

Master 1321

Chapter 1321 1321. Rice Rats

"Never stop moving! You must focus on your surroundings so that you won't be caught off guard!" Onyx was slithering around watching each of the hatchlings move about. He had been focused on the eggs lately and given the hatchlings the job to get more familiar with the shadows. He wanted them to be the best at avoiding danger and dodging any potential threats.

With this came a unique way of training. Onyx would use his size to life up a large jar full of pebbles. He would then set it up on ropes so they could fall when he wanted them to. The hatchlings had the single goal not to be hit when they fell. They needed to jump in and out of their shadows to dodge them or use their speed alone. This led to Onyx finding better ways for them to move and safely dodge. There were limits to how a serpent could move but an incredible flexibility.

"We can stop there for now. All of you should rest well. Later we are going out in to the farm fields to help get rid of some small rice rats that have moved in to steal away the grains the demi-humans began farming." This was a surprise that Onyx had been waiting on. He wanted to get the hatchlings outside against some very weak monsters.

Rice rats were known for their small size which made many believe them to be mice. However, the rice rats had a small water affinity that allowed them to swim and steal away rice grains easily. This made them a pest for farmers trying to grow rice. Demi-human farmers had made some rice fields because of the river water nearby that could easily flood them. It was a water resistant crop that needed lots of water and could grow fairly quickly.

There was more energy in the room as the hatchlings started to get excited. They had explored a lot of Genesis with Onyx and even been given the challenge to head to the mansion alone to meet him. Now they would go outside and show off their training and knowledge more.

A few of the tamers that Elise had sent over were currently watching the eggs while Walker was training the hatchlings. He was very happy to know that the previous guild master of the adventurer's guild was going to be helping. Ibis had retired and was then thrown back in to his job when Genesis was created. Now he would actually get to retire along with enjoying a new city altogether. It really put Onyx's mind to rest.

A few moments passed by before Onyx started to move about more. He had prepared himself and was ready to go out. "Follow me, we will leave through the main gate. Do exactly how I taught you." The hatchlings remained right behind Onyx. As they moved in to the streets, Onyx kept his largest possible

size so that the people would see him. On top of this, the hatchlings remained close behind him. It was his way of making it easier for the hatchlings.

"Good afternoon, we are heading out to the farms to help with a quest." Onyx greeted the guards that gave him a wave. Onyx had taken a few small quests around the city so that he could recoup some of the money he spent on hatching the eggs. That way he had also made friends with most of the guards that knew who he was. They found that Onyx was surprisingly kind for a monster that was not considered their own race yet. They completely believed that Onyx would be the sole reason for the abyssal serpents claiming an official recognition by the world.

p The little hatchlings all gave a slight head nod to the guards who also nodded back. They were impressed that Onyx was raising them so fast to be so respectful. It was a trait that not every tamer could teach their monster so the fact that Onyx was teaching others this with ease was impressive. Not that Onyx was a tamer, but that he was a monster teaching his own species.

"The farm is right on the outskirts by the waters. There won't be many people around since they had finished with their inspections of the fields already. Use the bind skill to catch them and beat them." Onyx coiled up and raised his head to keep a lookout. He could spot ten of the rice rats already. They were easy to follow since they were so slow in his eyes.

The hatchlings sped off in the watery fields. They were able to hide in the shadows of the rice plants with ease. But where the challenge began was when they realized that none of them could catch the water affinity rice rats. Onyx had not given them the most information. He had left out the speed that the rice rats possessed and how they were best at avoiding predators with that speed.

This left the first three hatchlings at a loss. They started to exhaust their energy trying to catch the rice rats to no avail. When Onyx saw two of them work together he was extremely proud. He wanted them to learn this lesson quickly and it was showing that they were capable. There had been a worry that the hatchlings would not possess the critical thinking to work as a team at the start.

As the pair brought the first defeated rice rat to Onyx to show him their success the other hatchlings took notice. It only lasted a moment before they all understood that they had been tested from the start. Instead of working along, they all partnered up before they started to group up even more. Onyx watched them coral the remaining rice rats at the same time. "Now that you understand how to work together, we have four more fields to visit." He was practically glowing with pride as he piled the rice rats up along the road of the field as the farmers had asked.

Chapter 1322 1322. Surprising Finds

"We are seriously leaving so early?" Gil wanted to take more time to enjoy their slight break. The food was good, the ravine was peaceful, and he had the desire to explore the ruins that were being cleared out properly.

"If you want to stay then you can. I won't be the one to tell Alma that you didn't come back to see her right away. I can also teach your classes too. I'm sure your little archer need some toughening up." Remy cracked her knuckles making Gil flinch.

"Whatever, you are being lame because you just want to get back to the alchemy guild and see the new herbs." This was more or less true but before Remy argued back at Gil Walker stepped between them.

"Yes, we are heading back today. This was the plan from the start. Not to mention we have other things to do. Midnight and I want to keep a look out for the dragonkin or dragons coming to Genesis." Walker and Midnight stood together with their faces set. Part of Midnight was excited just to have more dragons around while she was looking forward to helping other dragon hatchlings to follow a similar path as hers.

"I agree. We should leave now before we end up stuck here for weeks. We all know with the luck we have someone will find something amazing and we will have to be part of it." Su was not exaggerating. She felt that anywhere the party went they would be trapped with this fate. Not that she was unhappy with it since it made their lives full of wonder and adventure.

