

Master 1791

Chapter 1791 1791. Wind And Light

Remey's worries that she wouldn't be able to make an anti venom was enough to put Walker on edge himself. He was sure that the poison would be very hard to handle. What was keeping him on edge though was that he would need to think of a way to deal with the speed that the black jewel wasp had.

Whether it was using a skill that slowed it or not, he was sure that he would not have his key focus to use. As he had been thinking about the downsides of this cursed desert, Walker had realized just how much he relied on the water mana around him. Normally, he would freeze things and use ice a lot. His unintended focus on becoming a water mage had come to get him now.

The entire area he was in was already a downside for any water based system user. Yes, Walker could use the sand to attack but that would be useless against a sand giant or a beast that traveled through the sand. There was earth mana around to make the sand react and become tougher like stone or earth. However, that would not work either.

Earth mana was slower. That was a clear fact overall. But where it was focused on was the fact that Walker had to both condense the sand and also use the sand to attack. It was a slower process overall even if he used the fastest skill he had to attack using earth mana. Even Su was clearly struggling since she had been attempting to use her strength and her partner's strength to be able to move through the sand better.

That brought a whole new issue to Walker's attention. Their speed was naturally reduced. Even watching everyone move again proved this many times over. One step would cause the sand to shift and everyone to sink about an inch in to the softer top layer of sand. This caused them to move as if they were fighting in a loose snow. The same slowing effect as a winter terrain but with the chance that they could slowly fall in to the sand at any time as a dune collapsed. Normally an open field would not have that worry with snow, a mountain would though.

It was a bad experience overall. Worse even was the repercussions of using fire mana. If Walker focused on this, then he was battling monsters that had a naturally high heat resistance or ways to counter the heat. But that wasn't bad. He could make them run away by overheating them faster due to the powerful sun's rays. That would work in a way.

Another downside would be the effect on the others around him. Walker would cause the others to heat up as well by using the fire elemental mana naturally around him. Therefore, he would cause them to fail their travels due to dehydration at a faster pace. It was a very hard situation.

Mordant was struggling as well. The darkness mana that he knew would be around the ruins and at night was useless since it was the heat of the day. The sun stopped him from being able to use the darkness to the height of what he should be able to use. That left two manas available for him to rely on that he couldn't control. A powerful dragon weakened just like that.

Seeing that Walker had grasped these thoughts, Mordant made sure to keep the mana he had saved. He also trusted that Walker would take the roles he had with a grain of sand since it meant another dragon was basically useless until the day changed to night.

With only light and wind mana left as the best options, Walker started to change his ideas. He had never fused the two together before since he had never seen it done before. The wind mana was something that would always be around the light mana. They existed high in the sky all the way down to the weather. But why was it so rare?

The idea that it was because the wind moved through currents and the light traveled straight down made sense. There was no base for the two to naturally fuse often. Only during specific storms or specific situations would it happen. But that was not the main focus of what walkers Wanted to handle. He looked at Ventus and Rise so he thought he would get more information. "Are there any dual wind and light affinity dragons between your territories?"

The sudden question caught the two off guard. They had not expected that they would be hearing this from Walker or be able to answer such a question. It stumped them both before Rise seemed to recall something. "One existed before I was the royal dragon I am now. He was called the light storm dragon and preferred to live solitarily without many others."

"He could make rays of light bend with the wind and cause a storm of light and wind blades that caused a lot of damage and pain. It was dangerous for him to use his strength around others because the wind and light fusion breath attacks caused powerful light burns that were hard to heal and pierced through other dragon's scales. He was peaceful though. Little else was known about him before he passed away."

"I believe I heard such stories when I was young. I didn't think I would hear them again. I know that you and I have never attacked together to make our elemental manas mix. It has never been needed." Ventus seemed fairly confused about how she would manage this but Walker had his answer. The possibility was there.

"Wind and light will be the strongest elemental attacks we have against monsters while here. Flames are a risky double edged sword. I wanted to think about using the wind and light together to make sure that I am able to battle at a higher strength. I need to forget about using water and ice as I like to do." Walker made it clear to the two of them his thoughts.

Rise seemed to appreciate this more than normal. She would normally prefer not to be involved and want to be left alone to continue her absorption of light. She wanted to be stronger and now had an entire dedication to becoming a light dominator dragon. A powerful dragon that had not appeared for years upon years due to wars appearing in the Sigil continent.

"I believe that you should use them in a dual sense but not fuse them. If the records and stories of the fusion being unstable are true, you could harm yourself and our forces here. Focus on what you need to do but keep them separate unless in dire need." Rise gave honest advice.

"I agree, risks are there for everything else and you are removing the risks that would face all of us. No need to add yet another by experimenting. But if you do use it, allow my assistance if possible. Rise and I have the highest control of light and wind. Even the two grand elemental spirits may struggle to handle such a fusion right now." This was a very good point and Walker respected Ventus and Rise's opinions.

"I will try that instead. I can copy Alice and make light blades or follow what Gil does and see if I can make wind arrows or slashes. I can also use a sword to channel them." Walker was not happy to throw aside the ranged combat more than before. He had been accustomed to long ranged combat more and more as he relied on it. The desert was truly beginning to push itself on his weaknesses and his current tendencies.

The two seemed to agree and went back to their own thoughts. This left Walker to put himself in a new mind set. A wind and light dual casting mage. Someone that could attack with both. Not only would this mean that he would have to toss aside some of his habits that use earth and water, but it meant he needed a better outlook.

That was what took his mind to the wind dragonkin and the Rise angels who could use light as their abilities in battles. The two could give Walker valuable knowledge when he attempted to use the two elemental manas. Especially since each of the angels that came with the light affinity had been using swords. It appeared that they had the same system and were chosen as such. It hid some information from the opposite empire but also made sure that they would be a cohesive team. The perfect group for Walker to learn from. Also, the perfect way for him to learn skills from a specific system and potentially make them his own through alteration.

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Chapter 1792 1792. Colliding Light

"You are looking for us?" the Rize empire angels all looked like they were expecting a harsh word or two. Not many people had been speaking with them since they joined. This was mostly because of the problems that came with being stopped while they were crossing the hoarder.

This wasn't that bad of a problem though. Most of the soldiers would just need some time to open up to the newer soldiers from the Rize empire that they had never seen before. It was expected that they would be starting over and that the events Genesis had helped with had not become large enough gossip yet. Especially since the archangels and their higher authorities had not yet done much but wait for information.

Once the angels that were ranked higher than the archangels came to speak with the royal dragons then things would truly move forward. But since they didn't and instead stayed within their cities, it was fine. Walker knew very well that the royal dragons and his party could at least move freely without much issues. Even the border stoppage had been for a moment and nothing more.

"I was looking at you and your systems. You are all some form of light swordsmen I assume?" Walker saw that there were some of the angels that appeared worried. But that was fine. He wasn't going to force them out of any information. He planned to explain himself.

"I can learn many skills from many systems. Light and wind are the best elemental manas to use here. I plan to learn from you and the wind mages what I can as we move through this. It will make things harder since it is so hot and I should focus on the water in the mud covering but that will be fine. I will treat it as training for my fire resistance. It's already high from forging but I can always get better, you know?"

The casual words and show that he was looking to improve to help them all out made the angels relax a bit. But when one of them stepped forward, Walker could tell he was the leader of their group. "I am the head of the white sword wings. We are the flying light swordsman group ten. We were sent because we are normally patrolling the border you crossed. What is it you would like to know?"

