

## Master 2421

### Chapter 2421: Aftermath

This event was not over in just a few hours after things had been brought to the Genesis council building. It had been easily an entire night of discussions as the reports of final examinations on the defeated monsters rolled in.

Several monster analyzers and monster butchers and even brought together. This was more than just to prove that these undead shifting slimes had been defeated.

It was to ensure that everything about them was put to rest and the information that was gained about them was used to be able to ensure that this would not happen again. So many people had been affected within the Genesis territories because of the measures taken to handle all of this.

When it came to the farms, they had their guard patrols increased and would remain as such. This was because there was no proof that more undead shifting slimes were was not attracted this way and would be focusing on methods to get in to the main city.

There was so much food for the undead shifting slimes and they had enough intelligence so that they could managed to get inside in the first place. While it was a worrisome event, this was a learning opportunity.

To be fair, Walker had mentioned few times that they had increased the presence and the growth of guards overall. Just the fact that so many had acted so efficiently had proved beyond a doubt that the current efforts of everyone protecting the city was well worth it. The guards who had reacted in less than minutes were major. They had managed to break out of their rest and right ion to their armor ready for their orders. Past that, the guards had moved and gotten in to positions relayed by the communications crystals at a speed beyond the tests that they had been given prior.

All of that was being given and shared to the public along with the measures planned to be taken at the entrance ways of every city gate and even the farming outer gates leading to the slightly separated dragon territories that helped make up the entirety of Genesis.

Since there had been so many angels that teleported over as well, this was being shown as a way to bring the separated forces together for training and for education. The angels had a sense of mana that allowed for them to join in the battles that happened with the guards. So much so that four of the

undead shifting slimes had been defeated before any of the strong individuals within the city had even gotten close enough to fight.

Midnight had been one of the people to witness the shocking unity that the angels had when working with the guards without a large amount of prior training. That wasn't because the light angel squadron sent to them was so advanced that they had been able to join in different guard groups easily.

Instead, this was because the guards of Genesis had become so extremely diverse and flexible that they adapted without the need for other orders.

There had been many events where many of the guards or even the newly training guards had been involved within real battles along with being forced to adjust their actions as the world changed. This sort of aspect added to their training was a wildcard.

Some would have said this was a bad thing since it wore away at the guards as they were receiving more injuries on a regular basis and potentially wishing to end their careers as guards easier than usual.

On the contrary, it had made them some of the best guards any kingdom could even brag about having as elites. This was putting aside the elite guards trained by the larger figures like Scylla herself.

Those guards had been able to fit themselves so well with the movements of the angels and how the angels sensed the manas with their wings that the angel squadron felt they were working with people they had trained with their entire lives.

This was all putting aside the angels that had moved to Genesis and made homes there. The few angelic guards who had been with Genesis since the Sigil continent had been found and explored a bit more were well above the levels and strengths of the light angel's squadron

sent.

This opened the eyes of the light angel squadron and their superiors gave them immediate permission to remain within Genesis for three months of training and follow up protection and change to bring back more knowledge and help all the angels unify better. A good choice too since this also helped put the people at ease since they still feared more undead shifting slimes.

The rune carvers and craftsmen invited to speak with mages within the Genesis council meetings had managed to come up with a rough rune formation that operated on checking for undead mana and similar manas that the undead shifting slimes used. These would be used at the gates to register if there were any that tried to enter in to the city.

While this was just the first measure being taken, it was a major one that the people listening to the communication guild reports wanted to what most of all. Mostly due to the fact that they wanted to see solutions. A mass of people in fear didn't care for the causes or the events overall, they wanted to see and hear the solutions to keep them safe. While harder on leaders, this was always a reality.

The news of the hidden race making an appearance also circulated. However, Walker had been the first to speak with a representative of the communication guild and even took the lead in bringing them in to the Genesis council meeting. Surrounded by all of these powerful figures, the members of the communication guild listened carefully and noted down the joined stance on this race.

"The shifter race is entirely separated from the monster species undead shifting slime." This was the first major announcement made in multiple areas as the communication guild received the information.

"They are a race living among every people of every kingdom. Hunted in the past and hiding from the risks they have faced. As such, they are welcome within Genesis under the pretense that they have a leader sent as a representative and educate others about their race as all races have done. In no way will they be exiled or hunted. In no way will they be betrayed by the other intelligent races. Their dead will be handled with care and ensured not to become undead shifting slimes under every possible situation."