"Hey Alice, where are you going?" Remy realized that Alice was walking away toward the ropes that led to the top of the ravine. She grabbed one and a golem started to lift it up. "Wait! Don't ditch me. Leave them instead." Remy ran after Alice. This was the most efficient way to get all of them moving at once without even trying to talk the party in to it. The king of the deep caves didn't need any goodbyes because after the golems and dwarves did their duty, the kings would head back leaving a few elites in charge of camps there.

"So the ravines all connect." The king of the deep caves found himself in a central chamber that appeared to have once been an underground village of sorts.

"It does appear this way. Everything we passed by was torn to bits by ants. I would say that the race that lived here was experimental. Too many partially made items that were unfinished even before they were left to rot." The king of the surface had scoured his ravine and tunnels efficiently. He was the most comfortable controlling an army which made him faster in cleaning the ants out.

"I found signs of the ants already battling it out. But there were a few storage rooms with dried molds, dusty piles that used to be clothes, and even a few broken animal bones. We can leave the elites to clean up the rest. But this is very odd. Why would they abandon this place so easily? The ants have obviously been here for years..." The king of the middle was not happy to miss the potential reasons that an entire race might abandon these tunnels. They were too good.

"You didn't even look at the walls or read the reports on this place? From what was gathered this place was made to hide from monsters. Real monsters, many times more dangerous than are around now." The king of the surface was not happy for the king of the middle to shirk reading and paying attention.

"He's right. Plenty of reasons to come down here and plenty to leave. But this is before they made that mage tower. The same race but great advancements. The archaeologists will understand how fast this race grew and what they knew. It's a big step and the dwarven people will hold the credit. Let's finish looking through this area with the elites then head out." The king of the deep caves had been satisfied by the battle and was ready to head back to the tunnel project he had been working on. Every day he was gone, the tunnels to Genesis and the dwarven city were wasting away.

"Fine, the last room appears to be over there. It's probably just more rotted mold and dust." The king of the middle was stubborn and did not give in to the reprimands from the king of the surface. However, he was already planning on trying to cut down on the golems he allowed the king of the surface to use. It would be his revenge.

The elites had moved a substantial amount of broken stone and ant droppings. The main chamber seemed to be the place the ants dumped a lot of their wasted food or tunnel collapse trash. When the storage area was opened the rotten smell caused them all to retreat. However, once the air flowed around them, there was a massive store of broken bones and weapons.

The weapons were odd shapes and very broken down. It was, however, an ideal place for the dwarves to explore and understand. The curved swords and rounded blades were just a few recognizable shapes that the dwarves had not crafted before. This meant that they would have an entirely new direction to experiment and attempt to recreate. For the blacksmiths, this was a treasure trove. "Those kids always find amazing things. I think we owe them a little something." The king of the deep caves was amazed but what the party seemed to stumble on to and wondered if his luck had somehow been affected by them. The other two kings just stood in wonder with him.

Chapter 1323 1323. Waiting Surprises

The party had found that a few golems were marching back to Genesis with a large carriage. The dwarves had set them up to automatically follow a path they had set with small rune carved crystals. It wasn't much company but in the interest of time, they had hopped on and spent the few days bonding with one another.

"I can't believe you are burning up every herb you find like that. I know you are trying to refine them but it flips my mind upside down." Walker had a hard time grasping the skills that Remy was attempting to use by covering her hands in alchemy fire.

When Remy had approached Walker with the concept and asked for him to maintain the cold around her, he had been wary. However, it was the safe way for her to slowly adapt to high temperatures along with figuring out the new skills she had and could learn. It seemed that Remy was only about halfway to unlocking an alchemical skill and needed the assistance to figure the rest out.

"It's not burning them up. Most of the herb turns in to black dust. That's just ash. I know. But the part you should be excited about is the small bead of dried sap here." Remy had carefully shaped these beads over hours of their travel.

'Condensed tri flower lily sap

This is the sap of a tri colored lily. A very common healing salve ingredient. Normally one would need to spend many hours condensing a large number to create a bead of sap like this. Alchemy flames have been used to extract the majority of the sap from a single plant with all three intact flowers. This has created a very high quality sap bead best used for high quality salves.'

The appraisal was very good and Remy was glad to hear it. Yet she wanted the appraisal to be perfect. This was not her entire goal. She needed to push higher. "I can tell it's amazing but your hands are red and we are stopping." The irritation on Remy's hands was not going away so easily. She was going to have to admit that she was not fire proof and would need to train this sort of skill slowly so that she didn't need Walker to create a cold environment to counter it every time. Meanwhile, the alchemy fire spirit had exhausted itself and melted back in to Remy's spirit mark to sleep for some time.

"I think we should stay focused. We are about to get back in to the city. I can see the dwarves waiting to receive the carriage from here." Gil gave them a warning so that everyone could properly clean up and prepare. It would be a little while before they were back but they all had their plans. Alice was very clear in the fact that she wants to go back to the cathedral. She would speak with the high priests and let him know.

"I think we should stay focused. We are about to get back in to the city. I can see the dwarves preparing to receive the carriage and take away the giant ant bodies." Gil was easily able to spot the dwarves gathered to meet them. They still had a few moments but it was enough time to think about what they would be doing after returning.

Most of the party just wanted to relax, but Alice was thinking about rushing right to the cathedral. Arora had been quietly watching from her arm the entire journey. She had learned a lot and it was a good story to share with the high priest. Along with that, she wanted to ensure that the other eggs were absorbing the light elemental mana properly, it would mean that Arora would have siblings sooner than later.

