the once over walker continued speaking to Laurence.

"I'm sad to say my little sister and the final member of my party couldn't attend since she's busy. I'm sure you three would have found her much more interesting since she's a cross breed dragon." Walker knew these words would hook them and maybe even give them time outside of the auction to speak. If walker could make connections with the tamers guild he could learn some insider secrets on how to properly assist in the growth of midnight and onyx.

Laurence was wearing a perfect poker face but was dumbfounded in the inside. He'd only met a tamer once with a dragon as their tamed beast and they were considered top ten in the guild. "Ohhh a dragon you say? Would this be the same one we heard rumors about? The heroic dragon?" Laurence had been in the city for three days and purposefully spent time dining in different pubs and eateries to listen to the current gossip.

This was impressive, not everyone who entered a new town or city would take the time to learn of the current gossip. "In that you would be right, my party all hold the hero titles. However that's not as interesting as our recent endeavors. Would you like to know? The adventurers guild had yet to release the report of our test to rank up to silver tier." This was the clincher, walker had set the bait by mentioning midnight and now would finish it by giving true three the first information on the ten packages of corpse spider eggs. Not only would this entice them to bid but it would also give them a step up to plan a strategy to acquire them. Not to mention adding to their new friendship.

Laurence saw this ploy but knew it held merits for him if walker was offering this information. He'd decided to take the bait and see where it lead. "That does sound rather interesting, we'd gladly welcome some new stories."

"Well my party chose the ancient ruins, and while there we were fairly lucky to encounter a small nest of corpse spiders. One of which was female, otherwise known as a skeletal spider. After dealing with the adults we found a clutch of eggs. Luckily we also had defeated zombies and skeletons. With those in addition to the eggs we were able to place a package of some zombie flesh, undead bones, and a single corpse spider egg in to the auction. Actually ten of them to be specific." Walker was intently watching Laurence's face to see the effect. His poker face was perfect and didn't show anything however walker could still feel a slight excitement in the air.

"That's rather interesting indeed, I did come here tonight in hopes of finding some gear that may benefit my training style. However finding rarer monsters to tame may work in our favor as well. If you don't mind I would like to discuss something with my little trio. To make up for cutting the conversation short we wouldn't mind meeting again. We are in the city for another week." Laurence knew stopping now was smarter so he could get Elise and Riley in the same page but did worry this would push Walker away.

Walker however was happy to hear this, they definitely were going to be bidding in the corpse spider eggs. This was well worth it. "if that's the case I take no offense at all, if you ask around I'm sure you'll find out mansion. You three are more than welcome to come to dinner one night." It was a bit sly inviting them to dinner to steal some tips but he knew they'd be too interested in midnight not to visit before they left the city.

"yes well gladly visit, our business should allow us free time tomorrow. It was very nice to meet a new friend with tamer skills." Laurence Layered it on a bit thick but was eager to see another dragon and couldn't refuse.

Elise had perked up listening about the spiders and even more so about going to the party's mansion. " yes it was nice to meet you onyx, walker. I can't wait to meet your little sister. I'll bring my Stella for you to meet as well." She smiled knowing Walker would wonder who Stella was but walker had already deduced it was an avian type of tamed beast due to her personality.

Riley had glanced up to look at walkers face at the mention of dinner but returned to eating. At least he had taken the moment to listen. With his goodbyes said and plans made walker headed towards Gil who had found an open cocktail table to lean on. "You look happy after meeting those tamers" Gil could see that everything went well.

"Oh you know just shared some gossip about corpse spiders at the auction. They were here looking for gear but after hearing that gossip needed to talk privately. Did you hear anything good about arrows?" Walker knew Gil would only have stopped roaming if he'd found what he was after.

"Ha Ha yea you got me, there's a few arrow packages up for auction. One specifically made so the arrow is faster. I'm interested in that one specifically. There's an ice arrow as well but it will take a lot of mana to activate properly and I don't think it's worth it." An arrow made to move faster coupled with Gils wind element was a dangerous idea. The ice arrow however sounded like a major hinderance. Walker nodded in agreement noticing that chairs were being brought out by attendants. The stage at the far end of the room had a table placed on it and was being prepared for the auction to start.

Chapter 98 - 98. Time To Bid

Seeing that things were about to start Remey and Su found walker and Gil. They watched as rows of red hooks tweed chairs were brought out along with a table of bidding cards. As the party leader walker headed up and accepted his bidding card. Their number would be 6. All he would have to do is raise his card and the bid would be made off the set increment, if he desires more he could shout a price.