That large announcement was made to prove that they would be treated as all others. While Walker had yet to see a representative since their announcement was made, the pride within the city had grown. Not only had they not realized that another race had been here and feared for their own safety, they took this not as the shifting race hunting their undead.

The way this was presented showed a race that was too afraid that their undead would get them killed and that felt they were unable to reach out for help. The way that the communication guild did this was through the art of words which every single representative on the council wanted.

Just the slight tweaking here and there had made a race that could have been seen in anger and fear in to one seen as a victim as well. Not that this was far off since the shifter race was so isolated due to their history of being cast out of most places due to the fact that they were able to take the form of others.

While this also brought a lot of questions about how they might be related to mimics, shapeshifters, and other monsters, it was just something that would have to be figured out at a later time. Especially since the histories of monsters were being shown in a new light now. All due to the fact that monsters were returning to more ancient forms of themselves or awakening their ancient bloodlines. So many of the things known about monsters over the years, especially ones that lost certain traits in the records of cities, were changing.

By the end of the long meeting and the evidence brought before them, Walker examined the report given to him in depth and found that the triple cores were something that the shifter race definitely did not possess and only their undead possessed. That was because he knew they had different affinities.

So this presented a potential change in monsters. They could be awakening their new forms as simple as having multiple affinities. Some even rarer and more dangerous. Something he and the entire council did not like to theorize about right now.

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#### Chapter 2422: New Unity

While the calming down of the entire city was not quick, there was a lot more that people began to discuss.

The ideas of different cultures' funeral rites and how to handle the dead of others in battle or outside of battle sparked a lot of conversations. Specifically, it came to the dragons and dragonkin.

Some dragons were different because of their affinities and the environments that they lived. Fire dragons preferred to be left to the magma of wherever they had lived, while the earth dragon preferred to be left deep in caves. This was to return to the elemental manas that they had the highest affinities for.

Rise surprised others by explaining that she and the other light dragons would naturally like their dragonkin to use their bodies as materials to become stronger. It was shocking to hear that right out since Walker believed that this conversation had gone in to something that would cause issues.

Many people had used groan materials, not just shed scales or broken off horns or teeth. They had been taken from young rogue dragons or the found bodies of dragons out in the wilderness and used to be crafted in to items. This has gone on with various races for years and could easily be seen as disrespectful or cruel in some ways.

However, no dragon believed that to be the case. Simply put, they saw themselves as the top predators. Meaning, that if they were hunting and fighting to take food from all others, why would they halt the weaker beings from consuming their dead in some way shape or form to continue living? That would be against nature.

The echidna were the same. While they believed that natural mana and nature was always flowing, they also believed that the bodies of their deceased needed to return to nature through some means. Some would have scales on their skin that could help enhance the understanding of natural mana and were made in to items used during the raising of a child to help them grasp natural mana better.

A shocking thing to those like the dwarves who believed a burial in the deepest of caves or by flame was the proper send off. Their entire race had been grown underground and in forging, naturally they would believe that this method was a natural way to take a proper step toward anything related to moving from life in to whatever was next.

When the demi-humans and the elves spoke, they found that they were almost identical. While the demi-humans believed fighting to the death was a greater honor and the elves believed a death in peace after attaining a unique understanding of manas or nature within themselves was important, both believed the body should be used in specific ways.

They both had the thoughts that the body should nourish the land around it. Allow for plants or crops to grow better and become the base of the future to grow. This was a little shocking since the two methods of death were so different in their ideal goals, however, their beliefs of what happens to the body afterwards actually brought them together.

The ideas that a sacred farm grounds should be made was already being written up. An idea that it would be a respected plot of land used for burials of this sort which would grow the most important staple food to help nourish entire generations. Pass on everything naturally to the next generation.

All of this was a stunning way to learn from one another and many of these methods were being shared by the information guild. It brought out the similarities and also the more in depth views of each race as certain high remembers of their races were interviewed. Not only did Walker feel he was able to understand the people better, he believed that they had learned something valuable.

They had all been in a state of unrest and fear just the day before. Felt that their homes were at risk. Yet, now they found new ways to forge new bonds and become even closer. Uniting the various races while proof that these various races were becoming one was showing every day.