"Walker, I know you might want to go and rest to figure out a few things...but..." Gil pointed up to the sky with an unfortunate expression. He knew he was giving bad news.

"It appears that the darkness royal dragon is here. You mentioned his name was Mordant? You were right, he is the first to come." Su was surprised that it had happened so fast that a dragon had come to visit Genesis. However, the way that Walker spoke, Mordant had become very curious about Genesis and how it would run. There were also many other things such as the runes, elemental spirits, and true spirit forging that attracted him so much.

"Midnight, you might have some babysitting to do. But I doubt that Mordant has such problems. They won't be those kicked out of the nest. He seems to value those that are different and more unique. I'll have to get to know him better." Walker was already starting to fall in to deeper thought when the carriage stopped. As if a beacon had gone off, the shadow in the sky changed forms.

The large dragon revealed had many glossy black scales. It slowly descended in complete silence. Most in the city felt it unnerving but awe inspiring nonetheless. Walker quickly changed the eternal orb in to staff form and leaned on it slightly to channel some of his mana in to it. He wanted to ensure that the area would be safe for Mordant to land and manipulated the earth to become slightly flatter.

"I was hoping that you would be the first to visit the home we are building. I can't wait to see the family you have brought." The large dragon landed and shifted like a pool of darkness full of waves. The next moment the same dragonkin form that Walker was familiar with strolled silently toward him.

"I have indeed been looking around without touching. I am impressed so far. This village is more than you seem to have let on. Especially that tower. I would like a tour after I properly meet you within your court." Mordant allowed Walker to stand in equal to him. This was a sign of respect since Mordant had broken the proper greeting traditions. However, Walker didn't show that he was fazed at all but this caused Mordant to grow more respect for him.

Chapter 1324 1324. Intriguing Mordant

Walking through the front gate caused a very large ruckus. The city guards were already making moves to clear the streets. Walker had not hidden how important tradition was for the dragons. This meant that the first order when a dragon was seen coming towards Genesis was to prepare all available to guards to create a welcome. It may not be to the same degree that it would to an older dragon village, built the city of Genesis was going to compete.

"How was the flight over? Not too many issues?" Walker wasn't sure what to really speak about. He wanted the rest of the party to remain with him but unfortunately, the only two that stayed were Su and Midnight. The others had run off to focus on the tasks they had planned along with avoiding the added stress of escorting a royal dragon. Walker couldn't fault them though.

"Fairly peaceful. My territories lack most rogue dragons. I did not need to dispatch many of the dragonkin warriors I control. I did stop by a few other villages to be kind. Yet. I found them to be unhappy that I would offer to take their hatchlings here with me or their dragonkin." Mordant shook his head. He had wanted to bring the other's hatchlings and dragonkin to win more favor with Walker. He had too much curiosity about what Genesis was creating and learning.

"I agree, that would have been nice. But I am sure that you have your own family here to see the city? But where are they?" Walker didn't want to sound ignorant. He just wondered where the dragonkin and Mordant's champion were. Especially since Su and Midnight were both looking about for them. Su specifically was looking for a fellow guardian to show around the city.

"They are still walking here. I challenged them to walk at human speed. It will help them adjust to being in a city like this where many races come together. I have the unfortunate luck that none of those I live around can control their strength. You know how that goes." A small smirk bloomed on Mordant's lips at his joke. He was sure that it was funny enough to get a few laughs.

"You're telling me. Midnight has been learning to use silverware properly and has broken a decent number of forks." Walker agreed with his own smirk while Midnight pulled at his sleeve in a soft huff.

She was shameless enough to show her distaste for his words while Mordant was around. Yet, Mordant was more interested in the fact that Midnight was able to easily walk about in a dragonkin form at such a young age. It was a very unusual occurrence in the dragon culture.

"This is the main market road. It was made wider so that the different races could set up their stalls with whatever they can offer to each other. At first, the trade between some races was limited. However, the addition of rare items from different places became accepted and even sought after. I have some elf friends that sell a very wide variety of herbs and vegetables only grown in their forest." This was another interesting thing for Mordant to see. Even though the guards made way for them to walk, many people were out in the streets buying what they needed. The races were mixed and living very peacefully. This was very different compared to the chaos that once reigned over the world when all the races were very young.

"I am sure that they will create some interesting food. The spices you had were not very common in any village from my knowledge." Mordant knew well that Walker had more flavorful food due to the fact that all the cultures were coming together in Genesis to create something new and different. "I can see that there are many spaces that have runes carved on them. But they are different from the ones I saw before." These runes were easily explained. The dwarves that created them used the rune forms they were used to and so did the elves.

"The newer runes we have are not widely known or used. The tower has so many that the runesmiths can't even keep up." Walker paused for a moment. "The ruins I just returned from might be the same race that created the tower we brought from the deserts. The runes are an earlier version of what we have there now. It should really help the growth of knowledge." This brought a wide smile to Mordant's face.

"I will send my personal rune carvers to help. Naturally, they will share their knowledge. I wish to see more runes that mix with your spirit forging. I am greatly enjoying this circlet and so is my friend." The darkness spirit materialized from the circlet that was around Mordant's wrist. It still didn't speak to Walker but appeared to be very happy.