Seeing that there was a head of the angel's group sent by the Rize empire helped a lot. It also took pressure from the others who were less likely to speak out because of their positions. Not to mention the clear fact that the leader had some sort of order pertaining to them. Most likely to build better

relationships where they could since the two empires were still vying for attention from Genesis and to take a step ahead of the other empire. An annoying but useful situation.

"I would mostly like to know what light attacks you can use. I can already use a sword to use a light slash skill or a thrown blade skill. I can even make a sword with light if I really want. But I believe you may have skills I have never seen. Especially since we have never had a flying light swordsman system user that I know of in Genesis. But we are still growing." Walker was glad to hear of the new system. The angels were sure to have many more unique systems like this.

"We have seen the light sword skills. There are the swordsman system users that can conjure living light swords as their temporary partners. That is a very unique swordsman skill that seems to make them more like summoners than anything." The small bit of information from the head of the angels made Walker wonder just what he had seen when it came to swordsman.

The thing was, that Walker hadn't asked about this. But he realized that the angel was inferring that Walker could summon beings from other planes of existence too. Unfraternally, Walker caught on and shook his head no. "ah, I see. Well, we can not do such things either but it is a very revered skill in the light elemental hall. We have other skills though."

The angel was walking and suddenly started to grow brighter. Specifically around his skin and armor. The sword on his hip focused light as well. "This is called light boost. It is our method of using light to make us stronger overall. We can take ambient light to better move ourselves on battle to a degree. It's almost like letting the light give us a platform to stand on."

As if to demonstrate, the angel showed that he was better able to move through the sand. Small layers of light seemed to form around his feet as he did. "Our skills work well together so these light steps allow us to move at an increased pace while using the light boost. It works with our wings too. Winged light shield. That is." The light gathered on the angel's wings and he wrapped himself as he landed on the ground.

The thicker light around the wings made it clear that attacks would have to break through the shield of light before anything could attack him. The three skills all needed each other to work better. It was a very interesting way to battle but a clear one that didn't waste the gathered light mana.

"And for attacking, we will use light to cause damage." This was what Walker wanted to see, he had originally thought that they would focus the light on their blades to make a sharper more damaging edge. However, Walker had been a little wrong.

The light did gather on the blade but it seemed to be two separate layers. The two layers of light seemed to be moving very quickly against each other causing an odd smell around the blade. When it touched the sand, the light caused the sand to begin to melt. It also seemed to make things meld together in unnatural ways.

"This is called light vibration. It is similar to metals vibrating together. But it causes fire elemental mana to be attracted that causes melting. But it also mixes healing a little and causes living things to be forcefully grown in a bad way. We are still studying the skill more in depth but that information is held by our leaders. The more advanced winged light swordsman."

As much as Walker was impressed by the odd damage the sand had taken, he was more interested by the fact that the sword could somehow manage to cause damage through healing. But that made sense. Those that healed improperly could be left with bones mended in the wrong place. If it was similar and too much mana was used in a healing spell, there could be negative effects. That was why healing was never used to grow plants, there was always a negative effect.

But that was all beside the point, Walker wanted to see what else he could do with this theory. "I can make light blades that go against one another. Literally making light scrape against itself. What if it were to collide?"

"That is a very tough question. Those that forced the light to close caused bursts of light that sends small shattered bits of it through their bodies. They had a long and hard healing process. It was thought that they used too much mana as well. Lack of control in this skill causes self and area damage."

Leaving this thought, the angel realized that they had started to fall behind while speaking. He pushed the others to make a move while Walker clearly fell in to thought. It was the answers that Walker had been after.

The things on Walker's mind came down to what light was and how it could easily attract certain manas. It made sense that it would cause issues for people because of the fire mana attraction. But at the same time, the idea that it would shatter and pierce the body causing odd damage and healing struck him. It meant that light might be radically more complicated than he had ever realized.

It also raised the question of monsters like Onyx that could feed on and absorb light elemental mana. If Onyx came in to contact with such a skill that caused this damage, would he be harmed or would it be

the same as getting a highly concentrated boost of mana? That was a dangerous thought alone. Mostly because overloading on any mana caused issues. Especially one that someone had an affinity with. There were limits. These limits protected people. Therefore, Walker needed to put some major thought in to this before he pursued this method of attack.

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Chapter 1793 1793. Desert Nature

"Those aren't flies, are they?" The small tan thing that one of the archers made out was definitely a fly. But what had stopped him and made everyone gather toward the sight was that the fly was easily the size of a horse.

"That is a fly. The tan desert flies will go after any scent they think of rotting flesh. They prefer to go after the dead saw toothed sand worm bodies." Ethan caught everyone's attention and began to explain. "The saw toothed sandworms will go to the surface when they die. They have eggs in their bodies so when other monsters eat them, the eggs hatch and seat those monsters inside out. The flies will help spread the eggs unwittingly like that so the sandworms live. But the flies also use the leftover body as a breeding ground. It's symbiotic."

Now that they all knew the disgusting facts about how the two monsters bred, no one wanted to push forward. "I would assume that if we are seeing one here, then there is a body somewhere? What should we worry about now?" Walker was sure that there would be more to this. He knew that he couldn't remain thinking about the light and wind attacks he wanted to learn when danger could be just over the next sand dune.

"It is best to avoid the bodies of anything here. Even the flies will leave when they have had their fill. Many other monsters will come for the scarce food they need to live. The flies don't attack living things but they will be prey for other things. They can't fly high either so they will stay low to the ground, that makes them easier prey for other monsters." Ethan was explaining that while Walker examined the odd look of the fly.

"However, that fly we are looking at is no longer alive. I would say that it is dead and has been dead for about three days. It is just bait for the devil toad that attached it to its tongue to attract anything that tried to eat that fly carcass." no one wanted to know what a devil toad was. But they were already in the position that they had to know.

"I can see it now. Just under the sand there are eyes." Gil managed to spot it and point the spots out to everyone. Walker soon caught on and was able to use the all around appraisal skill.

'Devil toad

The devil toad is one of the many monsters that hides in the sand. Their tan skin perfectly melds with the denser sand and their white spotting matches the lighter white sands across the surface of the desert. It also assists in keeping their body cooler in the sun.

The best way for them to hunt is to use their barbed tongue to capture prey. They will often capture a weaker prey and absorbed the moisture from it through their tongue. Then they will let their tongue remain outside their mouth waiting for another prey to attack the already defeated prey.

Once they attract another prey, they will release the old prey and attack the new prey to start the cycle over again. This leaves a dried and non nutritious body to slowly degrade back in to the sands of the desert. They are called the devil toad because they have sharp horns that are reminiscent of devilish drawings.'

"I can see it too. It's been waiting for another prey... I wonder how it learns to attack like that?" Walker was more amazed that a monster was able to develop this way. It truly showed that the world was an odd place. The desert itself was definitely one of the places that he had not expected to be in again. There were so many odd things here.

"We are taking a path around it. Time to move." With the new danger explained, Su pushed everyone on. The royal dragons just looked at the monster they deemed weak and wondered if they should hunt it. But Ignus began ignoring it since there was no merit in hunting it for food or anything. He was too far above it.

As they rounded the sand dune that the devil toad was waiting in ambush on, the group caught sight of even more tan sand flies. These ones were moving though. They were moving dune to dune clearly trying to get in to the sands around them. "I would say that there is something around her under the sands." This made everyone wonder what might be uncovered as they watched. Moving coil alert whatever was here.

The result of their sudden stoppage rewarded them with the sound of flies buzzing past them. The large flies were all attracted to the same place around them. A perfect angel that the army could see from where they had stopped. "They will dig things if another monster has hidden it under the top layer of

sand, I have never seen it." Ethan had taken a journal from under his cloak. He was writing notes. Many of the other Fel angels were doing so as well.