The guests all took their seats, walker noticed Markus raven at the farthest possible seat, and Inwardly chuckled. The tamers had sat two rows ahead of them but Walker noticed Elise glance at them with a smile. This was a good sign for them.

The room started to quiet down as a tall woman in a flowing white dress took the stage. Her presence demanded attention. This woman was most definitely the one that would be selling the items today.

"Hello and welcome to our esteemed auction house of the garnet family. We are truly blessed to welcome you all here. Tonight we have some very interesting items. We shall begin with the sunburning sword at a price of nine hundred gold. This sword was crafted by a high sword smith. It has the ability to channel sunlight in to flames. We shall now commence the bidding..." walker let her voice fade out not

interested in the item at all. He would have been the only one to use it in the party anyways. Remey, Su, and Gil definitely didn't bat an eye at the sword either. Instead they watched as other guests raised their numbers in competition for each offer increasing by a hundred gold.

After about five minutes an older man with a thin sword insignia on his shirt was bidding against a retired looking soldier. The final price before the retired looking soldier gave up was one thousand seven hundred gold. This was a marginal increase for the seller.

Walker saw the soldier smirking however, a thought occurred to him. Did this man sell the sword then bid on it to raise its price? How sneaky. Walker knew he couldn't use this strategy on the corpse spider eggs because he'd made it known to the tamers they came from his party. Yet he did not tell anyone about the eight bottles of wine he'd placed in the auction. A sneaky smile had grown on his lips as another item was brought forth.

"This item is a special item crafted from withering wood. These arrow shafts have a stronger breaking point but lighter weight. This allows them to travel faster than your average arrow. This is a must buy for any who uses a bow. The starting bid for a bundle of one hundred shall be two hundred gold." This was not a bad deal, arrows were often cheap since many materials could be used. The nice part about these is Gil would be able to place any arrow head he desired on to these arrow shafts.

"Let the bidding begin!" The woman looked through the crowd.

"Number nine two hundred gold"

She quickly glanced to the side

"Number four two twenty five!"

"Number six two fifty"

Walker entered the fray his bid jumping in. Seeing that the increment was only for twenty five gold he realized that the overall starting bid affected the growth per bid. This was a valuable lesson.

"Number nine two seventy five"

Gil glanced at walker worried but also excited.

"Number six three hundred!"

The man holding the number nine hesitated. It didn't appear these arrow shafts were his priority.

"Once...twice....and three times it's sold to number six! You can retrieve your items at the counter as you leave! Congratulations!"

Gil wanted to rush away that second to collect them but knew the others were still looking for their very own items.

"We have a special item next, the same craftsman that created the previous arrows has also prepared a bundle of stabbing ice arrows. These arrows are engraved with rare ice . Upon contact, the arrow head explodes in to ice spikes causing heavy damage. The starting bid for this bundle of fifty is three hundred gold! Let the bidding begin!"

These were much more expensive and Walker counted himself lucky that Gil had seen the drawbacks. Remey and Su looked at walker half expecting him to bid but relaxed when he shook his head. They trusted his judgment and Gil also had shaken his head solidifying their choice.

The man who had been bidding for the first set of arrows was heavily betting on these arrows. This must be his true goal. Perhaps he was a al bowman. They were a rarer system but they needed arrows just like these stabbing ice arrows. The only reason walker knew this was his father had met a man with such a system while working and shared the story with Walker.

"Sold! Five hundred and seventy five gold!"

The price was much too expensive the Pfft breathed a sigh of relief knowing they could have spent all their money if they'd chose wrong.

"Our next item is one meant for those in the front line! These fleeting arm guards are made of fairy iron! They have the ability to enhance speed and the strength to block attacks!"

Walker glanced at Su and Remey, if either wanted these arm guards it would be perfect. Su lacked in the agility department and always liked to enhance her defenses. However, Remey needed the speed to dive or properly block attacks since she wouldn't always have Su to block for her. The arm guards had a strange silver hue to them and the attendant carrying them out could have been said to be holding feathers.

"The starting bid is two hundred and fifty gold. Let the bidding begin!"

Walker felt Su tug in his arm, that was all the signal he needed.

"Number six two fifty"

A moment passed and they thought no one would oppose them however they saw a hand raise.

"Number thirteen two seventy five!"

Walker immediately countered.

"Number six three hundred"

"Number twenty three fifty"

Now two people were fighting them for the guards!

"Number six four hundred!"

The anticipation was too much as Walker waited for the count. Su squeezed his sleeve tightly wanting to lock down the arm guards.

" once...twice...three times sold to number six for four hundred gold. Congratulations!"

