

Master 2201

Chapter 2201: City Golem

The merfolk kid was small enough that it would make anyone wonder just how he had gotten in here. Especially since it was clear that he was not able to move around the wall without the help of the golem that was moving and lifting him where he wanted to be.

This also would raise more questions. How exactly had a child been drawing all this? How had a child gotten a golem like that? How was all this actually happening since there was a clear separation from the other rooms?

Instead, Walker was thinking about other things.

"Who is this? You came in here without even bothering to knock. You should know that this is my room and I am making something way better than whatever you think you need space for. So get out."

"So rude? I thought he would be a little more mature if he was making massive blueprints like this." There was a little bit of confusion in Walker's voice, but he was also somewhat teasing. Not because he wanted to be mean, but because he felt it would be a little fun to combat the rude attitude with a little bit of his own rudeness.

"Rude? You are looking at my work. Trying to just steal it for yourself then? I would have had my golem beat you up if Miss Su wasn't with you. But she is too great to walk around with someone not helpful."

The more this merfolk kid spoke, the more that Walker replied he had grown up faster in some ways than others physically, he had the body of a child.. But mechanically, his mind was well versed enough to push and argue just like the majority of blacksmiths. Specifically how the apprentice blacksmiths argued.

"So I would say you learned your attitude from the blacksmiths. The dwarf specifically and you didn't have an issue with that. But then you have the genius to begin learning the golems like it was just putting a small puzzle together. And now you have some in depth and specific class that you want to use to make something amazing?" Walker summed everything he gathered up right then and there leaving silence in the room.

"Kid, this is Walker. And he is much more than what I am." Su's smirk proved that she was internally laughing at these odd interactions, especially since it was funny to see people not recognize Walker but like her over him. The word hilarious came right to the front of her mind.

"I was checking out the entire building. It's hard to believe it was only recently built and so many new things are happening. I thought I would see more parts of the floating ship being made since there is a chance that they would be using the compounded rune gears. But Su mentioned she had started to help out a little here with the new golems being made for the spirit race so they had better bodies. Now, I am being shown what you are making."

Walker didn't see the point in hiding how he came to be here. But he was waiting for the merfolk kid to snap out of it.

"What I am making? I'm just making the solution to the merfolk race's issues within the ocean. I'm making a new moving city for my race!" Walker blinked then looked up at the apportion of the massive blueprint he could see that was not rolled up on a large storage at the opposite end of the wall.

Besides the intricate designs and what other aspects might be more mechanical, the spaces made more sense now. Places to live. Places to eat. Even places to grow unique herbs and plants that would provide food for those within.

"It's not a golem in the sense that it's for battle or travel. It's a living city of sorts." Now it was Walker's turn to be properly amazed.

"Do they know you are making this? I mean the proper king of the merfolk and not the representative. I know he would like it, but the king is more strict and even keeps his people more isolated. That's why so few have come to live here over remaining in their city."

"I know that. It's why I left when I saw the chance. They didn't want to show me anything. By the golems from the dwarves that helped rebuild were too good. I had to learn. So I followed them and I found a blacksmith. Then he showed me the blueprints to fix things and then I learned them all. My parents said that I could do whatever I wanted and no one stopped me when I came here--"

"Whoah, wait, your parents just said do whatever? Isn't that--"

"His parents are advisors to the king of the merfolk, Walker. They are very busy with their positions causing them to be unable to spend a lot of time focusing on what their child is doing. So he was given express travel here so that he could flourish. They will receive letters from the merfolk side of Genesis leadership about their son's current genius when the time is right." Her pointed look made him understand a little better.

Now Walker grasped the situation. While there were some delicate balances on the political side, this was still amazing.

"I guess I will have to see what you manage to do. And you can just call me Walker. If you need any help when the building begins you can feel free to ask for me. I might be able to help you find the right water spirits to control the cores you plan to make for controlling the golem."

"One hundred and fifteen cores needed to be controlled together. Not just a few. And this will be the fortress whale golem. Moving city that can travel to places no other has been to. Even the deepest parts of the oceans so that we can recover lost ruins, defeat new monsters, and even find places that no one had ever seen before."

"And my name is Kid, I'm not a kid. I am the only deep sea golem architect to be found and I am sure that no one else is making things like me." There was a lot of pride that mirrored the way that the dwarven blacksmith's would think of their work and how they would brag. It made Walker wonder if this kid, named... Kid, would be alright in the world. Especially as he got older.

"Well Kid, nice to meet you. Have you seen the blueprints for the dragon golem that I helped make? It might help you reference how you want to bring the core and other aspects together. I can tell you already considered the methods of movement, but it might not be flexible enough to ensure that the plating doesn't crack or bend."

With the way that walker could look at aspects and use the all around appraisal, he had already picked out major flaws. Not in the entirety of the design, but in smaller aspects. Simply put, the weight would not be a problem because of the fact that the golem was going to be within the water and also that it would be made of a unique ore. Instead, it was the stress on that metal that would be the issue.

Watching Kid blink a few times, Walker wondered if he was about to see an angry child since he would surely be unhappy that someone messed with his design. Even telling him it was

flawed.

"What problems? I don't see it." and there it was, the lack of knowledge that came with someone his age. The finally normal thing about him.

"Using my all around appraisal I checked the small bit I could see and it noted that this unfinished blueprint has structural errors that put more stress on the bend and arching of the outside plating. And since it will need to be thicker, that means cracks are easier to form. You will need layers to stop that stress or relieve that stress. I would say that rubber or something else flexible that won't compress poorly under so much weight when it comes to the water and depth would work."

It was like Kid was listening to some otherworldly being. No one had provided such perfectly detailed explanations of errors to him. He had just been getting apprentices that wanted to try top work on his project. A few blacksmiths and other golem makers came by wanting to take over the large project he was given just by showing up.

To be fair, they had their own superiority complexes and that was all well and good but it caused some issues when they thought that they should be the ones to get a larger room and work in a better space. They didn't understand that Kid had a class that allowed him to do these things. Not that he had just been lucky enough to be handed down a task.

"I knew this would happen. Should keep Walker out of trouble for a while." Su hummed as she spotted a small dark spirit moving around and looking for help. A few of the spirits got lost when the first came here. Plenty of mana making these senses distracted. Now she could get back to helping out.

Chapter 2202: Midnight's Instincts

"Sister, are you sure you wish to do this?" Onyx was still looking carefully at Midnight who had brought him out fairly far in to the wilderness from where they should have started

within genesis.

It had been a normal day and Onyx had planned to roam the city a little. Espeore what might be new while meeting some of the young serpents that had found unique jobs to help the city grow. It was a place of pride for him to move around and find those doing their jobs. He wanted them all to know that he was proud of their progress. To encourage them further.

It was an important way for him to stand as the one who helped raise them beyond what they would have been if left as eggs. Only hatching if they were lucky enough to get the light elemental mana needed. Only if they were lucky enough to survive after hatching entirely alone.

So many what ifs could have led to the end of the species as a whole. But Onyx had been part of it all. Walker and the others had allowed him to take hold of his own dreams and pursue them. They had helped him do so to levels above what others may have done.

Regardless, Onyx found Midnight waiting for him instead of being off doing her own thing. From what Onyx had gathered, Midnight wanted to test her strength properly. Not just to test her strength, but to test out a new skill that she had managed to awaken due to the consistent dense and pure mana from the elemental planes.

While she had not grasped what the skill was while they had been within the elemental planes, she understood somewhat now. That was why she had not been around as much. She had also been eating a lot more. But no one had noticed her lack of growth.