This was definitely a sight that not many had seen, but what the tan sand flies began to pull from the top layer of sand was nothing but terrifying. Just as Ethan had explained, there were saw toothed sand worms here. The one being brought up was easily five times as long as Onyx in his largest state. "They managed to find a juvenile saw toothed sandworm. I assume it was hunted by a prickled mantis. Rare but they like to bury their prey until the night sets in. Then they will be able to survive the temperature better to dissect their prey. That should mean... ah, over there is a perfect place."

All of the Fel empire angels looked toward a small mass of tan bushes. Anyone would expect that they were just wind blown dead bushes, but it soon became clear that this was only half true. The bushes were being held together by a tan colored praying mantis. Small prickles on its body made the little dried bushes hold to it so that they became its camouflage.

"There are more monsters around this desert than I could have imagined. We are even nearing the sandstorms and these sights are unaffected. I thought that monsters would run away or something." Remey was sure that everything they knew about deserts was a mystery now. So many monsters somehow living here. None of them are fleeing the storm coming. All of them are ready to kill one another or dig out food in any way possible.

"I am still trying to figure out how that massive sandworm thing is just a baby. It's massive!" Gil was trying to understand what size the adult saw toothed sandworms would be. The one they were looking at was clearly larger than anything he had seen. Even the other worm type monsters he had read about were small by comparison. Much smaller.

"Look, the mantis has started to get angry that its prey was found. But the flies will gather more and more. Let's see what will happen." The sun was deadly to the prickled mantis which was why it was forced to use camouflage and cover itself in the dead bushes. It blocked it from certain heat death.

However, the group watched as the mantis started to move slowly toward the flies. With a sudden burst of speed, it struck out and decapitated one fly. Walker was barely able to see the explosive force the mantis used as it sliced at the fly. Its sharp arms easily cut the attacker that tried to steal its food.

As a result, the flies took to the air but some were too slow. The mantis struck out again and again while trying its best not to sit in the sun too long. Unfortunately, it was fighting a losing battle. As the sun hit

it, the group could see that the body of the mantis was suffering. The tan coloration was darkening which was a clear show of how fast it cost the moisture in its body.

In just a few moments, the mantis was forced to bury itself in the sand causing the small bushes attached to it to appear like a cluster again. The flies returned to the dead sandworm and began their actions again. They had found food and a place to lay eggs. Why would they abandon it just because a few of them had died? They were not a pack or swarm. They don't care about losing fellow flies. Just survival.

"What a great chance. We can keep this for fellow researchers." Ethan and the Fel empire were completely in their own world upon witnessing all of this. It was a great addition to their knowledge. But it made everyone else wonder what other dangers were around. What else they didn't know about.

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Chapter 1794 1794. Angry Ignus

"Research aside, we need to know how to handle these monsters. It's very clear that even though this place is expanding and somehow incredibly tough to survive in, that the monsters are more than anticipated." Mordant finally snapped at all of those doing their research. He was very unhappy to find that there were more monsters around every corner they seemed to turn.

"That is very unusual. The increase in life here is not what we have expected. We may have started to research these things by habit, but I do promise that the last records we had were not as such. This place should be harder for monsters to breed in. I would say that they are in a massive breeding cycle."

The idea that monsters could go in to a breeding cycle was not unusual. But for such a terrible place like a desert to have one made a lot of confused faces appear. "We have never recorded one. That is until now but you have all seen the evidence." Ethan stopped. He was looking at them all and especially made sure to show his sincerity to the royal dragons that all appeared annoyed now.

"It is clear that this is occurring but we have no idea why. That is because we have no information of such things happening until now. But we all know what it looks like, correct?" Ethan seemed to gain more confidence that speaking like this wouldn't harm the relationship he had made so far and proceeded. "The desert is often not researched due to the problems here. The dangers and the undead. But we clearly see that it is possible for things to flourish here... somehow."

Seeing that there was not enough knowledge for the Fel angels to show a theory of why there may be an increased number of monsters, the soldiers and dragons started moving again. The policy for the moment was clear. Move away from the danger and make sure that they did not keep running in to so many monsters. All it took was a group of powerful monsters and they would be severely weakened or lose everything they were carrying for supplies.

"I would assume that there are many prey items. The real question we should ask is, what started the chain of reaction to cause a breeding cycle this powerful? Your empire had research, people don't just start hunting one thing less, the same for monsters in the wild." Gil made a point to get the angels talking. He knew they had information they could take and learn from. Genesis was still vastly uninformed about Sigil.

"Well, the weakest monsters that breed the most are the sand mites. But we have yet to see a single one while here. They do not attack living things but instead will survive by eating sand. It is odd but they are an earth type monster. They also like to attack sand worm eggs so they are a bit of a pest." One of the Fel angels was sure to tell Gil an answer as soon as he had the chance.

It appeared with a new monster came more curiosity for the Fel angels. Clearly, they were very similar when it came to curiosity as a whole. But where things seemed to be separated was what they researched. The Fel angels that cared more for healing, the life mages, were less interested in the monsters being around more often due to some breeding cycle. They were having conversations about how they would heal someone based on the attacks of the monsters they saw.

While Walker wanted to praise all of them for learning in these situations, he too was annoyed. The Fel empire clearly could get very distracted. But he saw the benefits of it. The Fel empire was learning at every step so that they could help their people get stronger and survive in this palace. That alone was enough to prove that they would keep getting stronger.

"What's going on Midnight" Midnight had come next to Walker and was looking around carefully. But this was not the only reaction out of everyone, The royal dragons seemed unsettled and so did the dragonkin.

Walker felt this and began to check his senses. The sudden increase in earth mana made it clear that he and the others could instinctually feel that something was off. "There's something under us in the sand." Walker made everyone stop again. This was the third or fourth stop in just an hour. The progress of the day had dramatically slowed. But the feeling of sands moving beneath them were clearly about to answer one of Gil's questions.

Before anyone could say a word, a large amount of sand shifted near where the tan sand flies and the prickled mantis were swallowed up revealing what had given birth to the adolescent saw toothed sandworm.

'Adult saw toothed sandworm

This is the adult form of a saw toothed sandworm. The four large pincers are the sharpened serrated teeth that it uses to easily cut through tough defenses of its prey. Those that it does not swallow whole are cut to pieces by the inner teeth of its digestive tract. It is known to sense the struggles of things on the sand and attack them.

The saw toothed sandworms will often dig very deep within the sand only coming up to the surface to eat. Some of them will hunt more when they are preparing to go in to a long term slumber. This will only happen when they reach adulthood due to their high energy requirement.

The tough skin is considered a great material if someone can get ahead of a fresh sample. The saw teeth that they have are great to make weapons out of but are often too large to wield. Some will harvest the rare gems, jewels, and other things they consume as they tunnel through the desert from their stomachs. Many things get stuck in their bodies throughout their lifespan.

The best way to scare them off is by using fire. They too are very susceptible to the what of the desert. This means that they will not stay close to the surface for a long time. It also is why they prefer to be very deep in the sand or even tunnel in to the earth if possible. Not that they can easily move through denser earth due to their large size.'

"We should run? Or we should-"

"Weak little worm!" Ignus roared as he saw they were stopped again. It was clear that he had reached the very end of his patience. But when Ignus took his full dragon form, Walker started to call others to him.

"Pull back and wait. Everyone that had buffs or shielding skills, use them now!" The order was enough to make everyone do so. They could tell that the fire mana around Ignus was much more powerful. Meanwhile, the other royal dragons just looked annoyed and too. But they were annoyed that Ignus had

lost his temper again. So much so that flames were billowing from his mouth as he charged at the massive adult saw toothed sandworm ahead of him.