No laws about marriage between races being illegal had been made. The Genesis council even went so far to make it clear that any unions would be supported between any races. Monster races were not ignored in their desires. They were intelligent and had the same rights as everyone else.

He felt that this step towards understanding one another was proof that their societies were becoming more one than anything else. That, and the general fears of other kingdoms had actually increased the numbers of people moving to Genesis.

As much as Walker and the other leaders wanted to stop this from happening, a new stance was taken after a longer discussion.

Some would have thought that they were crazy for wanting the peoples of the kingdoms that came together to help create Genesis not to move there. But the reasoning was simple, Genesis was growing so quickly that they needed to have some room to keep the developmental projects going. The storage for materials and other things needed to be kept in multiple areas and if the rate of new people continued to grow, the spaces for that would be gone sooner.

They couldn't build enough homes fast enough with the limited materias they had. Therefore, the idea for a new project came across the table for the meeting. That would allow for better teleportation abilities across the continents to the Sigil continent.

The idea to create another city on the other continent was already there. The angels also preferred to keep their floating cities since they were so deeply rooted within their culture. At the same time, Genesis was already beginning to help rebuild and establish multiple angel villages, some of which had residents of other races now living within them.

The positives seen from that had changed many of the younger angel's minds to allow their bonds with Genesis to grow. The older angels who had more stubborn opinions could not do too much to stop the future from coming no matter how much they preached or argued. The future was there and they had to handle it accordingly.

Hence, the angel representatives on the Genesis council approved the second city project. A city built with the angels as the focal point on the grounds of the Sigil continent. Allowing for the wyvern race there to be respected more in the building of new homes while also allowing for the peoples of Genesis to spread out and assist with reclaiming the continent.

This would speed up the fact that the continent had many unknowns after the world had expanded again. Beyond that, it also meant that there would be a massive amount of space to live in. a perfect way to ensure that growth was possible.

Beyond that, the angels also made it clear that they wanted help finding and protecting the fallen floating cities of the past. Something that Walker and the other council members had immediately agreed to since they had already vowed to assist with that in the first place.

A major announcement to say the least for those that had not expected the chances to be able to go out and live on another continent. It had been hatred so far for people to fully grasp the actual size of the world and the reality that the other continent existed.

Then again, there were theories of other continents out there in the vast oceans. No one had proof but since the floating ships were being made and the entirety of Genesis supporting the water faring and floating ship projects, explorations would only increase.

That was the same with the merfolk within to explore the deep oceans. Not only to rediscover abandoned ancient merfolk cities that may still partially remain down there, but also to grow their homes. To ensure that the oceans did not hold any surprises like the lands above.

All of these topics had been discussed leaving Walker's head feeling like it would burst. But it was well worth it. The fear that came with the undead shifting slime had brought out so much conversation that would grow and unify all the races of Genesis.

"I believe that is enough for today. We have been here speaking for seventeen hours. I feel that we should focus on one final matter and be done for the time being." A representative of the vampire race speaking for them since they were working on their race's private matter recently and had left to excavate more from their ruins spoke up. "I wish to request help gathering items from an ancient vampire city we know is located near the demi-human kingdom. It should be buried under the ground by now, but still there."

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#### Chapter 2423: Vampire Ruin Project

The representative from the vampires was an older man, however, it appeared youth had somewhat returned to him since they had better living conditions. While Vampires could live for thousands of years in theory, their conditions seemed to alter that a lot. Unlike many myths, the vampire race was not a true undead race that could live forever.

That was the same for any undead, it would not last forever without the proper upkeep, hence why the immortal king and the immortal chasing race had always been looking for immortality, and also why they might have been at war with the vampire race at times in the ancient past.

All that aside, The man who was speaking was someone that Walker had seen before. A vampire that had known some of the history of the vampires and recalled it since he had been sent to stand within what had once been a library. According to what Walker had learned the man had once been cleaning and tending to books there until the books were burned in front of him for the amusement of their cruel lord.

As this was the case, Walker had not even flinched when he approved this vampire to learn and protect any library within Genesis. To care for the knowledge stored within the archives and the books being written within the city was a large uptaking.

Just making sure all of them were in good enough condition for the people coming there to study was a major endeavor, but bringing the life back to eyes that had seemed dead by allowing that almost shattered connection to knowledge within books to be reborn? That was worth so much more.