When Onyx had been pulled with her, she had somewhat explained things in her own way. Using his thoughts and mental communication, Onyx always felt that he learned a lot more from Midnight than when she spoke out loud. Even using the dragon language that she naturally knew because of her bloodline, Midnight hated speaking out loud. It was just how she was.

As she explained a little, Onyx understood that a lot of what midnight had felt was her instincts telling her that she had more potential. She was incredibly unique after all.

As she had grown, she had done things and grown at a rate well above what any little dragon would have grown and done. Therefore, she had been able to go through the system and gain an awakening of sorts that allowed her to purify her own blood.

While she had maintained the strength of her bloodline and affinities, she had gained the new ones to become a true dragon champion. Capable of using every single elemental mana just the same as Walker who was a jack of all trades. It was partially due to her bond with him that this happened.

But even more so, as she had grown, she exhibited stronger traits that many of the dragons did not have. She also showed that she had an intelligence that grew. Especially an intelligence related to battle. Her attacks were clear and powerful. No hesitation. She also defended those she cared for with extremely close care.

As such, when Midnight had started to have a new feeling, she chased it. Onyx listened to how she told him that she could feel her scales itch. How she also had much greater hunger than what she had before. More similar to how she had felt when she first ever shed her scales.

But that was when she was younger. She was not as developed. She knew that she would grow more though. That she would eventually reach a size the same, if not larger than the royal dragons. Especially with her bonds. She had gained a lot from Walker even if he didn't realize just how much.

The various manas that had come through their bins had allowed her the methods to balance her body better than any other dragon. She wanted to be a true nature dragon champion because that would make her a symbol of the world. Make her someone that was just as important as Walker and Fleur to the world. Allow her to be one of the key factors in uniting all the races of the world since she was part of the world.

That grand dream really fit her. Onyx found that it embodied what she had seen and how he felt about her. He felt that midnight was the younger sibling to the entire party that was also one of the guardians of the party. Whether it be emotionally or physically.

She could stand beside Remey and fight with her. She could protect Onyx as he learned to fight. She could watch Gil's back when he focused on targets. She could unleash vicious dragon breaths as Su acted as her guardian, preventing large groups of enemies from touching Su. and she could easily be the perfect tag team to Walker when it came to magical and physical fighting.

All of that made Midnight incredibly unique, but she still felt too little as she learned to bring the manas and the affinities within her together. Yet, as that happened, she felt that she needed space to unleash it all. To be able to properly do it. She also felt she wanted to surprise everyone. The same way she had when she learned to take a dragonkin form.

"Sister, if you do this, I will be the only one protecting you. So focus on it all and forget about everything else." Onyx showed his full size, now easily being able to wrap around Midnight's current size several times over. He knew well though, that she could beat him in a battle. That's if they ever fought, that would be unlikely as she was his older sister.

While Onyx watched, he was suddenly amazed.

He did not have dragon blood, but through his connection to Walker, he could vaguely sense that there was a resonance within Midnight. Almost like there had been part of her too weak and too trapped to break out. But it finally had the strength.

That's how Midnight felt too. As if she had finally gotten what her body needed more than anything to break free of the limits she had in her current state. Even without the many years normally needed for dragons to grow, Midnight had done so much and grown so fast.

Different foods, herbs, and even manas had been given to her along with battle experience. Now she had the time to use it all. Every bit of nutrients that her body had stored was being consumed. Every bit of condensed mana was consumed. All of it being guided by her dragon heart. The golden mana and flames that reached out from it proving over and over her true dragon champion nature.

Her instincts guiding her along with her grand desires, Midnight felt that the manas she had stored away were mixing the very same way that she had felt it from Walker when he made natural mana from the surroundings. When he used it to buff him.

She also felt the small flame of gold within her heart bursting. Bursting with more than just natural mana, it was life mana. But balanced life mana. Her being trapped once by the immortal king using an item with death mana within which caused her and Walker to fight to free her mind had also given her something.

While it had been the skeletal armor skill, it had also been an insight on death mana as well. Both her own life and her death mana melded together enough to cause growth in every affinity she possessed. Not entirely intentional when it came to life and death, but even the tiniest growth was something.

All the while, Onyx watched as his sister shed scales. As her claws became denser and gave off a terrifying sharpness. When her heart beat, it made more dragon aura radiate around her. Small flames, shadows, winds, and even a slight tremble of earth resonated with her. But more so, small plants where she lay grew faster before dying. Proof she had managed to touch upon natural mana along with a little more.

"I really hope that sister gets a skill that allows her to control her size. If she stays in her new form..." Onyx's mind raced a little as he wondered what everyone would think of when it came to how she moved. Midnight had a habit of sticking to her dragon form and running about in excitement. A little more dangerous now.

Chapter 2203: Young Woman

In the midst of talking to the new deep sea golem architect, Walker felt a change in the body with Midnight. Specifically, he felt that she had gotten stronger.

Through their bond, Walker can sense a lot. Especially since he was able to share mana

through that bond to a certain degree. However, lately, he had felt that midnight was somewhat ravenous.

While he didn't worry that she was always hungry, he worried that it was more than normal. As any young dragon, Midnight would be very hungry because she needed the food to grow. The other royal dragons all needed a lot of food to be satiated, however, they were able to control their cravings since they also supplemented mana as a source of nutrients.

Yet, Midnight had needed a lot more mana and a lot more food lately. She had been eating enough that Walker was sure that something major was happening with her in some form or fashion. But right now, he sensed that the floodgates had finally been released and she was using all that food and mana.

"I need to head out, one of my family members is working on seething. Su!"

"I felt it too, Midnight is growing bigger again. I bet she was hiding it from us so that we wouldn't worry. And I would bet a thousand gold coins that onyx is right with her too." Su had the bond between her and Midnight that Walker didn't have. One that was her as a guardian and Midnight as her champion. It was unique and Su had a deeper connection to vaguely sense what midnight might think rather than just feel.

She also shared a lot of the food hunting ideals since she and Midnight enjoyed moving around to discover the foods of other cultures. They could do it all day if they had not limited themselves. Not that this was a bad thing. Just a habit that they were falling more in to since they could eat a great deal if they wished. Su just had to hold herself back since she had other goals as well.

As the pair made their move, they could sense the draconic aura radiating in the distance. They also noticed that ventus had flown slightly lower in the sky taking a look in to the distance before she moved back in to the skies and paid attention to one of her children who she ahad decided could use a little training before going back to the demon lands.

Knowing that the other royal dragons surely sensed this, it was nice to know that they were letting midnight have her space. This was just a basic respect to them, but it was also somewhat of a nod to how they would be interested in what has changed and what was going on. Curiosity was, after all, normal for every race.

As Walker used wind mana to speed up his and Su's movements, he was very impressed how well Su was learning and adapting to her very own wings as a half dragon. She had been trying to learn to strengthen them since she was not born with them and they had developed fairly later compared to any born half dragons. A race still not very possible as the races had not been united enough.

That didn't mean that Su hadn't looked in to it. She had found historical mentions of half dragons but found that they would often live very remotely and would not interfere much in anything that was not directly related to their dragon parent.

Regardless of that, Su had found that learning to fly was enjoyable. Especially since she had the dragon blood within her that made her wish to experience the joys of flight. Even if she was a little more acclimated to earth mana, she was not afraid or deterred from flight.

Instead, she had been relying on others' help to be able to take weight off the wings when she trained. The muscles developed very well so that she could fly better and be able to carry the weight of both her

body and the heavy armor she wore. That was beside the weight of the shields she carried too. It would take some time for her to reach the peak of her ability but it would yet again, change her battle style.

As the two neared the area, they saw Onyx standing guard. His large coiled form was the ideal deterrent that could crush many of the monsters within the area with a simple swing of his tail. He was just that strong now compared to the average monster that might be foolish enough to approach him.