Just as multiple skills were used to resist the heat and defend from Ignus's anger, his claws reached the sand worm that was attempting to retreat within the sand. The tearing of claws made it sound as if they had just been brought in to another world. It wasn't the heat that was getting them but the fact that Ignus's claws were also searing through the body of the sandworm.

The intense heat wasn't just burning but also causing the sandworm to be encased in flames. It was not a surprise when the rest of its massive body started to writhe and come to the surface. The whipping motions made it seem as if the entire area was brought in to chaos. Almost another storm as a whole for the desert to handle.

Ignus was still attacking without hesitation. His anger was being fully released on the powerless sandworm that was over four times the length of an adult fire dragon. Something that should have shocked everyone many times over. Yet, it was more of a state of awe due to the intense strength that Ignus demonstrated as he slashed apart the massive sandworm without any resistance.

The strength of a dragon was not clearly defined yet by the Fel empire. Now they were frozen on the spot. They had not seen the strength that a dragon had properly. They were seeing it now though. The clear and undefined rage that Ignus had showed just what they were capable of. Defeating a single monster that annoyed him which the Fel empire angels would struggle with unless they had a solid plan and army. A truly frightening event.

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Chapter 1795 1795. Long Time Coming

Watching a dragon tear apart a monster that everyone had deemed as impossible to beat was enough to make most people wonder just where they stood in the world. However, watching Ignus let his pent up anger out on a monster he was annoyed at for just a second was more terrifying than that.

Even the other royal dragons were looking at Ignus and reminding themselves why they no longer fought. Why dragons had taken major lengths not to start wars between themselves and their territories. Especially against fire dragons since their anger would make a fight go on much longer.

This was highlighted in the fact that the massive saw toothed sandworm adult had been brought to pieces in less than five minutes. It was also still burning in certain spots of its broken body. Many might even have nightmares after seeing this fight. But what surprised Walker were the Fel angels.

They had stopped their awestruck looks and shock after just three minutes. Now they were furiously writing what they were witnessing for the first time in their lives. For some of them, it appeared that they were seeing the newest and greatest thing since they had begun keeping notes. Yet, Walker understood.

Whenever he heard of something new he was stuck on it too. A dragon to the Fel angels and the Rize angels was the very same, if not more. They all saw a powerful being that they had never expected to see in their lives. This was even more apparent when it came to the weakness that wyverns and massive saw toothed sandworms appeared to be by comparison. The two powerful monsters of their empires were reduced to nothing now.

"I feel better now. Walker, you can take that and use it as you wish. I am sure it will be decent for someone to craft with." Ignus changed forms while flames burned off the blood from his battle. He looked much happier and more calm than before. Especially since he and his dragonkin were finally moving forward without any worry.

The showing of strength had done more than just show the marching army what a dragon could do. It had sent an aura of power throughout the area. Any monster that had been near had heard the roars and the battle. It was only natural for them to remain buried in the sands much deeper than normal. No matter what the monster was, they understood they should avoid the more powerful monsters to keep their lives intact.

"I would like to ask for some parts as research material. We can make a deal later." Ethan was being pushed by multiple angels and did not hesitate to make sure that he spoke up. Walker just nodded since he really didn't have much else to say. He had a mess to handle.

The skin and shredded flesh of the saw toothed sandworm was major. Walker was not sure how he would store it all since there was just too much. He had never stored so much before. But as he began using the skill pierce by piece, the other soldiers moved to bring things to him. Soon the fire dragonkin returned and started to help. It appeared Ignus had realized he caused them to be stopped for a decent bit longer now.

As Walker stored more and more parts, he started to notice that the body of the adult saw toothed sand worm was even more developed than he imagined. The stomach alone had large sharp rockers and chunks of ore within it. These had gathered through years and years making them valuable but also purified by the stomach acid of the sand worm. It was worthy enough to be held for the wandering blacksmith as rare materials for his experiments or general forging. Especially since Walker had promised good materials already.

Even more so were the pieces of crystals that were being pulled out by some of the soldiers. It appeared that this adult saw toothed sandworm was exceeding everything that the Fel angels believed should be within the stomach of a sandworm.

'Ancient rune shard

This is a shard of rune carved rocks. It was broken off of an ancient temple when monsters swarmed the area. Once part of a small temple town made by an ancient race that fell in to madness due to fanatical worship of undead. The runes were an attempt to create a portal to a world of the dead but failed due to weak knowledge and control.'

It was just a single all around appraisal on a rock that appeared odd. But compared to the ores and mana crystals, this was shocking. Walker dropped what he had been holding and grabbed the ancient rune shard to look at it better.

The small black carving was definitely a corner of a rune. But Walker had not seen the shape before. If he could see more of it he might be able to make out what kind of rune it was or get even more information. However, his clearly stunned expression caught the attention of Mordant who was already keeping a very close eye on what might be going on in general.

It was hard for Walker to notice that Mordant was walking over to him. "It's a shard of a rune carved stone. It's ancient and the all around appraisal said it was from a town of worshippers that went mad. They failed some attempt to connect to an undead world. I have no idea if that's a real place or just crazy. But that's not good."

Mordant was silent for a few moments before he looked at Walker carefully, his mind had clearly absorbed what Walker had just told him. "Now we know it was not a large city and the entire desert was not some massive ruin or will ever be. It means that something came here to make something and they failed. Now we are seeing whatever is left of that now that the desert isn't covering the secrets anymore."

The idea that the desert had been covering the ruins intentionally made Walker's gut tighten. The theory seems too good. Too right. But that was just it, a theory without all the puzzle pieces. It actually made things harder to wrap their minds around since it was another factor. Another part of the history that might have caused multiple problems.

"I will see what else we can find here. But the towers mentioned might just be ancient road markers to this town. That would make more sense. The Fel angels said they were hollow as far as they could explore." Walker believed this was the right idea now.

"Following a river has been the smart move for many races. I wouldn't assume ancient races were much different. Even us dragons have followed rivers and such." Mordant believes what Walker had thought of. Making a marker for where water would be made a lot of sense. Especially since the two of them would be able to prove some of this if they went to these ancient towers.

'The skill advanced spatial storage has been taken from the spatial merchant system. The skill advanced spatial storage has been automatically learned due to the constant and continued usage of the spatial storage skill.

Advanced spatial storage- 0 mana cost (depends on usage and grown affinity to spacial mana)

This is the advanced spatial storage skill that can only be learned through constant exposure, usage, and bonding with spatial mana, anyone can gain a spatial storage skill. Mainly unique beings will naturally learn them at birth or specific system users can learn them.

This skill can store massive amounts of living things such as plants, non living things, and general items. They will be frozen in time as they are and will also be unharmed without any contact with one another. Some have even found ways to store mana filled items that remain mana filled within this advanced storage.'

There was more but Walker was stuck yet again. Mordant had watched him store the rune shard away and was confused why Walker appeared to have stopped breathing out of awe. The light that grew in Walker's eyes only became brighter.

"The spatial storage skill I learned first out of many of my skills. I just got an advanced version of it. But it explains that the spatial mana exposure and usage of the skill is the reason. And that others can learn spatial storage skills through being exposed to spatial mana. Do you know what that means?" Walker looked right at Mordant before looking around at his party and the other royal dragons. The excitement in his voice was all too telling.

"That means you can help people gain a spatial storage skill." Mordant showed the same excitement paired with a toothy grin. He was always amazed by Walker.