"The ruins are a small city we used to know as the city of fields. This was because they did not make their homes in forests or in mountains. They had chosen to break the traditions and make a city in the middle of the open plains. This made them face some of the flying monsters of ancient times and other

disasters I am sure. We do not know everything any longer though." the man frowned, knowing that he did not have better information for all of them when it came to the city.

"You know the location though?" The old vampire nodded knowing that he didn't need to explain all the details right away. "Then there is no issue. As long as it will not disturb a demi-human town or farms, we can go there and excavate your underground ruins." Scylla liked that they had another way to go and explore right now. The stress of what had happened in the city had to be washed away.

This is also within the demi-human territories so she would have the chance to make her way back there for a short while. Visit the coliseums and challenge the other generals to a small sparring match. Not that anyone couldn't guess her thoughts looking at her slight vicious grin. They all knew she would challenge anyone to a battle of any kind, that was just her nature and many of the demi-human's natures.

"I want to know what else you know of these ruins?" The standing in representative for the merfolks found that this would be another above land mission that they could not help with. But that kept them clear to focus on the waterways and maintaining the other water based areas within Genesis. Something that he did not mind communicating to his lord.

"They were primarily the ruins known for battling flying monsters. They would raise the shadow wind wolves as bonded monsters at birth. A vampire and alpha shadow wind wolf would be raised together to ensure that the entire pack saw them as family. This was beyond just blood and servitude, it was an important aspect of our culture."

"When the city was thought to have been destroyed, it was found that one of the greatest vampire shadow wind wolf breeders had single handedly destroyed a walking tornado by themselves. A feat recognized by every single vampire city at the time. Otherwise, we have no written records other than that story."

This was not very much to go on, but it was enough. The vampires could find the information about the city and about the legend of their species who had lived there. Therefore, they wanted to uncover the ruins of what the city had been so that they could learn from it.

Right now, Walker could tell that shadow wind wolves might not necessarily exist, but if they had the strength to fight ancient monsters that primarily attack from the sky.... Well, that would be a great way to strengthen Genesis while also recovering the history lost by the vampires in their time captive by a cruel lord.

"I think we should uncover it. We are doing the same for the angels with some of their fallen floating cities, we have found ancient human ruins, immortal chasing races ruins, and even some hints of other races' ruins. So, why would we stop at vampires?" Walker's point made the room hum with agreements and nods.

They also saw this as a chance to branch out even more and learn something. There were also small places of wilderness nearby that could be mapped out which would help that project as well. Beyond this, the demi-human kingdom could send more forces which would allow them more time to learn from Genesis forces they had been separated from for this period of time. All good things that would increase the growth of everyone. "Then I will begin preparing a few of the vampire representatives we will send. We have recently managed to heal and awaken a few others. Those who had been too injured or were trapped in slumber have begun to explore with a little more vigor." The good news just added a bright smile to most of the representatives' faces.

The races like the vampires who had been harmed were a worry for many of them. The same was true for the demons before they were helped. But the vampires had many who could not even awaken yet and hearing that they had begun to awaken and be healed properly was a major step for the vampires. Especially since that also meant that they would have classes and be showing off more of the unique aspects of a vampire society and race.

All of this was adding up to something interesting that Walker felt was well worth the trip. It also managed to bring the entire meeting to a close on a good note. "I am going to look in to some of the vampires. I know it's about time for the sun to be setting so the night life of Genesis will be starting anyways." Walker could say he was tired, but he was not.

Mentally, he could say that he was tired since they had been speaking for hours. But after training his mind and body, this was still nothing for him. He even had the help of other mages before when using his skills so he had not abused his strength too much leaving him in desperate need of rest. Plus, he had been able to handle the natural born undead shifting slime himself if he had needed to. He focused mainly on allowing the two shifters since he wanted to gauge their trust.

Leaving him much more energetic and curious about these vampires.

While the main representative was busy, she would be moving around to help within the territory of the vampires. This meant he did not worry about finding her and trusted that she would keep doing her best

while the other vampires handled matters outside of their main home. A good way to organize given their circumstances.

He also knew that the vampire district was more active at night. The demon race had helped them a lot and they had built things up very well. The vampires and demons were extremely close now because of this. They bonded over their past suffering and had begun to flourish

because of this.