When Onyx noticed Su and Walker, he shook his head. "Sister wanted to surprise you, but she definitely didn't expect to make such a show. She has been feeling this growth coming for a while." Onyx didn't take the effort to hide what had been happening. He could tell that the two of them already understood it. They could sense it.

As they looked over midnight who was in a somewhat meditative state, Walker could sense that she had made her golden dragon hearts more developed. Not just that, but she had taken her entire body to a much higher level than what it had been.

"Have you guys ever heard of a dragon with black gold scales? I wouldn't think that any dragon looks like this." While Walker was impressed by the intricate flecks of gold running through all of midnight's scales, he was more impressed by the fact that she had grown to the size of a large house now. It was like watching time itself be sped up as Midnight adapted to the depths of mana fusing within her.

"Ah, it's called the world dragon heart now. So she mixed the affinities she had to make a natural mana affinity entirely. This is amazing!" Walker's mana senses and all around appraisal were picking up so many improvements that he couldn't do anything but praise midnight. He was a little annoyed she kept these ideas a secret, but who cares? He was too proud to be angry.

"You keep going on and on like that, but can't you tell that she also made a lot of growth in her body so that she could defend us? She had wings larger than they were before that can cover the entire party just like I do with my shields." The happiness that Su had was entirely related to how Midnight could better defend from attacks. Keeping her from being harmed at all.

"Sister is still smaller than the royal dragons since they became dominator dragons. She is also smaller than the elder dragons. She is definitely stronger than the elder dragons now though. I bet she could give the royal dragons a surprise." Onyx's praise was enough to make midnight's eyelids flutter before she stood up taller than before and looked over.

Her eyes were a deeper shade of gold than what they had been before. She seemed to also feel more mana around Walker than she had before too. She could sense that he was able to easily weave manas together rather than just call on them. This was something that she had been able to sense before.

Air was pulled in to Midnight's mouth before she released a large roar shaking the mana all around them. It wasn't a roar of anger or anything negative, instead, it was announcing her growth. Showing the entirety of the world and Genesis that she had taken a larger step to becoming a true dragon champion than she had been before. That she had more than accepted and grown what she wished to be.

"You know, if you try and sit inside the mansion with that size, you will crush it now. I can't even call you my little sister any more. You're growing too fast." Walker stepped through the air and placed a single hand on midnight before she huffed a little and changed form. Her dragonkin form had changed too.

Now, she had slight black gold scales on her arms, but appeared much more human in a way. The horns on her head were more slicked back rather than forward pointing as well. Her wings were more developed and easily tucked behind her. She also had a taller height showing off a

more developed figure.

"Walker, you know that Lisa is going to be very glad to make Midnight new clothes. Especially since she has been waiting for Midnight to grow taller again. But I think we will need to think more of Midnight as the same age as us now." Su laughed a little seeing that midnight was almost taller than her now. Definitely a young woman rather than a girl.

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Chapter 2204: An Honest Future

"So, now that Midnight has broken records when it comes to how fast dragons can grow, do we need to start teaching her other things?" Walker was very worried that some of the

younger dragons would start to take notice of Midnight. As her older brother, he was ready to beat those dragons down in to paste.

'Walker, the next time you think of those things, remember that Midnight would literally shred anyone that dared to insult her or act poorly. She has a lot of good role models." Su's words were very clear that if Walker continued to pursue these thoughts, she would take it as an insult and reason to scold him.

Naturally, Su was also thinking that she would keep things on track. She was Midnight's draconic guardian. A true draconic guardian would not allow anything untoward to happen to the dragon that they guarded. Especially someone like Midnight who was pure and innocent. "Look at us too though, we all grew a lot faster than we should. We would still be considered kids if we were not as strong as we were. Plus with all of us changing literal races through the insane events, well, we might as well have aged fifty years each."

This was a little of an understatement. With the strength that they had, some of those most powerful within the world couldn't even hold a candle to them now. Especially with the fact that Walker himself was able to literally bring mana to do as he wished just with a few thoughts. Basic magic skills were just a formality in a way.

That aside, Walker thought about how it was very interesting to wonder what they all had the potential for now. They had outgrown any childishness in their actions. Especially with the fact that they were some of the strongest leaders within genesis.

The best part about that, was that the party were not some hidden rulers or figures steeped in shadow and unknown mysteries. They were out in the open. Standing and growing with everyone else. They popped up here and there working on larger problems for the people. This was where the ideals of who and what leaders should be were growing from.

Many kingdoms had become used to the kings or rulers standing on high mountains looking down. The humans were certainly like that. The very same could be said about the demi- humans who rarely had the chance to see their generals and kings outside of their places within the coliseum.

However, as Genesis set a new precedent, those kingdoms would be changing ever so slightly every day. Those kings and rulers would eventually find that they were thought of as do nothing rulers. But the humans had already started to adapt to such things.

They had been some of the strongest to support and begun creating roads themselves towards Genesis for trade. Hence how they also began making their nobles travel those roads and move around to establish better conditions. All of that alone had begun making the nobles seem more approachable.

It also helped weed out those with inflated egos and classist attitudes. A good way for the changes to begin.

But back to the reality they faced, Midnight was standing much taller while the four moved back in to Genesis. It was a very short while before they found that Mordant had taken up a walking pace next to them. He had effortlessly slipped through the shadows to wait and hear what had happened. His eyes barely settling on Midnight before he focused on Walker. He had gotten used to Midnight not saying much.

"Midnight went through a large growth spurt. She's not as large as one of the elder dragons. But she is close. And I would bet that she can use natural mana as she wishes now. Not to mention a little boost to life and death mana. Not that it's usable. More like they both revolve around her since she is focusing on becoming a force of the world still."

"I can sense that. She was asking a lot about how my dark mana works when I fight alongside the others. How to mix my mana with theirs." Mordant had not hidden that he taught Midnight a few things here and there. She had gone to them asking after all.

"It will be interesting to see what happens now." It was clear that Midnight had already grown more than what anyone expected. But Mordant didn't show much worry.

"Young ones will go through a few growth spurts. One day they are just eating and absorbing manas like they are starving, the next day they fall asleep and they are double their size. She takes that to another level, only sleeping for a few hours at the most. Very impressive. I assume it's the purity of manas that she received through bonds with you. You are well above that of any other taming that could be."

It seemed that Mordant had thought about the uniqueness of the skills that Walker used. In essence, the way he was viewing the bonds were not as a tamer to a monster but instead as a clear channel between family bloodlines and even more. Or closer to the soul itself. Able to share everything and anything with one another. A new form of bond that could potentially be passed down through generations as the dragons did with language and instincts.

"I think I know what you are thinking, and I would assume you are right with that. Midnight is a true dragon champion, but she changed the rare golden dragon heart she had. Instead, it's a world dragon heart or more now. She's fused her affinities that she has as a true dragon champion and also with her bind with me. Now she has a natural mana affinity along with the lingering death and life mana affinity which are deeply part of natural mana."

The explanation was a lot to take in. It was a lot for Walker to say. If Mordant didn't have Walker to explain this, he wouldn't have the senses to touch upon the intricacies of natural mana and the way they interact with life and death manas. He was a darkness dominator dragon, not anything other or more.

"You know that this will cause problems one day. Manipulating life mana within oneself to ensure that they can change things about themselves. Even their race. We will have to make laws. Rules to follow. Limits to prevent becoming an immortal chasing race."

The topic shifted to a very heavy one, luckily, Su expected this would appear one day. "We will set rules for a thousand years at least. We will make sure that no one forgets what happened to break the balance of the world. So much more can come of uplifting one another than using each other as tools. We just have to show it."