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Chapter 1796 1796. Spatial Theories

"Spatial skills... you will be learning to manipulate spatial mana at some point, correct? Can you make scrolls with it? This spatial skill? Can you show others how to use it?" Mordant has keeping a highly focused gaze on Walker. He wanted to be able to learn these things. He wanted to be able to do more.

The reason that this was such a focus wasn't just the rarity and strength of skills. But also the fact that light and darkness mana were related to space in a way. Light could take up space and could be thought of as a unique mana that interacted with space differently than all other manas.

Shadows and darkness were different. The darkness mana was odd already but everyone has seen that some monsters could use shadows to hide themselves. Some systems even came with skills that let others become one with shadows and travel. Therefore, it was clear that shadows and darkness already interacted with space in some form or fashion.

"I think I will be able to make the perfect environment for others to learn spatial . But I had no way to make the skill a scroll before. It would be gone as soon as the scroll was used, how would someone get something stored back?" this made sense and Mordant nodded. He was just hoping for something random and amazing again. It would not be the first time Walker had come out of nowhere with something amazing like this.

"I also have to figure out how exactly to sense spatial mana. I literally got this skill because I have been influenced by my spatial storage skill so much that it was pushed to a higher level. It took a long time of constant usage to get here. I wouldn't even have noticed it if the system didn't say something."

This was the most important part. Walker had gained the skill without being able to sense the spatial mana. That alone was astounding within itself. Therefore, how could he have gained a higher tier skill without his unique system that let him use many skills. Not to mention that he should have to learn what spatial mana felt like in general.

Luckily, he was in the Fel empire. Their research was sure to have many puzzle pieces and keys to what he wanted to know. He had also seen a rare spatial system user that the world had given a quest to. But that was a whole other thing. A mystery that Walker still could not understand and had purposefully ignored since it felt too far from his grasp.

That might not be the case now. He had managed to store things away constantly and even was able to store more things now. With this, he could start to pursue more of this kind of knowledge. Maybe he could teleport or send things through space better. He might even be able to use it as some form of advanced movement skill. There were too many potentials.

So many thoughts were rushing through his mind but his clear joy was something that stood out compared to everyone. Su saw it quickly and decided that she wanted to know what he had done. Especially since he kept looking at everyone with clear intent in his thoughts.

"I see that you learned a new skill, what would it be?" Su's curiosity was surely something that everyone else would have. But she did feel a little happy that she would be able to learn it sooner than the others. It was a small thing that had become like a game in everyone's mind. Who could hear about Walker's new skills first?

"Just a spatial skill. One that makes my storage skill a lot better. It also gave me a little information about how others could potentially learn the storage skill. Think I should learn more about spatial mana?" Su hadn't expected this. Now she could have the same skill she had seen Walker use all the time? That very same skill that made so many people incredibly jealous at all times?

"When are you going to start teaching it then?" Su didn't even hesitate. She was sure that this was the same reaction that Mordant had. The slight chuckle from Mordant proved her correct.

"As soon as I have the chance. But we can see that spatial mages might not be that common. There aren't any with us from the Fel empire. But with their researching potential, I am sure there is some information. I just need to figure it out." Walker looked around at the remaining parts from the adult saw toothed sand worm. He was sure that it would be cleared up soon. It also reminded him of the current situation.

"I have to say, you are able to make us all jealous. But don't worry, I will have my own storage soon." Su's attitude became much brighter. She also made a line directly for Gil to tease him a bit. It seemed that the heat had brought her mood down a little but now that she heard something interesting like this, she had become much lighter. That kind of attitude broke from her seriousness, but it also helped everyone become much more relaxed. Joy could be contagious too.

By the time the group was moving, everyone had heard of the changes in Walker's spatial storage skill. They were all amazed he had learned such things. However, it seemed that Ethan was the most interested. The Rize angels had been able to more or less ignore it even though they were seeing that their values might not be the most solid any more. Other manas were playing larger roles in things lately after all. Their elemental mana focus might not be able to remain strong as it had been.

"You don't seem surprised that spatial mana is a part of my thoughts now. What do you think about it? Can your researchers help me learn a little more?" Ethan heard Walker's question and knew that this would come up. His eyes shifted to the Rize empire angels who were not so sneakily listening as they marched. But this was all fair in their stand off. The two empires had never crossed their borders like this and all information was useful, even things like this held a lot of weight.

"We do have research for spatial mana. It is very rare and hard to handle. Most of those that have chosen this path are rare to encounter. They often hide away and focus on the space in the world rather than speak with others. If you even find two spatial researchers together, then it means a breakthrough has already happened. But that is still rare. Spatial mana is more complicated than I can even speak to."

The slightly cryptic nature of how Ethan replied made Walker understand that Ethan was not willing to give anything away. It also proved that the archangels had left this to an important crossroads. A chance for the Fel empire to keep the Genesis forces closer to them for longer. To be able to develop more of a relationship with them. A well played card that would get more useful the longer it was used.

"Well, I would like to meet them. I have met one spatial traveler before. He was well above what I have ever met and he appeared human. Not that I have proof of this. But spatial system users are far and few between. I want to get more knowledge to start some of my own studies started. Even if it is books or a

spatial mana crystal. They have to exist. It only makes sense that some will since other rarer mana crystals exist."

Walker was mainly playing with his theories. But he knew that doing so would bring out some information from Ethan. The sudden reaction of awe that Ethan had before fixing his expression perfectly explained what Walker had just won. It proved that Ethan knew of such mana crystals and that they were indeed very rare. Therefore, the Fel empire had at least found and recorded one to exist. It even proved there might be other rare mana crystals of certain manas that Walker had never seen. Such as life, death, and maybe even time mana. Too much to consider right now.

Yet, there was a small reaction from the Rize Empire forces. This was a surprising thing since they denied these theories and manas. But if they had rumors enough to cause their soldiers to react to such statements, then it proved that the Rize empire might have some unique items stored away to hide them. It just proved that upholding their values was tougher and tougher. But it also proved that there was something Walker could still glean from them in this subject. Great information for him to know.

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Chapter 1797 1797. Storming Sands

"We need to keep moving, the sand storms can somewhat be seen already." Vetus spoke up and everyone snapped to attention. It was clear that she was preparing herself to manipulate the wind and cause the very distant storms to collide. But what everyone saw when they looked in to the distance was not what they expected.

There were two massive dust clouds that were causing the forward area to appear as nothing but a mix of yellow and white sands. The two sands seemed to create a massive closing wall. The resulting tornado of sand and wind would definitely cause a much larger area to be consumed by a wall of sands.

Yet, when Walker looked ahead, he and Gil were glancing at one another. The two could see that many of the dunes were shifting and many monsters were reacting to the storms. It wasn't that the monsters before hadn't felt the storm but that they had yet to react to it.

There were already more monsters around and those that were running right now from the storms would be the perfect prey for most of them. It was a dangerous gambling game that the species of monsters played in this desert.

While they could be torn apart by nature, they could also use it to gain a massive reward. The food they got from hunting other monsters as the storms passed nearby was too valuable to them. They would be able to grow , breed, and even become the top predator in an area if they were lucky. It just depended on nature and other monsters.

If the winds kept the storms away from an area, but close enough, then there would be fleeing and most likely damaged monsters to hunt. This was also a good thing for the army. They were one of the only groups actually heading toward the storm. It meant that they would see injured monsters that they could hunt or defeat while they moved.

For the Fel angels, it meant that they could see monsters that they might never see. They would be able to take these monsters with them or at least record some information about them. Everything was valuable. Every single little detail would be able to show them more about this environment that was mostly a mystery to them. Especially if the sands managed to expose the rarest monsters of plants of the desert they had trouble traveling.