Rumors of a few vampires finding their perfect partner in the demons also spread but that was personal so Walker didn't go digging. Not that he wouldn't find that to be a good thing.

He was impressed by the theme he saw though. The buildings were made similarly to the ones found in the ruined Valorie city the vampires had been trapped in. Very innately carved stone with gargoyles, bats, wolves, and even insignias of living vampire families represented.

It felt that Walker had ventured on to a much more ancient place than something built recently in the history of Genesis which wasn't even that old to begin with. The dim magic lanterns were just enough to enhance the ambiance while not harming anyone's night vision. A warm place in the middle of the night.

#### Chapter 2424: Reclaiming Strength

The atmosphere with the vampires was something that Walker really enjoyed compared to the other areas of night life within Genesis. It wasn't just the ways that they focused on stone

carvings to depict their race, but it was the general attitudes.

The way that all the vampires spoke was older and more refined. It came from years of being both in servitude, but also being a race with a much longer history. Because of this, they had developed their mannerisms to the point that it felt everything they did was well controlled. However, there was also the fact that they focused themselves on the world around them a lot more now. Simply because they had been trapped in their city and used as slaves meant that they thirsted for everything outside the world.

Just a few had begun to push for more exploration with them taking the leads of multiple growing and training squads. Simply because they wanted to see the changed world that they had not seen due to being trapped.

Due to them still being weak there was a lot of push back when it came to this but that was fine. Their representatives and also Walker himself had encouraged them to begin more training. From there, the squads they trained would be tested by the stronger members of the Genesis council and then dispatched to areas of wilderness that were darker.

One being planned for now was a place called the night forest. While this was an area that was seen as very small even in the era of the vampires, it had been through to disappear entirely. The vampires knew it because it was a place that they had their vampire bat breeders use the outskirts of in ancient times. They would breed the strongest dark affinity vampire bats called shadow bats and even the obsidian bats which were an elite trained bat given to the strongest in a generation of vampires.

Since that was the case, they had the smallest amounts of information about the night forest which would help explorations. However, they had no idea about the inner aspects of the night forest because even for them, beings that lived in the night, it was too dangerous at the time to venture in to due to the powerful monsters within.

It wasn't just the dark mana that had threatened them at the time. There were many things that the vampires mentioned. Monsters that could not be harmed by physical strength. Rumors that invisible monsters roamed. Herbs that could entirely blind someone for life or even herbs that would be unable to be touched.

All these were rumors that the older vampires remember as Walker spoke here and there to people he saw training. He was just doing so because he knew that it was important to get a feeling for the vampires as a redeveloping race. They would be taking on a lot in the future.

Besides this, the ancient times and now were very different. In ancient times the night forest had only developed so far. Now, there was way more mana in the world and the world had fully expanded as it needed to be for creation and growth to exist. Therefore, the night forests were surely larger. Held more secrets.

Right now, the mentions that Walker left of the city of fields which would be excavated by the vampires and Genesis as a whole were met with excitement. Mostly because it appeared the knowledge about vampire bat breeding there and shadow wind wolf breeding was major to them.

They all had impressions of how powerful the knowledge could make them. It also made it clear that the vampires had all thought that the ruins of the city of fields would be simple as picking up knowledge. From there, they could go to the night forest and begin properly reclaiming a large portion of their strength.

It made more sense now. Just the casual wandering and conversation had uncovered a major goal their entire race was focused on right now. Not a bad thing at all. Having that goal was their fuel for growth. Something they needed while most of their strongest members still recovered to a level that they could fight in the wilderness as a whole.

Where he began to wonder was when he got to the training grounds set up by the vampires. "Why is this place so... messy?"

Just looking at the training ground prepared, there were multiple stone dummies, what had once been stone golems made by mages and rune carvers used to make tough opponents. But they were all in pieces. Including the fact that the pillars and obstacles were also broken, it was easier to say a monster escaped and went on a rampage.

"You missed it when the ice was here. The ice flower saber already came to trial today. She had been fighting every day as much as possible. Not a single person will fight her." a few demons saw Walker and went to speak with him. Who would ignore a hero they could chat with causally and brag about the amazing feats of a vampire they watched train here every day?

"The ice? So she can use ice and saber, like a magic swordsman?" The three demons with brooms and other cleaning gear nodded. Their excitement proved exactly where their minds were going.