"And if Su can't ensure that they follow a good example with everyone's help, we will dole out appropriate punishment as the elemental planes do. They have the strength and ability to ensure that thousands of years of imprisonment can be done. Then an entire return of a soul to natural flow. Impossible things to us as we are now, but in the future..." Walker trailed off thinking about the potentials still yet to be realized. There was a long road still to go.

"Looks like I will head out for now. I just wanted to keep us all honest about the future." Mordant smiled a little toward Midnight before he stepped in to his own shadow and moved

away.

But in the next moment, a burst of heat welcomed Remey who landed on Midnight with a bear hug. Ignus just flapped his wings and landed next to them. "He ran away because he can't handle speaking with me. How dull." Ignus had been trying to get Mordant to speak with everyone lately, but Mordant had avoided everyone while focusing on a few of his elder dragons learning to take a dragonkin form.

"It's Midnight's growth spurt! We need to celebrate! She's going to get new clothes and we are going to throw a party! I even have some new teas we can make too!" Midnight didn't shy away from Remey's excitement. She had understood what happened as soon as she saw

Midnight.

"Then I guess I should go get Gil and Alma. they will be pretty happy to have a little celebration. Especially since they have been way too focused on melding the historical elven documents. Plenty of reading to melt their brains." Walker laughed a little as he stepped in to the air moving ahead of the others. He felt like this would be a fun night.

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Chapter 2205: A trip And A Guest

"Walker, everyone else has headed out. I am taking the day off. You need to go and see who is at the door." Walker had been sitting with his mother in the morning. Remey had made a few interesting tea blends and it was not a daily routine to try open at breakfast.

Today on particular was called dragon breath tea. A slightly spicy tea that warmed the throat and helped wake someone up. Not a bad blend with the fact that it also slightly boosted fire mana absorption to those with the affinity for it. Definitely unique and making full use of her herb knowledge.

This left Walker with nothing to say in return. He wasn't one to say no to his family, especially when he knew how hard they worked to follow their own dreams now. The restaurant was very demanding on his mother and he knew that she would eventually have to call it a day and retire. But for now, she could take the time to be lazy when she wanted.

Upon opening the door, Walker was surprised to find that the people who came knocking were not any of those looking for help with projects or anything else of the sort. It was a group of three healers. To be specific, one nun and two healers.

He recognized them from when he had worked in the cathedral to help heal others. He also recognized that they were people that Alice would spend time with even when they were resting from their duties for the day.

"What brings you here? Alice is still off in the northern shore city dealing with the cathedral there, right? Do you need help healing a few people?" This was the only reason that Walker could imagine that they had come looking. "I can find Su too, she definitely will come help too."

"No, we didn't come here for the cathedral. We came here to ask you a favor." Now this was a surprise to Walker. He had no idea what the three might need of him.

"Then come on in, my mother and I were enjoying some dragon breath Tea that Remy made. You can have a cup while you talk." Walker led them all in. While they seemed to be a little awkward since this wasn't a place they had been before, they quickly fell in to a more comfortable flow when they had the tea.

Their raving aside, the sudden serious change made Walker wonder what they had to ask him as a favor. "Go and get Alice back sooner."

"Huh?"

It was Walker's turn to be confused yet again. He had no idea what they meant by go and get Alice home sooner. Whatever their reason was, it didn't seem like it would be a good one. In the essence that Walker would feel that it was a good reason to go get Alice, but not for a happy one.

The three shared worried looks before the oldest of them finally spoke. "The high priest has been resting more and more often lately. Even with the healing effects within the cathedral, he has grown tired and struggles more than he used to. We believe that he has very little time left in the world before he moves on in to another life."

The entire room felt cold. Walker had just drunk warm tea, yet now he felt that it had been ice cold. No, that everything had been ice cold from the very start. He had just fooled himself in to thinking everything was warm and happy. Time was still moving, he couldn't forget that.

After a long deep breath, Walker looked at the three, "Then you three will be responsible for taking care of him until I return with Alice. I will not hear a single piece of bad news when we return. I expect the high priest to be comfortable and happy to see his lovely daughter so he can hear her story. We will not scare him nor her in either of our actions."

His deep focus and seriousness made the three shiver. They had known how powerful Walker was, but they had not known that side of him. Just heard the stories and been able to see him show a kinder side. They had never seen him look serious like this. As if he could leap in to vicious battle in a moment's notice. No, like he was always ready for brutal battles. "Mother,"

"Yes, I heard it all. Go and get your little girlfriend so she can see her father. I will make him some soup before these three head back. They are very caring friends to make sure that Alice gets home. They even came after you for help. You are plenty scary to some people you know. My son, the powerful hero that can fight even dragons and ancient undead without a sweat."

Choosing to ignore the teasing from his mother, Walker set foot out the door that moment. He had long since memorized the new route to the distant shoreline city where the main cathedral for the church was. He had done so before Alice even took off for her journey. He wanted to make sure he knew where to go if the worst case happened.

Luckily, as the world returned to the proper flow, the areas between Genesis and this city had not changed much. Mostly, the distance had changed along with the slight flow of a few streams growing larger as there was an expansion of a nearby broken up lake. Otherwise, from what walker expected, everything would be the same.

He only wished that the city in question had been welcoming to Genesis ideals and changes. If that had been the case, they would have most likely had the beginnings of a teleportation formation there. Then he could just use that to get there rather than pushing himself to move faster.

But that also wasn't any issue, he walked in to the air and began gathering wind mana. Traveling was nothing tough for him right now. He had a deeper bond with mana than what he had before. As such, he began using his skill to make dragon wings yet again on his back. But he focused only on wind mana as the driving force for it.

This drew the attention of a few small wind spirit race members who wanted to see what was happening. But they quickly realized that Walker was just using a spell and nothing interesting was happening. They had seen him fly about before.

Yet, another pair of curious eyes focused on him. One that he had not seen around before. It made him hesitate before he noticed a familiar figure standing slightly behind the little one. "That isb Walker, he is the most important founder of Genesis and the reason why you were brought here to learn and grow by your mother before she went in to deep meditation and slumber."

"Ventus, I'm sorry that I can't stick around and ask who your little niece is, but I have an important task to handle." Ventus could see that Walker was much more serious than usual. Especially with the fact that the last few days he had been very bright and cheery. Many people gossiped about the party of heroes who went about the city with smiles and positive things to say.

"Well, take Erica with you. She's a hatchling with light and wind affinities. But she is curious about the world. She sniffed out where Midnight lives just by that very curiosity. Maybe you will have the chance to calm your nerves if you are bringing along a student." The light green scaled hatchling dragon looked at Ventus before Ventus flew off leaving it with Walker.

"I am pretty sure that ventus just wanted to leave you with someone she trusted so she can go back to her duties. She was looking for Midnight to be a babysitter and now you are with me. How do you feel about flying with me for a while?"

There was a lot more worry that Walker was heading quite far away for this little hatchling, but he also knew that an elder dragon meditating and slumbering could mean months of that. And if Ventus was leaving Little hatchling Erica with him, she knew that walker was going to do his best. But he also felt that Ventus had done so because of the look he had about him. A worry that radiated from his serious gaze.

"I'll try to show off some dragon related magic while we fly. I will even tell you about how I met Ventus and the other dragons. But you have to be ready to fly fast. Think you can handle it?" Walker knew that hatchlings couldn't respond, but if there was anything about a wind dragon hatchling he did know, was that they would love to fly sooner than later. He had heard this said more often than not.

The saying, a wind dragon hatchling would jump off a cliff just to feel the breeze sooner, was common for thos teasing the elder wind dragons. Naturally, this was also a phrase people used for those who appeared to be within their element. When they were talented right away whether they were ready or not to be so talented in that subject.