But what Walker also felt was the dangers that came with it. He was feeling the unsettled win and earth mana that were kicked up. But he also felt an odd tension that had come over everyone. Even those that could not feel the manas that nature was kicking in to chaos, they could feel something instinctually. While the dragonkin clearly felt this more along with the demi-humans, everyone could tell.

Ventus had just put more focus on what she would worry about. Whether she could naturally fly through such conditions didn't seem to be on her mind. Instead, she had started to focus on the sense of wind currents. It was where she excelled as a wind elemental dragon. Every dragon had some small sense of wind currents it was in their blood. Every dragon could fly even if some like the earth dragons did not prefer it.

However, Ventus was showing why she was the best. Walker could sense that the wind mana she was releasing around her body was controlled solely by her. It was a powerful example of what many years of gathering and understanding wind could do. Even Gil was stunned by it since he didn't even have a tenth of the control over wind without the help of Zephyr.

Speaking of Zephyr, she had arrived outside the spirit mark on Gil's body and was currently witnessing what Ventus was doing. She was celery amazed that the dragons had such a powerful gras of the wind. It made her wonder just how long training like this took. The mana that made up zephyr's body was definitely being effects which showed the true depth of control that Ventus had.

While winds could be peaceful, Ventus showed them the calm dangers that came with wind. She flapped her wings and took to the skies as she took her full dragon form back. Rise glanced at the sky and debated following her before she gave orders to her dragonkin to begin moving forward and to be at the ready for battle.

"Zephyr, I need to catch up to the dragons. The elves will teach me some things but I think I will ask Ventus to train me after I understand these dagger techniques." The sudden promise to her made Zephyr glad. She had bonded with Gil very closely and knew that Gil heavily relied on her mana and skills. But hearing that he would become even stronger through learning from someone with worthy strength made her happier than before.

Once she had returned to the spirit mark, Gil had already drawn his bow. He moved with everyone but arrow after arrow was notched. The wind elemental wither spike arrows were specially made by him and Walker along with the wandering blacksmith. With his skills and keen eyes, the closest running monsters could be sniped from a distance. A much further distance than the Fel angels imagined.

"These elves and your archer are impressive." What walker had expected to hear from the Fel angels actually came from one of the Rize empire light swordsman. He was amazed by the range and precision he was seeing. This was very unlike the wind elemental hall he had seen training. "I think that the wind elemental hall will wish to see what this kind of archery is. I don't believe they have records of it."

"I would say not. These are arcane archers and arcane snipers. They use elemental manas in their arrows or with their bodies to make the arrow fly further. Basically, they rely on mana and physical attacks. The arcane snipers are pretty hard to handle when it comes to long ranged attacks. A place like this is ideal for them." Walker gestured to the open expanse where nothing could hide unless they were below a dune or the sands.

Since the monster were running so much above the sand, there were plenty that were being fired down on. Spiders, lizards, and even the odd fly were shot down. The fact that some of the monsters like the flies which were often in the air to a degree were forced on to the surface only helped them. The archers could see them much more clearly.

"We are moving faster, picking up the pace and maintaining the formation. We will not be flying unless absolutely necessary!" Current and Mordant issued this order. It wasn't because they feared flying in the storm. Yes it was dangerous, but they knew that the monsters coming would be running and not fighting directly. It was a good way to push forward, battle a little, and keep up with Ventus who was gathering wind in the skies.

What truly pushed them to do so was the fact that they could see larger stones and some random plants in the storms as they neared one another. Their timing had been very good but also showed them the dangers that came with the storms. The wind could carry things that would be thrust in to the sand tornado. These things would definitely crush their soldiers so flying would only save the dragons. Therefore, they would be carrying injured or dead bodies. Not solidres. A rough reality.

This also proved that the desert held a much larger danger. They could be buried here by the storm. Some sand was already falling around all of the soldiers while they moved. It was a steady soft rain of sand that showed just what the storms did. These dunes would not just shift but could be picked up and rained down elsewhere. It also showed how the desert was expanding.

Regardless of whatever curse of was working on the odd white sand, this storm would pick a lot of fine sand and drop it on the edges of the desert as a whole. Therefore, the desert would expand and entire dunes would be moved. Furthermore, the monsters would move and take over different territories. This showed a greater danger overall since there would be a power shift. None of the dragons wanted to take this place as their own territory. It would be annoying to constantly shift homes and take over territory.

Finally, Walker was left with the fact that he could only struggle to manipulate the chaotic mana. He felt that the natural mana around him was being stirred up by the wind and earth mana seemingly battling one another. It brought many ideas to light in his mind. Many different feelings to learn from.

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Chapter 1798 1798. Extreme Winds

The buffeting wind was picking up while more monsters appeared around the soldiers. But with the wind came the pressure increasing. Walker sensed that Ventus had begun to ignore the control over her natural dragon pressure that she released. Many of the monsters could sense it just by instinct. They could tell that there was a powerful monster here ready to attack them and defeat them in a single move. Especially one that was well higher on the food chain.

What Walker didn't notice was that the storms had seemingly been caught up even more. The storms were pulling at one another. This sight of nature fighting itself was off. Naturally, the same elemental mana would not fight against itself. That was why some people would use their skills and meld them together. Mages of the same type would work together.

Yet, when Walker looked and sensed the air, he could feel the opposing wind currents grinding against one another. This was similar to the light skill that he had just seen. The skill that caused heat to be generated as the light blades would grind against one another. That was already unnatural since it was a forced creation of a skill made by a living being. It wasn't a naturally occurring event.

When Walker saw that the wind was colliding and causing chaos right in front of him, he began to understand how some of the other forces of nature came together. Lighting had already been proven to be an odd melding within a storm. The manas came together and created a high amount of energy that showed itself in the form of lighting. But even that was balanced.

The idea of a tornado was easily understood too. The warm air and the cold air chasing one another within a perfect balance. The two sets of wind manas coming back together as they changed their forms. However, this was two of the same high temperature wind manas hitting one another in opposition.

The currents had carried the two storms together at a much faster pace than many of the group had understood. The sands had been heated by the sun for days and days before this happened. Now everyone was witnessing the heated sands in the air which allowed for even more opposition from the two separate storms.

Everyone with the ability to see could tell that the sands carried by each storm were colliding. It just added to the fact that the wind currents naturally collided here. That was the key. Physical collision pushed the storms to collide even more dramatically. It also forced the currents to alter themselves. "This is natural!"

Walker's understanding blossomed after a moment. "The extreme conditions here make the entire area shift, right? That means the wind currents are never settled down due to the high heat and expansion of the desert. That means these storms collide, the wind currents collide, and the sands collide. Once that happens, natural mana is able to settle down again. That's why it happens. There is nothing to cool the sands. If the sands weren't so dry then the sand storms would be rarer."

The idea had come to Walker as he watched the storms with awe. He had been trying to learn what he could, but now he was able to understand nature a little more. It was unexpected but also very useful. However, the earth mana was also at odds with itself, which created the rain of sand that was forced away from the storm and carried by other wind currents. That brought about the growth of new dunes, expansion of the desert, and caused the nutrients that might be in the sand to spread elsewhere.

"So if we manage to figure out the mystery of this heat filled desert we could fix it all?" Gil looked at Walker with a curious expression before refocusing on another target. He saw a spiny mantis heading toward one of the soldiers and knew it had to be dealt with. Gil's arrows had been used over and over, sadly disappearing under the sands before anyone could get near the sniped targets.

"I think so, if that all stops we will get this back to a natural flow everything. The wind mana, the earth mana, and the natural mana. Let's just watch Ventus manipulate nature a little here." Walker smiled as he used all his mental strength to bring in more natural mana. The chaos making it infinitely harder for him.