"By the way, speaking of spirits. I had an arcane scribe make a lot of scrolls. They copied my all around spirit speak and all around appraisal skill. That should leave the potential for someone to learn how to speak with all elemental spirits. One of my party members already managed it and I am sure that the rest will do that too. I can't say they will have the same luck for the all around appraisal skill." Walker spoke casually but noticed that he had intrigued Mordant once again.

Mordan had a very strong relationship with the darkness elemental spirit, however, he did not have proper communication. They were able to understand each other because of the strong understanding of darkness elemental mana that Mordant had. "I would like to procure some of those scrolls during my stay here. It would be very useful to us. My village could be one of the first to properly relate to you as the new royal nature dragon." Walker could tell that it was a little more than just curiosity. It seemed that Mordant wanted to be able to be the first to get ahead of the other royal dragons while also increasing his understanding of darkness elemental mana.

What dragon could say that they had spoken to an elemental spirit that was completely made up of their desired elemental mana? Mordant had the potential to increase his affinity to a higher degree which would in turn make his standing with the other dragons skyrocket.

Chapter 1325 1325. Styles Of Leadership

"This is the Genesis building. It is the main building for meetings, representatives, and other important gatherings. That is the alchemy guild, adventurers guild, and crafting guild. Then that building you can see in the distance is the tamer's guild. From there you can also see the cathedral spire. And of course the mage tower." Walker would point out the different sections that the races had created on their own later. But for now, these were the most important buildings in the city.

"It seems wise to have them all organized together. Better communication. But what are those writings about? I have seen a few. A competition? I believe you mentioned mostly battle related competitions and forging competitions." Mordant has seen the additional herb gathering competitions for the young adventures.

"That is mainly for young adventure's guild members. They are getting experience, a chance to move up a tier in the guild, and gathering herbs for the alchemy guild competitions. The potions made will be sold aligned with a test for members of the alchemy guild. It will be very interesting. However, if you have alchemists or herbalists, they can participate as well." Walker knew that he had not put much focus on the herbs since he knew that the dragons may not find it as interesting.

"Ah, I see. I do not have much in the way of alchemy in my village. I will look in to it and instruct my dragonkin to do the same. But, I wish to have my dragonkin witness the competitions in their entirety even though I may not stay for such lengths." It was clear that Mordant was avoiding making promises. He was in charge of a dragon village and branch villages, if he left them unattended he would be neglecting his duties.

"Wait, one moment." Walker moved past a guard that was keeping the streets clear. It was a respectable thing for the welcoming of Mordant, however, Walker had seen two children playing a game behind the guards. One little girl had slipped and scraped her knee. Walker had seen it out of the corner

of his eye. "Now what are those tears for? You are fine. Just watch." Walker held his hand and made some funny looking movements with his fingers. In the seconds ahead, a green glow radiated from him and the small scrape healed as if it wasn't ever there. "See? Nothing to worry about."

Walker stopped as he watched the obviously older brother of the little girl help her up and run off. They continued their game as Walker rejoined Mordant. Watching it all happen, Mordant had seen the definitive difference in Walker compared to the royal dragons. Because the dragons believed in strength, they would not have stopped to heal or help someone that had fallen. The child should grow up and face it themselves. Yet, because Walker did this he could see that Walker had brought the races together through more than just strength or a unique system. He had played with their emotions of caring and family. It explained a lot about who Walker was and would keep growing to be.

"The dragons may learn more from you than you think," Mordant spoke but soon gestured for Walker to show him the way. This was an unfamiliar place for Mordant and he did not want to hold back anymore. "And next time, you don't need to clear the streets for me. I should follow your laws while here and walk through the streets equally with others." Walker didn't know where this came from but grinned in response. As he had believed, Mordant was the most accepting of the royal dragons.

Mordant's eyes did not stop moving while he saw the different races working together within Genesis. He clearly saw how the entirety of the city was governed by multiple officials. The fact that so many had come together and worked at such an astonishing pace explained why the markets that he had strolled through were so packed with goods. The many forms that were being processed and explained to citizens showed the degree of thought that went in to the formation of Genesis.

"We have the meeting room this way. The dwarven representative is still occupied while the demi-human representative is dealing with an old problem recently rediscovered. That leaves the merfolk, elven, human, and various guild representatives." Walker opened the door which was quickly looked at by all such individuals including a few other attendants. The addition of nameplates at each seat was great since Walker wouldn't need to introduce everyone by name right away. There was also a large table created and added to the room for the meetings and potential maps.

"This is the royal darkness dragon Mordant. He has come ahead of his family to see us." Mordant did not miss that Walker spoke of the dragonkin and hatchlings as Mordant's family. It was a note that Mordant had not specifically focused on as a royal dragon. Yet, it fit. This was the exact way that his village should be seen. If a single member was harmed, the draconic price he possessed would not allow for the perpetrator to go unpunished the exact same way that Walker felt about the city of Genesis and the residents within.

"Welcome to the Genesis building meeting room. I trust your journey was pleasant and that you have met the vice guild master of the adventurers guild, Barry." Clara stood up right away and introduced herself. Mordant raised a single eyebrow at this. He had indeed met Barry and seen the monstrous strength that the man had. It had put high expectations for humans in his mind seeing a man take on a rogue dragon without any assistance. It was a feat that not many could accomplish when Mordant had last seen humans fighting to take a small village as their home.

Chapter 1326 1326. Baiting A Dragon

"Of course I examined every volunteer and dragonkin myself. Every ryal had the right to see who would be assisting in the purge of rogue dragons. The warrior does excellent work. I personally witnessed him deal with a rogue in three slashes of a great ax. A very primal battle style with extreme control. I look forward to meeting more like him."