Su breathed out a heavy sigh, "this is too stressful" walker couldn't agree more. But that was an easier bid then expected. The last bid seemed to be someone trying to push the price up but walker let it roll off. He told himself to keep a level head if his emotions ran wild he could loose his opportunity.

Chapter 99 - 99. Tamers Victory

They had gained two out of four items. Now walker had his eye out for Remey and himself. He also had hope he'd see something for midnight. A few pieces of armor and weapons sold but nothing that struck them as worth having. However just as they feared they would see anything a bright blue necklace was brought in stage.

"This is a special item with a very unique effect. It's called the reflection pendent and it was brought from a wandering trader. It is one of three we will be selling tonight. It has the ability to reflect weak spells and reduce damage of strong spells. This item could keep any from an unfortunate end. The starting price will be five hundred gold!"

Walker knew Remey had the lowest defense in the party and so did she. The second the woman in the white dress finished he explanation the two had already had a silent conversation with their eyes. This was the pendant Remey wanted. Since there would be three up for auction tonight walker decided to put up an intimidating bid.

"Let the bidding begin."

Walker raised his number in the air and shouted loudly "six hundred gold!" This was the first shouted bid of the night and everyone saw that this would be a tough fight. Knowing there were two more to be sold next those who walker had scared off rested easy. Those who had planned to bid decided to hold off so that they wouldn't be stuck with a hugely driven up price. Miraculously this left walker unopposed.

"Once...twice....three time it's sold for six hundred gold to number six. Your lucky day congratulations."

The woman appeared a bit unhappy seeing the others scared off but knew she could lure them to spend more on the other two. As she had the next pendant brought out the bidding became furious as others refused to let this one slip away.

Meanwhile walker smiled to himself. "That was a bold move but I'm glad you got me that pendant. It will definitely help me make it home to tell everyone stories." Remey was a bit embarrassed but she was impressed walker had shown more courage to scare off others immediately. As their parties leader he had gained a great amount of respect in that instance. Walkers smile turned in to a full grin, between Remeys words and see that the last pendant sold for almost double the price he paid he knew he made the right move.

Next was an item they had been waiting for,

" next we have ten sets of a very unique item. If there are tamers or those buying for tamers you should seriously consider this item. We have a package deal, you will be bidding on zombie flesh, undead bones, and a corpse spider egg. The seller painstakingly prepared these packages so you would have everything the hatchling corpse spider needed to grow. Each package will start at one hundred and seventy five gold. Let the bidding begin!"

Laurence immediately stood up. " three hundred gold!"

This was unprecedented, three hundred gold with much much higher than the starting price. Not only this but by standing Laurence was telling everyone that he would not stop bidding until he won. Not a single person dared to oppose them. Seeing the tamers guild insignia on their cloaks the guests knew they would be bidding against a strong opponent with much deeper pockets. Naturally Laurence was not opposed and won the first package easily. The second however Riley stood up and offered the same price. This was a great surprise since he'd yet to speak.

Again there was no opposition. Another package bought up by the tamers. Come the third Elise stood up offering the same price yet again. The guests were now just completely shaken three tamers in a row issuing a challenge. Walker had known that the corpse spider could make a valuable asset to a tamer with its venom and threads to poison and trap enemies. His underestimation came with the potential that it would be female. If it was a skeletal spider the defensive strength alone could make it an ideal bodyguard. Add on the fact that multiple corpse spider meant breeding potential it was a no brainer for the tamer guild to want ever single egg.

The guests believed that after the third tamer had acquired their package that they may have a chance. These important families had connections in the military and other royalty that would be in their debt to receive a monster such as the corpse spider to tame. However once the fourth package was announce all three tamers stood up. Laurence offered again the same price. This time however instead of saying

they were bidding they said "we bid on behalf of the tamers guild" at this the other guests felt robbed. If they had known the tamers first three bids had been from their own pockets they could have outbid them!

This sneaky strategy had swept the floor with every single corpse spider egg. To say the least the party was overjoyed. They had just managed to gain three thousand gold. They hadn't even seen their aged berry wine sell yet.

After the last package sold Laurence gave a polite nod to the party before sitting. Elise was visibly excited, it was sure to be tough for her to sit through the remainder of the auction.

"Those corpse spider eggs are a rare item to follow so we hope everyone is ready for the next. Here we have a pair of moon crystal earrings. These may seem strange but I promise they are more than meets the eye. Brought from the elven kingdom and crafted under the light of a full moon these earrings enhance one's perception. The starting bid will be four hundred gold! Let the bidding begin!"

Increase perception? Walker wasn't sure what this would mean and immediately used his all-around appraisal skill to get more information.