As he did so, Walker started to send it toward the wind mana that Ventus had gathered. The sudden burst of wind that attracted to Ventus made everyone feel an even greater pressure. However, it was necessary. They would feel pressure but it was just for now. The winds would alter the storms that were beginning to collide in even more dangerous chaos.

As the storms pushed closer, the sand rain suddenly stopped and a pulling force appeared. The wind currents had broken and were now trying to find a new path. The resulting change was in the flow of the storms. They had too much energy and force to be stopped, therefore, they began rotating around themselves to become one storm. To become the distant sand tornado that had been expected.

The distance that they were from the storm, the devastating sand tornado that appeared to be growing as the wind and earth mana found their flow, was enough to cause everyone to step back. The monsters around even halted knowing that running was no longer an option. The monster, no matter the species, began to dig themselves in to the sand. Even if they were able to fly, they forced themselves as deep in to the sand dunes that they could.

The only hope for the monsters in this situation would be for them to dig and hope that the storm did not pass above them. That the sand tornado would not cross their sand dune and pull them in to the twisting mass of sand. If it did, they would be sliced apart by the extremely fast moving sand, the intense wind blades that pushed it all along.

The group of soldiers almost wanted to follow this as well, but when they were about to ask for orders and they were going to act a single roar burst around them. The royal dragons looked up with gleeful smiles. Their understanding of Ventus was that she was normally peaceful, however, they had seen her strength. It was rare for her or Current to fight or act out with their power. Water and wind could maintain a calm that was unlike any other. Even Rise was unable to match it.

Yet, as Ventus roared out, everyone could hear a deeper storm within. A storm of pure wind that could slice through the world easily. This just went to speak to the depths that Ventus understood the ways of wind. The level she was at where she could easily step in to the wind elemental plane if she were to force herself.

The insane amount of wind mana that she gathered around herself was forced forward in an extreme gust. The air around everyone seemed to shift as well, trying to follow the sudden new current of wind that made the sands shift in a new way.

The earth mages, Alice, and anyone else with the ability to make shields did so. They used their skills in a sudden burst to hold them all in place. Walker found that Midnight and Su moved to hold him in place since he had been feeding Ventus natural mana. He had not properly secured himself in place before he had acted. But they had been there to help him. Likewise, Remey was holding some of the mages that were making shields in place. She had a hand on Alice and an earth mage to keep them safe.

The wind current created screamed through the sky causing the sand tornado to halt and begin pushing back. This was the key moment before a new current of air was formed. The force used had altered the natural formation pushing the sand tornado away. But it was not just pushed away. Ventus had more than just planned to push the sand tornado away from them.

Without letting anyone know, Ventus had carefully looked at the direction of the ruins on the map. She had also been sensing the wind carefully. She knew if she sent the tornado to the ruins, she could alter the path enough not to hit the camps where the Fel empire soldiers were. She had used this all to hurt and bury the ruins even more. It was an incredible show of power and genius. The wisdom of a wind dragon that had lived for years and years to reach the pinnacle of what she was now.

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Chapter 1799 1799. The Trail Of Sands

'Desert quest- following trails

The flow of the wind has changed because of the disruption in wind and earth mana. The natural mana is settling but the sand tornado produced has increased in speed. Due to this, the desert will be altered differently than it was going on. As the causes of this, the local desert quest has been created.

Requirement- follow the trail of the enhanced sand tornado until it dissipates.

Reward- skill depending on quest participant.'

The systems gave their quests as soon as Ventus started to float back to the ground. She had used an immense amount of her mana along with the wind mana in the air. That alone was enough to tire her out. But the addition of natural mana had aided her ability to recover from this leaving her able to shift back to her dragonkin form.

The strength that Ventus displayed was enough to make everyone respect her much more. Her fellow royal dragons moved to surround her and keep her protected. The weakness that she had was not enough for anything that was running from the area of the storm to harm her, but it was out of equal respect.

Everyone from Genesis understood that Ventus was a mother. She had taken her children with her to the demon lands. They had been left there to help the demons restructure and remain safe. That alone brought her a great amount of respect for the soldiers and demons of Genesis. Therefore, they also fell in line to protect her. The Fel Empire and the Rise Empire soldiers all saw this happen.

This showed that the dragons were much more respected than they knew. The strength of dragons already broke any ideas they had of what dragons were, especially since dragons had been extinct to them just recently. But now, the dragons were powerful living beings that demanded respect due to their strength and their actions.

"That was spectacular!" Ethan broke the silence as the winds around them appeared to calm somewhat. The area had just begun to settle since there was much less sand flailing from the sky and the winds

were not pushing or pulling anyone. But since the Fel empire had just seen enough to shock them, Ethan could only express his own amazement.

"It was an amazing display of wind authority. The wind elemental hall would be blessed to have you visit them." The Rize Empire soldiers knew they could not just stand and let the Fel Empire compliment Ventus. They had to act as well.

"Walker. I have held my part here. What do you see next? You received the quest as well?" Ventus didn't show her weakness. She was clearly on the edge after such a display that altered nature itself, however, she still held her head high. She still maintained a focus on the goals they were all working to achieve.

"Yes, I see the quest. I applicable skills to the quest means that there is a variety of things we might encounter. I assume we will all need to work carefully. Remey is already giving potions for you to drink so just follow along with her. I know that we will have what we need done soon." Walker's promise was simple. He needed Ventus to rest in case the sand tornado did not dissipate properly.

None of them had imagined that Ventus's attack would somehow enhance the sand tornado. This meant that they had made a much more dangerous force of nature that headed for the ruins they were after. But it also meant that some of the undead might get buried, defeated temporarily, or might even get swept far away by the storm. All of this could greatly help in the battle ahead.

"That means all soldiers are to move out!" Walker shouted much louder. While he had taken a toll when it came to his mana through this event, he was still fone. He could maintain his pace and keep gaining his mana back. But the problem they faced now was simple. Chase a literal force of nature that was already far from them. Especially now since the sand tornado was becoming a small dot to them in the distance.

While the others had also taken their mana to protect others or themselves, it was nowhere near what Ventus and Walker had used. Alice had managed to impress many with the light shields that appeared. They had even managed to hear her song through the bustling winds which surprised many. It was enough for the Rize empire to understand her strength over light while the Fel empire had some that were now curious about her and her skills.

Overall, it had brought more questions at the end of the day than many would have wondered before. Unfortunately, there was no time for them. They had to get moving. But that was also an issues. The sands had shifted and were been softer. Normally, days would pass where the winds were still or

consistent. That would let the dunes settle. Especially since the sun would beat down and cause the trapped air or moisture to dissipate.

But this desert was no longer natural. The white sands were unusual and definitely causing the moisture to disappear faster. That alone was a huge issue that was still a mystery. It made everyone see the white sands as slightly evil. It also caused the mud that had been made to become dried and cracked through the effects of the storm.

Now with the white sands on top of the dunes, they were all facing the potential of dehydration that would come while they moved much faster than before. Current was definitely the hardest hit since he had been the one maintaining the majority of moisture layers over everyone. He was also the reason why any form of freezing effect could have been able to be used. His strength was key to that.

The final new issue were monsters. The monsters that had expected the sand tornado to come for them were going to resurface. If they felt the softer white sand shifting above them, it would make them jump out faster. Now that they didn't have to worry about nature, they could worry about something else. Prey.

The sand flies were already showing themselves. They were the weakest that could be hunted while in the sands. They were meant to fly over the sands and not be under them. If they were caught then they would be dead for sure. However, there was a silver lining here.