This seemed to make Clara stand a little taller. She had hopes that Barry would make a name for himself that represented the strength of the adventurer's guild. "I believe you may already know the strength we have heard about when it comes to dragonkin warriors. I hope that you have some that would like to experience our veteran adventurers who have been waiting for experience training opponents." This was the main goal that Clara had when it came to any royal dragon visiting. She wanted the dragonkin warriors to teach and show off the skills they had. It could make the veteran adventurers that might be stagnant in their growth inspired.

"I will see what can be arranged. I have quite a few crafting related dragonkin on their way. The true spirit forging methods along with runes are very interesting. I am curious to see how my people's draconic runes meet the history of runes that have been transcribed here." This was something that Mordant had wanted since he saw the unfamiliar runes in the darkness circlet. He wanted to know how they worked to gather such pure darkness elemental mana along with allowing an elemental spirit to reside within it and even increase the effects of the runes. This was an aspect of forging and bonding that the dragon race had never invested in.

"Ehm, that would be me." The sudden loud speech of the wandering blacksmith was very shocking. Walker, nor anyone else, had ever heard him speak so loudly.

"This is the famous wandering blacksmith. He has skills that far exceed any blacksmith I have ever met when it comes to forging and forging knowledge. He has taught me some things while also demonstrating things I may never be able to accomplish. Whether it is forging with dragon flames or carving runes, he is who you want your blacksmiths to learn from." The high praise made Mordant realize just how valuable this man was.

"I will personally enjoy speaking with you later then. I have not spoken to the famous wandering blacksmith with mixed blood. What is the story I heard, a man that happened upon a royal dragon named Ignus in the volcano lands? Strangely enough, the man was forging using lava and pure force of will to resist the heat. Along with some strange rune forged gear." Walker had heard parts of this story but he did not know that the wandering blacksmith had met Ignus. "I really appreciate the beauty of the chest plate you gave him after you finished. I hope to one day ask you to create one for me. If only it was enough to fit me in dragon form." Mordant spoke softly.

"I have many orders. I can take one order for some months in advance. I can not say I knew he was a dragon. It explains the strange illusions created by that ring. To appear like a human in dragonkin form." The wandering blacksmith understood what had truly happened that week in the volcano mountains.

"Oh? You were able to see through the ring that Ignus has? It is his oldest treasure from years ago. Even I struggle to recognize it sometimes even though I have my own illusions in the shadows. I wonder if you can make one of those." Mordant tested the waters a little more.

"Not currently. I lack arcane skills to create something so perfect. One day I may find a partner or path though." The wandering blacksmith slowly returned to his chair. The amount of speaking the wandering blacksmith had done was radically larger than usual. He was understandably tired and it showed Mordant that it was time to move on in topic.

"As much as I would prefer to be with my potions, the young guild master was a little behind. I apologize for you needing to deal with my old bones." The old master alchemist spoke out. Remey had been radically behind on what events had occurred while she was gone. As much as she had prepared when she left, it had not been enough.

"Trust me, your bones are younger than mine. I can smell the herbs from here, master alchemist." Mordant found his interest piqued over and over again just by walking in to this room.

"That may be true, but yours will last longer than mine. I would like to give you some food for thought while you are here. I understand that each royal dragon represents a certain elemental affinity to study. I have been leading a certain theory, one that deals with affinities. Please take this small low tier darkness elemental affinity potion as a gift from the alchemy guild. I hope your village and the alchemy guild can speak about trading herbs and potions one day." The small potion vial was carried over by an assistant to Mordant.

It was clear to Walker that Mordant was stunned. His eyes shook slightly in excitement. The only reason that Walker saw this was because of how close he was to Mordant. The others were waiting to hear the response.

"I have to say, this is something I did not expect. Something like this is new to the world if I understand it. Is there anything that your village can not do?" Mordant looked at Walker carefully.

"Just wait for the visit to the mage tower. You may enjoy the elemental floors when used with that affinity potion." The old master alchemist appreciated Walker's addition to what he had said and sat back down to wait for the royal dragon to take the bait and come to the alchemy guild at a later date. Mordant was shaken. Internally he felt that he had made an incredible decision to trust his instinct to come to Genesis.

Mordant looked at the entire room wondering what the elemental floors entailed, however, he wondered even more what else Genesis had to offer. He would never imagine just how much his dragon race was missing out on. Even worse, he had not looked at the elf standing silently watching. The elf that had three tall and powerful guards nearby. An elf that also had a familiar looking archer nearby that was certainly a member of Walker's party who had walked in silently while Mordant had been conversing with the others.

Chapter 1327 1327. Mordant's Gaze

While Mordant consolidated his thoughts, Alma took the chance to speak. "Please feel free to take your time to walk through the forest if you would like. The elves have been modifying things to welcome others. We will find other elven species to welcome in to Genesis so there will be continuous growth. We also have many with spirit based systems that may intrigue you." This was all that Alma knew she had to say. From what Walker had said prior, Mordant was the only dragon with any relation to the elemental spirits.

"I see, I would be interested in meeting your spirit speakers. I have already heard some news about scrolls that can allow one to speak with elemental spirits. It would make my life fairly easy when speaking with this one." The darkness elemental spirit showed itself and examined the room. However, it only stopped by Walker and Su, it did not show any interest in the others. The lingering darkness elemental man from Su seemed to show that she was close to a darkness elemental spirit before and it enjoyed that. Whereas with Walker, it could feel the presence of Fleur who was resting peacefully to absorb elemental mana.