Chapter 2206: Flight And Chains

There was a part of Walker that was thinking about how he would reprimand Ventus when he returned. Especially since he was sure that she had no idea how different this way of thinking was from a human's thoughts.

No human would just say, hey, I am in charge of this child, watch them for me while you go off on a longer journey to a city i've never been to. But for a dragon, a longer journey could be the same as a small nap. Their sense of time and distance were radically different from the other races.

To be fair, this was still a step up. plenty of the dragons had tossed their young from their nests if they were not strong enough in the ways that they desired them to be. Whether it was affinity or not, a child like this hatchling that had a strong wind affinity with a lower light affinity would be disliked.

The dragons believed in elemental purity along with various other forms of growing themselves using just their main elemental affinity. Hence why their villages were not mixed with one another. They were separated because that was the best method for them to focus on absorbing and gathering one elemental mana at all times.

While that had already begun to change, the reasoning that the dual elemental affinity dragons appeared was simple, to stop fights. There would be a village that got in to it with another of a different elemental affinity. As such, to resolve this issue, one dragon of each would have a child together. Causing there to be a common ground.

Sometimes this wasn't the case. Emotions still existed along with the dragons that chose to live somewhat away from the main villages which were governed by elders. They were not as strictly held to the elemental affinity purity. Not that this changed much overall.

The future would surely hold many more of the dual or even triple affinity dragons. They would have access to plenty of things within Genesis that could allow them to grow. Plenty of people would support them as well. It would be a new era for dragons overall.

Right this second, Walker was using dragon wind wings to fly through the air at a little slower than what he had been planning on doing. It wasn't that he had lost his desire to get Alice home. It was the fact that he felt some worries over the little hatchling with him. Although, Erica appeared to be thrilled.

He had been speaking about how he had met Ventus and how Ventus had even introduced him to her children, but the more he got in to his stories, the more he realized that Erica was just too amazed by the fact that they were flying.

As a dragon with a main wind affinity, the act of flying was just too great and amazing. The best part was, that she was still a hatchling and her wings would not be strong enough to take her in to the sky for a while yet. Unlike other dragons, the wind dragons would hatch with small wings already somewhat developed wings. Other hatchlings would take time to show them. Midnight was actually behind in comparison since she gained her wings later.

That was another story though. Walker knew the circumstances behind the way that midnight grew up and how he came to meet her. He could think about it another time.

He watched as a little wind mana made its way over Erica's baby dragon scales. The clear sign that she was absorbing mana unintentionally while enjoying the feeling of the air rushing over her body. On top of that, the way that Walker used wind mana made it feel as if she had been the one flying without any help at all. Something he had not considered as a bonus skill.

It was worth remembering though. When he visited certain places where children might get a little rowdy, he could offer some small flying lessons. Maybe even help them decide what path they might want to take in the future.

Hence how he ended up on the thought topic of what class this little hatchling might end up with. She clearly focused on her wind affinity with how much she enjoyed flying right now. But with the weaker light affinity, there was a better chance that Erica could end up with a better class than what a normal wind dragon might get. Especially since the dragon race was developing in many ways right now.

The royal dragons had all gained classes that made sense. They were royal fire dragon, royal dark dragon, and so on. But they were dominator dragons. One was their race, what they had become. And the other was what they were in the position of their species. Royals. It worked the same way as the royalty in the other races too.

The emergence of the first dragon alchemist had already made a big wave within the dragons and even a few of the other races since they had never expected there to be a dragon that would prefer to spend their very long lives learning alchemy. But that alone was an

astounding thing.

That dragon who was very young, would have the chance to spend an entire dragon lifetime refining their alchemy technique. Most likely creating their very own form of alchemy which could also lead to them becoming a new form of dragon.

Just because the royal dragons rose to become dominator dragons did not mean all dragons of the world would do so. They had their own paths to walk. They could also follow the examples of the dragons within the elemental planes. Follow their steps to become elemental mana devouring dragons of different manas.

"You know, you have a light affinity. If you mix that with the wind affinity, you might be able to move even faster through the sky than any other dragon. Don't you realize how fast light moves? When you light a flame in a dark room, it becomes brighter faster than you can see, right? You don't even need to blink and it's bright. Both light and air together would be faster."

Walker had thought about mixing the light mana with his wind to make himself a special buff. But right now, it seemed a little better to explain the feeling of doing so to this little hatchling. She was going to grow up with this dual affinity. He was just giving her a little head start when it came to sensing the two affinities being used together.

As such, he mixed some light mana in to the wind dragon wings he had made. The flare of light within the condensed green wind wings caused a burst in speed which brought a small surprised growl from Erica. Walker could only laugh a bit as he saw her eyes wide open in awe. The world which had been moving slower beneath them had become a blur to her eyes. That was all due to her low level and young age. That alone was astonishing to her. She had been born not too long ago when it came to the time of a dragon. Therefore, she had never experienced something like this. She had never even dreamed or imagined it!

With this speed, Walker knew that they would easily push in to the area of the city that he wished to travel to. But for now, he enjoyed the time he had with Erica and the wonder that came from these new experiences. He couldn't wait to show these sorts of magical moments to others. It was a good reason to keep putting his all in to Genesis.

"We deny the existence of your cathedral and any cathedral that does not exclusively worship light and the existence of a god who created all light that brings about life. We will not accept your denial of those facts! The world and existence itself are part of what we believe created

everything."

"From this point on, you will be disallowed to accept any patients to be healed within your false cathedral. You are all considered heretics. If you dare to spread your false words to others, you will be hunted and imprisoned as you should be."

"And you, false saintess! How dare you claim to embody a value well above any other. You are no worse than those who represent the sins. Great evil that will lead the people astray. You will be imprisoned immediately!"

As Walker was spending his time amazed by Erica's reactions, Alice had come to a wall. A hard wall of controlled beliefs that perfectly explained why this city had not connected to Genesis. The people were fed lies and scared by the very people who should be their examples of care and kindness. It made her heart fall as armored guards began to move toward her and her fellow healers again.

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Chapter 2207: False Purity

"Here we are." The slowing down in flight speed made the little hatchling Erica a little sad. "Don't give me that look. We have an entire new city to explore." Walker shook his head as he landed before the city. He didn't want to be disrespectful and just fly on. This wasn't Genesis. There would surely be rules.

"We can see what this place is like and what we might be able to learn here. There isn't much time but we can have a small look while we walk to the main cathedral. As a city founded by and for the church, there should be a very ornate cathedral from the leadership of this city."

While he was saying this, Walker did not forget that this was also one reason that this city's leadership did not immediately join Genesis. They had their own values and beliefs. Naturally, they clashed with Genesis which did not fully support and rely on the church.

Mostly because the church in the human city along with Genesis, had not been about worshiping a great god or anything like that. Their scriptures had been interpreted as ways to live and how one should help others. More symbolic and less literal. To be fair, there were also those within the world that had systems called god systems.

While those people were far and few between, they did exist. The party had even encountered one, or at least that's what Walker believed. Those system users had been bound to very strict skills, values, and existences overall. It made them harder to run in to in a way.

The moon goddess was considered to only be able to move under the light of the moon. Specifically the full moon. But there was a mystery and wonder in that aspect. Various other historical references of god system users existed. Those that embodied the sun or war. One even apparently embodying the idea of the unknown and human curiosity.

In terms of creating experience and destroying existence, they were not really that powerful. They just were deeply connected to those aspects of their system. While the world had returned to the flow of what should be, it wasn't hard to believe that those god system holders would become more active and even potentially more frequently seen in history.