The archers had been very diligent in protecting everyone. That left many defeated monsters just below the sands that still had the scent of blood around them. A few monsters had already been attracted by this. The sand flies were the perfect example. They had the most sensitive smell and were busy moving to dig up the defeated monsters or even the injured monsters that smelled just the same.

The cries of injured scorpions or spiny mantis being uncovered was enough to push the soldiers in to a battle ready stance. Their formation tightened up as the marching increased in speed. It was a good motivator to make them all ready. The archer also took this chance to keep showing their prowess. While Gil had not stopped until a moment ago, he didn't even take a second to speak anymore. His eyes were moving constantly.

The vision that he had was much better than most. That just came with being an archer. The skills he had for seeing far away targets exceeded many, therefore, he used it to spot the injured monsters as they came out of the sands. He was able to point them out or snipe them with others. That left more prey to attract monsters away from the group.

While some of the Fel angels were unhappy with leaving so many research specimens behind, some others like Walker, were unhappy to lose the materials. Overall, this was not a concern though. They had to make sure that they were moving forward. There were many things to do and a clear trail of sand that cut through dunes and even made large wave formations in the desert.

The path of the massive sand tornado had made a path of sorts. While it was a tough route to travel, it was one they had to follow. What the group was surprised to see was that things had been uncovered as well by the tornado.

There were pieces of sand blasted wood that had become show, parts of plants that had long dried up years and years ago. A few skeletons even showed the saw toothed sandworm bodies that had long been forgotten by the deserts. They all were valuable all around appraisal targets for Walker as he marched forward.

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Chapter 1800 1800. Hidden Monsters

'Sand blasted oak

This is a hundred year old sand blasted oak. It has been preserved in the sand for over a hundred years through sandstorms and other natural events. It has not been touched by monsters due to the depth it was hidden by sand. There is no moisture within it due to the heat and time in the sands. This has caused it to be ideal for carving, firewood, and many other crafting needs. It is valuable to the right carpenters.'

While this was the case for most of the wood that Walker saw and stored away while following the massive carved path the sand tornado made, he was unsure why there was so much. It was odd that so many trees would be within this circle of the desert.

From what Walker could recall from the map, he knew that there was enough desert around to take up a massive region of the Fel empire central stretch. But if the desert had been expanding longer than they knew, then this made a ring of sand for miles that had long been taken over. It also showed that the things that were left under the sands might still remain.

'Heat tempered quartz

This is a quartz rock that has been constantly baked under the sands and sun. due to the fact that it was covered by the sand, it was not broken up by winds over time. Instead, it was condensed with the earth mana and heat causing it to change itself naturally. The fire and earth elemental uses for this make it an idea dual elemental staff material. The stone can better channel the two elemental manas for fusion skills. It can not store the mana though, it is just a conductor.'

This was one chunk of stone that had drawn interest. Ignus had felt the strange fire mana that was able to travel throughout. But he could also tell that it was not just one thing. Upon seeing it, he had pulled Walker to him and made him use the all around appraisal on it. Just because they were removed didn't mean that they could not make the most of their travels.

There was no way that the army would be catching up to the sand tornado. The only one that could easily do that was Ventus, and she was not in the state to do so. But following the path was part of their quest. They had to follow the trail and see what was dug up, whether it was good like these things, or bad, didn't seem to matter.

'Condensed black sand

A small pebble of magnetic sands that have been forcefully held together by their unique mixture of manas. It is rare for atoms to appear within a desert, however, the trapped water, wind, fire, and other minuscule amounts of mana have created a unique kind of sand. The lightning affinity is a perfect fusion of manas to create this.

The condense black sand can be further turned in to a proper magnet which is useful for blacksmiths, runes, and other things. Some unique mages could give half their life to gather enough of them to create an entire staff. This would greatly strengthen their possibility or ability to use lightning.

These are very unstable though. The addition of other manas or any tampering will cause the black sands to forcefully repel each other. This could cause wounds and other internal injuries due to the manas leaving the condensed lumps of black sand.'

When Walker read this, he made sure to instruct everyone around not to mess with the clumps of black sand. He rushed to gather them ahead of everyone to make sure that they would be isolated. But this also brought more to his mind than before.

There was a chance that he could strengthen his ability to make lightning with this. Yet, his mind drifted to the wandering blacksmith. Such a material was created here because of the unique occurrence of rainstorms that might or might not happen within a year of the desert. It was so rare that these were buried deeply under dunes of sand. Only found when entire dunes were torn in to by the power of a sand tornado.

This being the case, the magnetic black sand might be the perfect material for the wandering blacksmith to use. He could experiment and potentially create something that no one else had before. Let alone anyone that might be able to use such unique items crafted from it. There could be system users that might now have a chance to grow because of this unique find. Too valuable to mess around with for now. Just another thing Walker would need to hold on to for a longer time.

While some of the Fel empire angels tried to take one or two, Walker made sure to tell them the all around appraisal. He found that the more he shared with them, the more cooperative they were. It was easy enough to show them that he was just being kind by sharing this, but after they understood the dangers, they would not play with fire. They did have a sense for what they really needed to do.

The positives didn't end there, the Fel angels had even started to call him over. "Fellow researcher Walker, there is a different bone here. Can you appraise it?" Some of the Fel angels had even recognized that Walker must be a researcher to be looking at these skills and such too. It was a sign of respect. The term, fellow researcher, was showing that they recognized the things that were being learned and shared with them. It was respectful in many ways.

'Sand whale bone

This is a small rib bone of a long endangered species of monster. The sand whales were once the hardest to defeat monsters of deserts. They can tunnel through said using the unique small scales on their body that was reminiscent of a dragons. They did hold a small amount of dragon blood too which led to this evolution over time.

They could store large amounts of water and hibernate deep in the sands for many years. However, they were not carnivores, they ate both meat and plants. Their favorite food was the rolling cactus. A very

quick growing small cactus that would roll on top of the dunes with the winds. Many monsters could not eat them because of the tough spines but the sand whale was able to.

This bone is ideal for crafting small tools. Many older races that hunted sand whales would use the bones for tools if they managed to hunt one. Those races no longer exist while some are in worse shape or have changed and migrated to other lands.'

This was a very good historical find. But what stuck out to Walker as he read the all around appraisal allowed was the term, long endangered. This meant that these monsters were not extinct. It also meant that they were able to survive whatever was happening within the desert. If this was the case, then they would be able to hibernate with the moisture within their bodies long enough to live through these dangerous times.

"I did not expect such a thing to exist. I believed that this would just be a bone of an ancient sand worm. Or maybe another escorted monster. Sand whales are not something we believed to have existed. A whale had been seen before off the coast, that was expected since other records were proven of them existing. But a sand whale was a child's creation to us. A fantasy." the Fel angel that found the bone was more interested in the appraisal than the bone itself and let Walker take it.

The others that heard what the angel told them about his find stopped and listened carefully. They all reacted with their own theories. The conversation just grew more as they wondered if they would see such an endangered species. However, they also brought out their own worries. The monster could easily eat them if it existed. The single rib bone was small but it was part of a much larger whole.

The added danger sobered some of the soldiers that had begun to relax too much. They had not stopped worrying about the mysteries of the desert. Some of them were sure that the dangers would only grow as they approached the ruins. Yet, none of them had thought that massive monsters even bigger than the largest saw toothed sand worm they had seen already were around. It made everyone sure that the desert was unexplored for very good reasons. How many people had disappeared in the desert because a monster had swallowed up an entire army? Would they even be able to hunt something so large? How would the dragons handle it? Too many questions came to be.

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