"We will await you there. I hope that you come when we have grown as well." Alma left it at that. She would not push but she knew that Mordant was already interested and if she tried to force him, like any dragon, he would resist.

"I do find it interesting that you have so many archery related systems for so many years. The elves have always remained in such a way. Or now a human has joined them as well. I have a few old books I could get rid of about high elves. I will send them over when I have a free dragonkin to do so." This small addition caught Gil and Alma off guard. Mordant felt that he had finally won something for once. His habit of keeping his own knowledge after watching from the shadows was well worth it.

"I think that would be a great trade. The elves are uniting their people, I expect them to need more past knowledge about their ancestors. They keep very good records. If you have anything else you wish them to record, they are your people." Walker made sure to put in words that the elves were very trustworthy with knowledge. He wanted to ensure that Mordant would pass this along to the other royal dragons. It could grow the knowledge base that Genesis had by leaps and bounds.

"I see, that explains the large building I saw being created while flying. It seemed to mirror the library I have in my village. However, mine is quite small. I believe housing knowledge from all these races requires untold space." Mordant had seen the large structure soon to be the grand Genesis library. It was a project that had been formed some time ago but was finally being worked on properly now that the other main buildings had been finished. The Genesis building could only house so many books.

"I take you to be the merfolk that was assisted by Current? How is your home now? Recovering?" Mordant was not going to forget that there had been a kraken spawn outbreak recently. He knew the dangers that they possessed as well and had been ready to lend Current a hand if it had been a larger threat.

"It was all thanks to those in this room and honored royal dragon Current for providing assistance. My people are recovering and have even gained the chance to meet the water elves after joining Genesis. We have a great deal of history we are reviewing and look forward to exploring the depths once again. It has been many years since we have had the ability to travel back to where our species was born. Too many lost secrets." Leon shared the goals of his people readily.

In recent years, the merfolk had wondered about their origin. They knew that there was lizard folk within them but had discovered that it was not all merfolk. In reality, the merfolk had mixed with other semi aquatic species to become what they were now. It made more sense that they came from the depths of the oceans but could not fathom where or how. It was too deep and housed too many powerful monsters to fully explore with ease.

"I wish you luck. Knowing Current, he will wish to explore with you. It has been many years since he delved in to the deep waters for enlightenment. If I remember, there were some delicious gigantic pearl oysters he once shared with me. They came from the deep." The monster that Mordant referenced was once rarely seen alive. It brought excitement to Leon's face. Walker on the other hand was amazed at how properly Leon was speaking. It showed that Leon truly relaxed around Genesis compared to how he was made to act within his kingdom.

"I hope that we at the tamer's guild can assist you as well while here. Recently with the assistance of the alchemy guild and Walker, we have begun to cultivate dragon fruit. We found that when made in to a potion it can stimulate the extremely weak dragon bloodline in some lizard like monsters. We hope to be able to learn from your input." Elise was playing with fire. She knew that not every dragon would accept the tamers since they had a tamed dragon. Unfortunately, Elise was lacking in knowledge. The dragons accepted that there was a dragon in the tamer's guild. It had been saved from death and become what it needed to be. They had also heard that it was not lowering itself and instead reigning over the guild with its tamer.

"I will consider it. It has been some time since I brought the dragon fruits home to the hatchlings. I may have some promising young ones in the next few years." Mordant didn't sit on the topic for long but looked at Walker. He was silently telling Walker he would need the story about the dragonfruit later.

Chapter 1328 1328. Royal Dragon In The Streets

Finishing the introductions and meeting was easy since Mordant was more interested in seeing the rest of Genesis. Walker was seeing that his curiosity had caused him to leave behind his dragonkin and champion to walk the way here. The pieces that Mordant laid out through conversation showed clearly that it had been an order from him and not what they had desired. Mordant was a royal, however, it seemed that he was a little childish when it came to his curiosity.

"If you would like, there are guest rooms right here in the Genesis building. They were made with some of the finest materials so we can properly welcome just about anyone." One of the attendants had been called over by Markus Raven who had more or less been silent during the meeting. He had wanted to keep a low profile since the royal dragon was not seemingly interested in wealth which was his primary position in Genesis.

"That will not be necessary. I will remain with my fellow royal dragon. It only makes sense that I would reside nearby if anything is needed?" Mordant acted as if this was an unspoken rule but Walker could tell there was a glint of curiosity there too. Mordant wanted to see how Walker lived and what he might be able to learn from such a place.

"We have plenty of rooms in the mansion. That's no big deal. But the guest rooms here are better so don't be unhappy with what we have." The casual tone would have put any other royal on edge. Yet, just like Current, Mordant had begun to accept this readily. He even felt that he might be better off relaxing in a similar manner.

"Alma, Gil, Clara, come over for dinner later. We will cook a lot since everyone just got home." Walker gave a shout to them as he left. Gil nodded slightly since he knew that the giant earth ants were on the menu.

"I was able to gather more of the details while we spoke, but can you expand on your small journey?" Mordant had already been updated because Walker had felt it fine to explain the relationship of the old ruins filled with ants to the mage tower. But when Walker had shouted to Gil and the others, it seemed that more was said about this dinner.