Chapter 100 - 100. Earrings And Wine

'Moon crystal earrings

Enhances the five major senses to better understand the environment. Opens the path to developing spiritual sense.'

Spiritual sense? Walker had heard this before when speaking to those involved with the church. Often those who had light affinity and skills involving healing would speak of spiritual senses. Walker was curious if studying spiritual sense would increase his healing and buffing skills.

The basic enhancement of the five senses alone was something that could help him remain vigilant while in any situation. Not to mention as a leader his decisions could hold his party members' lives. It may not have been a flashy piece of equipment but it could enhance Walker's decision-making ability and potentially other skills in the future. It was time for him to bid on it.

"Number 27 four hundred gold"

Walker held back a little this time knowing some guests would be anxious to bid.

"Number two four fifty!"

"Number one five hundred"

The fighting had escalated and soon the price hit six hundred gold. It seemed guests were bidding not for the item but to show force.

"Number six six fifty gold"

Walker had waited to see the bids slow down to make his move.

"Once...twice...number seven for six seventy five"

Someone had tried to jump in last second. The man holding seven was Markus raven. He looked much too happy to be pushing the price higher on the party. This was his small revenge for the embarrassment in front of the king. Walker wasn't ready to let him win.

"Number six seven hundred gold."

"Number seven seven twenty five"

"Number six seven fifty!"

This looked to be the moment Markus raven was smiling with glee at how much higher he had pushed the price. He didn't know that the party had just gained three thousand gold and no longer were in dire need for gold. Not to mention there were still times to be sold.

"Once...twice...three times sold for seven hundred and fifty gold to number six congratulations!"

Walker had spent more than he wanted but had pulled it off. He passed a relieved look at the others who were a bit confused and worried. They did not expect Markus raven to challenge them let alone walker to answer. This item must have significant value to walker. Gil in particular took note of how useful it would be while hunting to have improved senses and based his understanding from that. It seemed expensive but he believed walker would make it priceless.

"Our next item is extremely valuable and rare. These aged berry wine were pried from the depths of the encumbrance ruins. They have been through an aging process of nearly two hundred and fifty years. The quality was even a challenge for our appraiser. If you enjoy quality this is your item tonight! We will be auctioning eight bottles individually. Each will be starting at an even one thousand gold! Let the bidding begin!"

Not a single person bid immediately. One thousand gold for a bottle of wine? Aged for two hundred and fifty years? Each bottle would be over that age just to reach a proper aging process. The high society nobles in the room knew that this was an extremely high quality wine. Only the most elite would be able to afford and share this.

The tamers were not interested in this whatsoever and were visibly bored. However most of those in the front rows were looking to their aids. It was a calm before a storm, the first person bid and on came the storm.

"Number seven one thousand"

"Number two one one hundred"

"Number nine one two hundred"

The bids came in to a flurry soon racking up to a full two thousand! More than half those that started bidding in the first rush had bowed out in the first bottle. There were seven left and the party couldn't even imagine what would happen with those.

"Number seven two thousand two hundred gold"

Walker saw an opportunity and decided to gamble.

"Number six two thousand three hundred gold"

Markus raven immediately shot death glares at walker. In his anger he immediately responded.

"Number seven two thousand four hundred gold."

With that little jab at Markus raven walker didn't bid again. He simply pushed the price up an extra hundred to make a point. Markus knew this and instead of a happy face he showed an ugly rage as he was announced the winner. One hundred gold was nothing to him but it was the principal.

Walker didn't dare to push the price up again after the first bottle. Markus raven had been aggravated and now threw bids at every bottle. This act alone won him two more bottles but also drove up the price for everyone else. Walkers one gamble greatly paid off in raising the price of every single bottle. This gave them a grand total of twenty two thousand gold for the eight bottle combined. They were officially rich!

Remey and Gil had done the math in their heads and had begun sweating. How could such a sum of money even be possible? They never imagined that one day they could swim in gold if they were wanting. Su naturally was more resolved and silently freaking out while maintaining her poker face. Walker was all smiles. He felt accomplished from their first auction.

While they calmed themselves and accepted the large sum of money they were to be paid the auction continued. Some paintings and other art pieces sold along with some weapons and armor that walker found unimportant. However the woman presented a package of ten light crystals causing onyx to stir on walkers shoulder. These may be the next things he needed to bid on. Since abyssal serpents consumed light it would make sense onyx wanted the light crystals. Light crystals were basically concentrated light element. These could easily assist in breaking through to his growth phase. If so walker might just need to put in more muscle so he could keep onyx in his shoulder.