They would be people with classes that embodied what kind of god they would be. It would not be a surprise for anyone to find someone with a blacksmith god class, an alchemy god class, or even an education god class. Walker explained this as he idly talked while walking up to the walls.

The city was right on the edge of the water. If Walker had needed to walk or take a carriage, he would have needed weeks to get here. But with his control of magic, it was something reduced to just a few hours of windy travel. To be fair, a few of the flying monsters he passed by were terrified by him moving through their territory. Not that he noticed them too much.

Regardless, he managed to get here and spot the clean looking white walls. They had been cut from stone and painted white to represent the light aspect of the cathedral and church. A little much but it was their beliefs so Walker just made a mental note about the potential for decorating walls around Genesis. Painting them and adding murals might be a great way to expand the artists appearing within Genesis.

As they neared the walls, Walker had the little hatchling take up a spot on his shoulders. Erica was a little larger for it, but he could help her stay balanced with a little wind magic. However, the sound of large bells ringing made plenty of farmers in the outer walls rush toward the coyote. The guards also were ushering people in.

It struck him as slightly unsafe until he realized that this must be a time for prayer. In such a city where the cathedral was the focal point, it made a lot more sense that they would have times in the day for prayer that they greatly cared for. So, he took the chance to follow along. It was the ideal way to get to the main cathedral.

As such, Walker took note of the many humans. No other races were present which made him a little disappointed. Especially since he had strived to ensure that there was a place for everything no matter the race within genesis.

The guards wore armor but had a large white covering with golden symbols on them. It showed the cathedrals representations very clearly. The same for many of the small shops all around the roads that he walked. They had markings that proved they were supported by the church. A clear sign that the church handled everything.

This also meant that there were no foreign traders, merchants, or stalls at all. Limiting the items that could be purchased overall. A very sad thing to see since many of the people here clearly could do with new food merchants coming in. A lot of bread and very little fruits and vegetables were on the market stalls he spotted.

It was also noticeable that the clothing here was very plain, no vibrant colors or anything of the sort. Pale whites, cream colors, and even a few browns mixed in. plenty of wooden symbols related to healing and light runes though. Although they were fairly out of date compared to the light runes that could be found within genesis.

"Hurry up! We are going to be late for the grand priest to speak. He caught some heretics!" a young boy pulled his mother along. Yet, Walker couldn't help but get stuck on this.

Heretics? What child would be excited for that? why would so many people rush to see it too? Nothing about that made any sense to him. But he also didn't know what might happen in this city. What the

laws or the practices around the cathedral may be. He could just be hearing about criminals being announced and sentenced to ensure that the public saw them being brought to prison.

Some cities had done things similar in older times since it helped establish the laws. Genesis did not do so, but if there was ever a worse criminal that appeared, walker might do so to put the people at ease that streets were safe.

Walker wished he could see more, but with all the commotion, he was forced to push towards the massive open square which existed with one side open to the ocean and another side with a towering cathedral.

The white painted stone making up the cathedral was carved with delicate shapes representing the stories within scriptures. Inlaid with gems and gold that showed the devotion to the great god that their beliefs were founded on. Walker was somewhat amazed that they were able to build such a massive place right on the edge of cliffs along the ocean.

It made sense though, not many people could climb those cliffs or storm any beach nearby since there wasn't one to bring a ship to. On top of that, the large walls protected the city from anyone or anything that might come knocking.

Along the edge of the square where the cliff dropped off offered a brilliant blue view where someone could see the ocean meet the sky in the vast distance. It was a sure way to see an amazing sunset. Walker was making a mental note to sit and watch it with Alice if she wanted to spend the night before heading back to the cathedral. Or at least when they came back here so she could finish her business with the cathedral.

Before he could let those thoughts grow, Walker heard a magically enhanced voice speak over everything.

"Children of light and the true god, It breaks my heart today to call you here to witness evil that has infiltrated our sanctified home." Many gasps of worry moved through the large crowd. "Their vile thoughts and false beliefs led them to go against the scriptures we follow with all our souls. As such, we have captured them and will place them in the punishments they have brought upon themselves."

"False healers, false priests, and even false nuns all spout brainwashed lies given to them by a false saintess. A truly evil being that wears the mask of a young woman. Today, we shall place them within the stockades. We will display the false followers and allow the light from the vast ocean to purify them. Today, the false saintess will be cast in to the vast waters so that it may be taken away in to the depths of the endless waters. Never to return to our pure homes!" Murmurs of positive support and breaths of relief moved through the crowd. However, Walker had tensed as he saw the familiar faces, one face in particular.

"Erica, please do not be scared. I am about to get very angry. None of it is your fault. I promise you, nothing I am about to do is to harm you." The calmness in Walker's voice was betrayed by the shaking of his hands as mana surged causing everyone within the square to feel suffocated.

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Chapter 2208: Boiling Emotion

Walker carefully placed Erica down. A barrier of wind mana shielded her, but she could still feel it. Deep rooted fear. A predator greater than any dragon had just been aroused from slumber. Had just been taunted by something well below its strength.

The suffocating pressure that came from all the mana within the massive square, no, the entire cathedral city had pressed every single person to their knees. Children and parents alike. All those that had been jeering and murmuring about the heretics.

Even the strongest of the guards here were unable to lift their feet to take a step. Some of the strongest priests attempted to stand tall while using skills to boost themselves or others around them. All of them found that they could not call on a single bit of mana. It was as if mana itself had forsaken them.

"I believed that it was just a difference in values. A city full of people who did not understand other races. Who might not have traveled the world as much. Those who had their own cultures just as the demi-human tribes that refused to create a solid village because they believed they could travel while living on the land as their ancestors did."

Walker's words resonated through the entire city. The icy cold tone bringing terror to every single capable person. His words were not carried through the air as speaking normally would. They were carried by the mana itself to them. There was no possible way for them to misunderstand or not hear him.

"I believed that if we learned something about your culture. Learned how to trade and share ideals that we may find another ally. That Genesis might blossom as yet another city full of unique minds joined hands with us."

"I would have never expected that I would be so wrong. That all my hopes and desires for humanity would be betrayed like this. By false ideals that shackle an entire people. That allow them to slave away in worship rather than move freely."

"Terror governed by scriptures."

"Control exerted at the fear that a family wouldn't even be allowed proper food. That's if you can even get it since trades are disallowed with any other kingdom."

The disgust in his voice was greater than what he had ever shown. Not just because he knew that these people had so many choices to be better, but because they were even doing these things to their neighbors and family. The evidence was still there.

Marks on the stone where people had tried to free themselves from the stockades. Red marks which could have been what was left by rotten foods thrown, but Walker knew better. And the scent of death in the square.

It moved around, an essence of death where life and brightness should be. The mana was right there for Walker to sense. Nothing hid it. "No matter how much white paint you cover our city in. no matter how much gold you decorate with. Now matter how much you pray..."

"You have done wrong on to your very own and now dare harm the first saintess to appear within the known world."

Another wave of stronger mana radiated from Walker and he walked over the crowd through the air and softly stepped in front of Alice who had a single tear running down her cheek. The small chains broke away in to dust as he took her in his arms.

She looked at him with a single expression. One that he understood too well. One that told him not to hurt a single person here. One that told him that she didn't wish to see them harmed. One that said no matter how he felt seeing her hurt and spoken of as evil, that he should not act on his emotions right now.

"I could erase your entire city. I could forsake my hero title right now and cast aside the human that I once was to fully embrace my race as an origin being. But that would only taint the love I have for the light in my arms."

The other healers, nuns, and young priests that had traveled with Alice found themselves freed and floating up with delicate wind mana holding them. Any scapes, bruises, or injuries at all were healed with just a slight glance from Walker. Their worry a clear expression to Walker as he wrestled with his own emotions.