"The giant earth ants were mostly handled by the dwarves since they had the expertise. There was a dormant giant earth ant colony that woke up and split in to three colonies due to the hatching of two additional queen ants. From there, they should have been exterminated. Now the remaining forces are breaking the bodies down and transporting them. The shells will be used for the crafter's guild primarily and the meat will be abundant. We should already have some at the mansion by now." Walker explained this easily.

"Su, Midnight. No need to be stiff. Mordant is a guest in the mansion now. We are done with political pleasantries. If both of you are so stiff then he will get uncomfortable. You heard him say he doesn't need fancy escorts around the streets." Walker did this more for Mordant than the others. It was clear that in the means that Mordant left his escort behind he had desired to walk as Walker did through Genesis and not as the royal dragon that was feared and respected. The same thing after generations would become dull.

"You can see more clearly than I expected. My shadows often conceal what I want in life. I was in closed door meditation for some years before the last court gathering. I tend to forget the joys of flying through the skies. Now I can do just that while being the first dragon to experience what is new here." Midnight reacted with a slight growl. It ended up being strangely off since she was still in her dragonkin form but Mordant understood it better than anyone. "Fine then, the second dragon here. But maybe you can learn human speech soon so that you can say that instead of growling it."

Of all people to tease her, Midnight had not expected it to come from a royal dragon. She stopped in her tracks before continuing along slightly closer to Su who was also partially stunned. "She has been working very hard to grasp writing, reading, speech, and everything else. Almost as hard as she trains

flying." Su knew that for a dragon, training to fly was very important. Giving this relation to Mordant brought some clarity to his eyes.

,m "Wait..that smell." Mordant started to smell many enticing things. One of which was very tempting to any dragon.

"That would be the garden around our mansion. The herb fields are back where we came from so you shouldn't smell those. The mansion garden is taken care of by Gil's mother. She used to be a farmer but now that she doesn't need to worry about that, she is a full time gardener with full control over what she wants to grow. One of which, are dragon fruits. We planted a tree for them in the mansion garden. It's a good place to read a book in the afternoon."

It took Mordant a few moments to understand that the large garden surrounding the larger building in front of him was the mansion Walker spoke about. It was off away from most of the main streets. Yet there were multiple buildings lined up in a row leading to it. "Oh, and those shops we passed by are the shops of family members or close friends. The wandering blacksmith, my sister, and mother have them there along with a few others." Mordant was very impressed. It was very different from a dragon village but held its own charm and loftiness.

Chapter 1329 1329. New Plants

The varieties of fruits and vegetables growing around the garden already in the early growing season was very surprising. The party had been less observant of this since they were not used to the way a farm would grow. Gil's mother had set everything up so that the plants that grew were in specific cycles. Some would give them food for the early season while others that took longer to grow would have the time to mature properly and give them food later. It was perfect to always have something fresh and new coming from the garden.

'Ice flowering cabbage

This is a very slow growing form of cabbage. In the warmer months, it will start to sprout from a single root. It grows an inch a week until the first snowfall when it begins to grow rapidly. Within one month of the colder season, it will bloom in to a full head of tough cabbage perfect for boiling and stuffing.'

'Micro greens

A variety of small greens that grow very fast. They are commonly planted in less wealthy families because a batch of them can grow in one week. They provide minimal nutrition and require minimal care. If they were not cultivated by farmers for many years they would become weeds.'

'Moss capped mushrooms

The moss capped mushroom is not one plant but two. The mushroom can not grow without the moss that lives on top of it. The moss provides valuable light elemental mana to the mushroom in turn for earth elemental mana. The two grow together and have a very nutritious fortitude when added to any stew or soup.'

"There are even more plants than last week. I think Gil's mother must have gone to the markets and hunted out more things to fill the garden with." Walker noticed the various fruits like the strawberries just starting to grow. They needed to be seeded every year but it was already done and prepared.

"I can see the quality within the work that is done here. I can not say that any of the dragon villages have such a care for farming. Most of the dragonkin hunt for the village leaving produce to be minimal. I would not mind to mix more in to the meals prepared." Mordant felt that the focus on meat only was a potential loss for his taste buds. He strongly remembered the meal that had happened at the end of the royal dragon court meeting exceeding what had happened in previous events.

Mordant proceeded to follow his nose until he found the young dragon fruit tree. He looked at it expecting it to be bigger. Yet, he could tell that it was already growing to a much higher quality than it normally would if cared for anywhere else. The dragon fruit had been attempted to be grown within the dragonkin villages. Unfortunately, they had been a failure. Dragons were very skilled in very specific things. One of which was not farming. They were better off in battle and activities that required great strength. They had a very high potential for instinctual skills like their elemental breath skills since their bodies literally developed to use them.

"When I managed to obtain it, I took the seeds from the dragon fruit. I fed it to Midnight when she was much smaller. She heated up and had to rest for a while to undergo whatever changes occurred within her body. From there we slowly built this garden. It's been a few seasons now and the garden is fairly developed. I can't say what will come next. There is a lot of space for growth." Walker pointed to the untilled corners where many plants could expand or be planted in.

"There is also very strong mana here. I can feel it clearly. Do you have any runes formations around?" Mordant had already spotted some pieces of fabric around certain areas. They had runes on them which made him wonder what they were for.