The grand priest speaking before could barely keep himself taking breaths when Walker glared at him. The intense fear making the man wonder if he could ever walk away from this. "No one from this city will ever find solace within Genesis. None will ever be welcome. We will not assist you. We will not save you. We will not protect you. Only those that forsake citizenship, residence, and everything else that comes with being part of this... disgrace, will have a chance."

"The world was not returned to its proper flow for cruelty and evil to breed. It was done so for a brighter future." his words echoed as the pressure of mana was suddenly gone and so was the one that caused it.

Gasps of those able to take proper breaths were heard through the square while the guards capable shouted to lock down the city. Some people seeing a chance grabbed what they could and rushed for the gates to leave. This chance being the only one they thought they might have.

Not everyone loved living here. Loved living under control of others.

Without any intention, Walker had used a large amount of spatial mana to teleport him, Alice and her entourage, and Erica a great distance away in to the wilderness. Walker just held Alice's face after setting her down and looked carefully at her. Almost afraid that he might

have hurt her.

"I'm sorry."

"No, don't say that. I should be sorry. I shouldn't have let you go alone. It's nothing you did wrong. We didn't know what they were like. We didn't know why they were so different. I'm sorry I almost lost it."

Never had Walker realized just how much he cared.

He had seen how Alma and Gil had gone well in to more than what it meant to be together. They had pledged themselves to one another entirely. But Walker hadn't actually realized what that meant to him and how he would feel if someone he cared for was in a danger that threatened their life.

He had been with the party. They fought and nearly died. They had tense moments. Life threatening events. But they had come together and stood up. He had been there to help and to stand tall enough to protect them.

He was almost not here to protect Alice. He was almost at a loss for what could have been the sole person he cared for the most. He could have lost the last piece of him that allow him to stay connected to the human aspect of who he was. He had met her when he was just starting out in the adventuring life. She had risen well above any limits put on her to keep up with

him.

Now, he had potentially lost it.

"No. You came. You always come." Alice's mind and heart knew that Walker would be there. She knew it. Whether it was fate or more, he had appeared right when she was about to feel

doubt.

"If they didn't ask me to come and get you I might not have." He was just glad that those three had gotten worried enough to ask Walker to get Alice.

That was when he realized why he had been asked. "It's nothing worrying, but a few of your friends worry that your father is feeling unwell and wanted you to come home. So I came. He's fine now though. Just more tired than usual they said."

A little understanding flickered through Alice's eyes before more tears began to flow. "I might not have seen him again. I might not have seen you again." Her words began to become garbled as the light reacted and became falling rain made of light.

"You will see everyone again. You won't have to worry about anything like that." Walker brought a little mana around them. A warm calming light which tamed the light mana reacting chaotically with Alice's uncontrolled words. It took a few moments, but eventually, everything calmed enough for them to sit and realize that the others had set up a little camp.

Also they realize that Erica had made herself a few good friends who were showing off some small light related skills that she found interesting. Small growls and roars in reply that they couldn't understand at all.

"You have another dragon?" Walker could only laugh a little before he started to set up a tent. He had a lot to think over about himself and his own heart. Right now though, he could focus

on the little things.

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Chapter 2209: How It Went

Walker almost felt bad that he was the one tending to the fire while everyone else slept or struggled to sleep. As the night has grown silent in their impromptu camp, he couldn't help but hear a few things.

Apparently, when they had first entered, they had been welcomed well enough. Their entire group had been brought to the main cathedral where they heard of history and how the expansion of the churches had been to spread the scriptures to all people.

So far, that had been a good thing. They had all thought that the cathedral as a whole would be very accepting of Genesis. That the people who had come to see their cathedral within genesis had just been a select few bad eggs.

That had happened in the human kingdom. A few churches becoming corrupt because of their prices or false thinking. It had been cleaned up as time went on though. Especially with the influence of heroes.

This stopped going well when the group had begun to question the state of the city. The way it looked was very nice, however, the lack of variety in foods and in the shops was odd to them. The guards assigned to them did not feel this was important and were very staunch.

It only got worse when they began to question why other races were not here. It made more sense that all races hear the words of the scriptures so that they could learn how to live a bright life. Especially since Alice and her group believed that the scriptures were all lessons on how to live a better life. Not law or strict rules.

Some of the nearby people had stopped walking around them entirely. Others were quick to move away from the foreign priests. They knew exactly what would happen. It was only a few moments before more guards came to escort their group to the cathedral where the interrogations began.

Hours of individual questions with threats of imprisonment. Larger forces of guards being placed around them as if they were captured monsters that might leap out and attack someone in a breath. The atmosphere had become suffocating and toxic.

It was very quick that they realized that those within the city did not accept any other races. Did not accept teaching them. Did not even view them as races even though the system of existence did.

Even worse, when Alice was asked about her title as a saintess, things went downhill. They didn't believe that she could be allowed to be called such a title when she did not originate and practice the church's scriptures as they believed it should be. From that point on, it was a lot more reprimanding and threats of force before they said that reeducation was impossible.

She had been told that her ideals were the work of pure evil and that she had led many astray. That even if she believed her ideas correct, that it was worse that she supported so called heroes when it wasn't them that had done a single thing.

The grand priest had even said that all the heroics of Walker's party. That the races banding together to help the world. That every single thing done involving unity within genesis was all evils. All the good that had happened was the will of some unseen crater god that was changing the world to be easier for them to live in due to their devotion over the years.

Pure insanity.

That was how Alice's group had seen it. A madness that could easily be the cause of many people losing their lives. And they were not wrong.

When the rest of the group started to hear what the charges and the punishments were, they understood it all. That those with the worst offenses in the eyes of the cathedral here weren't just executed, they were taunted and beaten. Then they would finally be cast out in to the oceans to perish.

It was also why no one could possibly bring ships or dock anything on the lower cliffs. They couldn't even fish nearby their city because the monsters had grown used to food dropping from the cliffside for them to eat. For people to be tossed down because they didn't practice a faith the way they were told.

Their faith was not something to free them and allow others to live a better life. Instead, it was a shackle on their leg. It was a cage to trap them. It was used to control them with fear. It wasn't even just that though, it was a way to manipulate one another with false reports while cutting off any other potential contact with kingdoms outside. The entire city had acted as if it was the only safe and pure place.

After that, they had all known what it was like to be locked up. All their items had been taken, luckily they had not brought much other than supplies. It had still been a shock. Never given proper rooms. Just

thrown in to stone cold dungeons that were not the brilliant white paint as any other place where people could see.

They had all seen under the mask of the monster that had once been an uplifting and vibrant place. The faith that had become stagnant and rotted over time. The world changing had just been an excuse for them to use more control and power over their own people. A horrible thing.

The rest had all been seen by Walker himself. He expected that Alice would be a little more unhappy with it, but she had clearly still cared for the people there. Proving that she had the hopes that they would break free.

It was why he had said what he said. Making it impossible to be free unless they freed themselves and forsaken everything about what they had been controlled to do. They had still made the choices to stay there, but now, they would be able to find ways to make up for those events.

The worst of the worst would most likely be stricken down by those that had lost family. Those that hated them. While cruel, Walker knew he couldn't stay there. Not just because his own emotions might not allow him to remain steadfast in stopping crime. Instead, it was because he knew that if he had stayed there, he would have been the one halting those ready to make their move.

Those people had waited for a chance. There were always some that would let their revenge consume them. As such, Walker would have stopped them as a hero. It hurt him to know he had allowed them free reign. Yet, if he had stopped them, that desire for revenge would grow and stagnate within their hearts. Turning them in to worse people in the long run.