"There are water spikes which use water elemental runes to keep things watered. Then my sister has learned to sew elemental runes in to fabrics to sell in her shop. She is a seamstress and when I went to the forest elf city I brought home rune sewn fabrics. She uses needles made from Midnight's shed baby scales. They are the perfect combination to make those." The rune fabrics that Walker pointed at were a new addition. Some caused slight breezes while others had earth runes on them to assist the breakdown of fertilizer. Gil's mother had worked closely with Lisa to make this all happen.

"A very interesting use for shed scales. We rarely put them to use since they are weaker than the scales of our current bodies. Some of the dragonkin will make armor from them but we have better materials around us in my villages. I wonder what I can get by offering them to your market." Mordant tested the waters with this.

"Plenty, but I would speak to the crafting guild alone. They would get you whatever you want for them. Dragon scales, even broken ones from shedding would help them a lot. One of my friends who works there was stuck on a quest to forge something with dragon scales. It was a steep qualification for him to keep improving. However, with the way he has started learning new things and taking over duties, I would say it was more than equal a price to pay." Walker remembered Rodney and the strong attitude for growth that Rodney possessed. If anyone could rise in the crafting guild it would be him.

"Then I will keep that in mind. I believe I will be trading with your city sooner than you may expect. There were many things I desire to have that your city has gathered. But we can save those talkies for later. I will handle them. You mentioned having a pleasant meal?" Mordant would take the negotiations on himself. He did not want to put weight on Walker's shoulder and bow to him. It would show weakness. Just because he had relaxed a little did not mean that he could let go of all tradition.

Chapter 1330 1330. Walking Equally

The meal went by faster than everyone expected. Clara seemed to be the most uncomfortable since she was unsure what was happening. She didn't expect a powerful royal dragon like Mordant to be fawning over the food that Walker's mother Hilda had prepared. Even Midnight was standing next to him showing off the best tasting things as if he was just the average person there for dinner.

Walker had taken time to speak with Clara and Su alone so that they could get on the same page about a few things. He wanted to ensure that Su was planning to bring the other draconic guardian to the adventurer's guild to train. It was something that Su had already discussed with them but Walker knew that it would make Clara more relaxed to know that it was indeed happening.

Mordant had let them in on a few details about how he had certainly come ahead of his escort so that he could guarantee safety. It was his job. Yet, as they all looked at him he had broken and explained that he had been unable to properly contain his desire to see the things he had been told about. Walker had made claims at the royal dragon court that seemed too impossible for a young village.

Since Alma had come along, he spoke about when she had first met the party and how she had taken her position. She even went as far as to explain that she would be uniting every elf again just the way things had been many years ago. This was something that Mordant truly respected since it was what would happen when the dragons were brought together with a nature dragon royal. The keeper had explained this to him and the other royal dragons.

Mordant was not in need of rest but saw that the rest of the party was. He found himself browsing the library and taking many books out to the garden to sit in the night. His vision was perfect in the darkness to read. Before the sun had risen and Walker had found him in the garden, Mordant felt that he had grasped some human understandings that made the city of Genesis more relatable. The fact that the party had brought the races together might be because of the childhood stories shared by them. Ones of fighting and overcoming great obstacles to build safe homes.

"I didn't think you would have come out here in the night. I woke up ready to find you in your room so we could go to the mage tower." The plan was exactly what Mordant wanted. He wanted to see the runes, experience the effects of the tower, and learn more.

"I could feel the aura that the tower gives off the moment I came near your village. Now that I know it comes from the tower, I wish to know how it works." Mordant had felt it constantly. He had been able to pull in more mana than he had expended while traveling from his village. He could also tell that the darkness elemental spirit was happier and more interested in exploring the area.

"We can also grab some of the scrolls for you to attempt to use them. The chances of learning the spirit speaking skill is low but they are being made constantly so that people can take that chase." The gamble was there and sounded incredible. The chance to learn a skill from skill scrolls was crazy. However, Walker knew it was limited. To learn a high tier skill would be impossible. The skill had to align with a system to a degree. Everyone could sense their own mana therefore, everyone could use it to communicate to a degree. The elemental spirits did this with their specific elemental mana so a person just needed to influence that mana with their own.

The ability to manipulate it as Walker did was also not possible since he used elemental manipulation which was more of a mage skill. It was semi complicated but also made sense. But taking the risk to learn the skills was what Mordant wanted. "If I have the chance it is wise to take it. I have gone many years without hearing the voice of my companion." The darkness elemental spirit moved around Mordant. It had a very serious expression outline on its face before it returned to the circlet.

Traveling the streets brought a different experience for Mordant. He had never seen so many people preparing for the day. The dragon villages did not have shops. They had hunting parties and those dedicated to their positions. They had orders to follow and roles to play. It was expected of them and they would rarely even need money. That was the difference. The other races had created gold as currency to push each other to make and build. The dragons did it out of necessity. That was why the markets were so different in comparison.

The guards near the tower had already heard of the arrival of a royal dragon; they stepped aside as soon as Walker and Mordant appeared. Mordant hadn't spoken against leaving Midnight and Su to keep resting. He understood that he had decided to walk as Walker did through the streets.

"The runes on the tower are very in depth. My eyes can not follow them clearly." The mystery that was the mage tower was exactly that, a mystery. Even to Mordant's clear gaze, he saw nothing simple. "The draconic runes we use that have persisted for generations are nowhere near these. But I can see the roots that could unite them." The draconic runes did not stem from these ancient runes but held many similarities. Walker could see the draconic runes assisting in the understanding of these runes once the right minds had the chances to explore them and their meanings.