In the end, he was glad he had gone to find Alice. And as the sun rose in the distance, he was even happier to see that she was sleeping well. Even if she used him as a pillow while he sat to

keep watch.

"Yes yes, Erica, we will get up soon. I have some good food from home in my high spatial storage." Walker noticed that Erica had been silently moving around them for a little bit. "Ah, sorry if I woke you up."

He also noticed that Alice started moving right then too. But she just shook her head. "I'll have us all home sooner than later." Walker looked behind them and noticed the others cleaning up already. They had caught on that they would be home sooner than later. Especially since Walker needed to let a few people know what happened.

There would be a little stricter requirements for the guards at the gates. Especially the guards on the outer edges of the dragon territories. The new walls were more imaginary than real, but they were still patrolled for monsters and general safety. As such, they would not be looking for people fleeing the city in chaos.

Having that in mind, Walker also mentally promised he would push for more equality. More acceptance. He already preached that in a way, but now, he would go out of his way to ensure that others saw it in his actions. Especially if he saw foolish people looking down on others. He should lead by example and teach them.

"You can ask her, she would definitely show you some of her light magic. Alice can sing very beautiful songs. They are almost as beautiful as she looks you know." Walker's sudden complement made Alice go beet red. But Erica just understood that she could see light magic before they went flying again. Something she was very interested in.

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Chapter 2210: Faded Light

The travel was quick as could be with walker's magic skills. He easily made use of both the wind mana and some earth mana to make a literal flying platform for everyone. This was more comfortable than being lifted and just floating along. Or at least that's what everyone told Walker.

It did have the downside of Walker needing to keep a closer eye on Erica though. When Alice had stopped showing her some of her light magic, Erica had begun to lean dangerously over the edge of their little platform. Naturally, Walker had used wind magic to stop her from falling here and there.

The look in her little dragon hatchling eyes captured the hearts of Alice's group though. They were completely captured by Erica and Walker had a feeling that she would end up with the cathedral more

than what anyone else expected. As a babysitter for her, He wondered just how acceptable it would be if he left her with some of the training healers for a day or so to learn a bit here and there.

Regardless, when they arrived near Genesis, there was a little commotion since the guards were surprised that Walker was casually landing right in front of the cathedral. There were some rules to flying through Genesis now, and a large platform of earth floating raised a few worries.

Not that it all didn't work out. They saw Walker and understood that things were very safe. They even had a few onlookers move over for safety so that there was absolutely no risk to them being hit by any earth or wind that Walker controlled. Definitely a great perk of knowing the guards and having a good relationship with them.

The return of Alice's group made a bigger stir as the nuns, priests, and healers noticed them. They all rushed to ask how the journey was. Especially since they had traveled through some of the newly expanded wilderness and even encountered a few monsters.

The stories that they had would captivate their fellows for a while. Not that this was the priority. Walker knew very well that Alice had someone else to see.

The high priest.

While returned, the high priest was still pretty active usually. He would move about the cathedral grounds and the cathedral itself helping others. Once he had decided on who would take over for him and how, he had dedicated himself to being always available to give advice and show off methods he used to train himself in his skills. He even brought the newest healers together to give a lesson about how he first learned to use his healing skills.

This had allowed most of his knowledge to be sent down to others in a way. Living records of his lessons. It was exactly what everyone hoped to impart on to the future. On to the youngest generation.

The best part was, that the high priest had even seen a few new types of healers. He had been amazed when he saw them and even more surprised that they were able to use his meditation methods so that they could also grow in the same way he had while having different affinities.

When he had taken on a student with opposite affinity to almost every healer they had in the cathedral, many had been shocked. The shadow healer was not a normal healer at all. The dark mana that they used was known for decay effects and not healing at all.

Yet, this shadow healer could use the decay to rot away at the injuries themselves, causing a flare in life mana which healed the body faster. While a delicate balance, it was astounding to many who researched healing overall. No one had expected that the concept of dark manas' decaying effects were not just in rotting something like plants or items. Instead, rotting the very existence of a wound was possible.

The wound itself wouldn't show decaying effects, instead it was the damaged areas that were decayed by the dark shadows wrapping it. Then as a natural resistance to being decayed while alive, the body would flare to life with more of the innate life mana within flowing through them entirely.

While this made the shadow healer rely on the strength of the one they were healing, it made healing deeper wounds possible. Especially internal wounds which were harder to see. The dark mana could more fluidly move through the body to find those damaged aspects compared to light which was better overall on visible injuries. Hence why healers took higher skills or longer time to heal deeper internal wounds.

Those thoughts aside, Walker found that the high priest was resting in his room. A few of the healers nearby clearly worried over him. They had water at the ready in case he asked along with a few small snacks too. They had been taking very good care of him since he had begun to say that he needed more rest even under the whaling light effects within the cathedral.

When he and Alice walked in, Walker noticed that the high priest was clearly more pale than usual. He also looked more tired too. It was in the circles under his eyes and the wrinkles from years of working hard to heal all those that came to him. Evidence of his struggles and

successes.

"Oh, you came back quicker than what I would have expected. How was it? Your adventure? Fight off monsters? Or did you sneak through the night to avoid a wolf pack or two?" the high priest laughed a little before leaning back again. Clearly, he was having some harder times staying away.

"Walker came to pick me up. I was able to come home to you sooner. He told me that you have been tired lately. I was worried." there was a feeling nagging at Alice. The same feeling nagging at Walker.

"Worried about me? It's me who worries about you... what would I have done without you in my life? Would I have managed to lead everyone properly?" The high priest wasn't looking at Alice. He was looking at what she had been in his memories. The little baby left at a church. The toddler that ran through the church hiding from him. The young woman growing in to a brilliant saintess that represented kindness itself.

"I don't need to worry though. You're too big for that. You have people to lean on." His eyes drifted toward Walker with a small smile. "I would prefer to see more though." He hadn't managed to see grandchildren, his daughter married, or what the cathedral would become as time went on.

So many possibilities and he might miss them because he was laying in a bed too tired to get up much lately. How annoying that was. It was the very feeling that many people his age had. A common feeling for all races when they got older.

"It's just what it is. Time is fickle and slips away from us like the bright sun setting." Walker felt that he was right. The high priest knew exactly what was happening. He knew that the high priest could feel it. That he might be healthy, but his time was reaching the end of what it should be on this world.

"Then can I ask you something?" the high priest smiled a little. Alice also looked at Walker with some curiosity breaking the sadness she had begun to exhibit as she understood the feeling she had when looking at the high priest.

"I know that you have trusted me to take care of Alice. To protect her whenever I can. And I fully intend to do that. But I am pretty dumb sometimes. I space out and miss things right in front of my face. I even let my emotions get a hold of me when I realize how I really feel."

"What I am asking is, can I have your honors to properly bond with your daughter in marriage when we are ready? Regardless of all that may affect us. Regardless of time itself. Can I have that honor?" there was unrestrained shock on Alice's face. She hadn't seen Walker asking this. But she had hoped she wouldn't ever lose Walker to anyone else. Unspoken feelings. "It took you a bit too long to ask that flat out. But I told you a while ago that I trusted you with her. I'm glad you understand now. It's better that you do. Especially since I have a ring in that side table drawer. It was one that my mother wore once upon a time. I intended to pass it down to Alice when she was older. This is better."

As Alice took the ring out, she held the high priests' hand. "And that smile is why I waited for the right time. It's the only thing I ever want to see..." the high priest fell asleep then and there. As if every bit of energy he had left was exhausted.

Even with the sun high in the sky, the night came quickly as the light had faded just a little more than normal that day. Some noticed it more than others. Some just felt that there was a cloud passing by. To some though, a piece of the light itself had gone missing.