"Then I guess you three think I should show her where her limits are and help her out? Maybe she can find a way to get a little more strength back?" His smirk made one of them rush off toward a smaller building where those training could clean themselves up. It was only a few moments later before a chilling fog seemed to ooze out of the doors to that building.

The petite woman who walked out was wearing a white training uniform that the vampires seemed to wear often. But she helped a saber with first coating it. The surprising thing was, that neither the saber nor the clothes were covered in any runes. Meaning that all the destruction and ice that Walker had been told about came from her skills alone.

"The only remaining ice blade, reporting to the hero of Genesis and the savior to many." Her words were polite to greet him, but Walker saw that she had already begun to analyze him as a challenger. If he were not sure she was a vampire, he would have assumed that she was from the demi-human race. Clearly she wanted to fight much more than what she let on.

"It's nice to meet someone called the ice flower saber. I take it you have put aside your name to be called just by your specialty?" This was not uncommon for someone who focused in swordsmanship in some way, shape, or form.

It was common that when dedicating themselves so deeply, some who trained with swords to the highest levels would give up their name to be known or lay by a title or position they were holding. Therefore, it showed their dedication to that training and the strength they one day desired to hold.

A small nod came before she raised her saber equal to her face. A saber was meant for slashing and speed. Walker had faced them before, but seeing the fog of frosty mist causing ice to form all around him, he knew that it was a dual goal.

The frost would give way to ice which could completely slow and weaken enemies. Walker also felt a debuff being applied to his body, these magical aspects were deeper. "Crippling frost fog? That's the debuff skill you're using. It's very good." He needed and dodged to the right as the saber slashed by him leaving a wave of ice to form past him.

"And you can force the water in the air to become solid ice. It's a better skill than some mages can use." He could feel that the density of the ice was much greater than if a water or even an ice mage used their magic to make a magic ice slash or small ice wall.

He also saw that she had frozen ice in her feet allowing her to move ahead at a much faster rate than what others of her strength would be able to do. Even noticing how fast her eyes moved, Walker realized she had a sensed buff skill of some form.

His smile widened as he pulled out one of the lightning swords and parried her next attack. The first that covered him melted away as he enhanced himself with fire mana to ensure that the ice didn't build up. Otherwise he avoided magic skills and began to counter every physical attack. He wanted to see where he stood with his own sword skills while seeing someone who was well ahead of him in them.

It would be fun.

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#### Chapter 2425: Back On Track

Using the lightning sword style that walker could utilize that would add lightning to it as he sped up and used more mana, he was able to counter many of the attacks used against him. However, this just pushed the ice blossom saber faster.

She was making it clear that this was more of a warm up. Even though she had already trained before and the remains of the ice had been removed, it seemed that limits were far from reached. So much so that Walker found his sword style was lacking.

If he wanted to be able to keep up with how the ice was used to enhance the speed of how this vampire moved, he would need to change up his abilities. No, he would have to try and fight her without just using swords where she excelled.

"I think you've proven that you are better with anything sword or saber than I am capable of, so let's see if you can handle what else I can use." Walker took a lower stance and the eternal codex shifted in to a shield deflecting the saber strike.

The resounding clang came with a gust of frosty fog which caused ice to form all around the area. The ice had been growing more and more around the training ground along with a crowd of demons and a few vampires who were used to seeing the ice blossom saber training alone or against the stone golems made for training.

In another burst of ice, Walker had deflected another attack, but this time, he didn't just remain standing still, he shifted the eternal codex yet again. This time a scythe radiating a little flame caused the frosty fog to become steam and make it even harder to see all around them.

This lengthening of the attack area threw the ice blossom saber off her game. She was not prepared for such a dramatic change in weaponry. But it also caused her to begin moving faster.

This was the goal that Walker had for the time being. Since he had been wandering around and looking to see the people that would be going to excavate the city of fields, he definitely wanted to test some of them. Seeing their strength would put himself and everyone else at ease as they went out in to the wilderness.

The reason he had to make sure he could put everyone at ease was simple. There had just been an attack on Genesis by monsters from within. If he did not ensure that there was adequate strength and make a big show of doing so, then people would fear. People would worry. They would take away their support.

If all of that happened, then the city would begin to shift from a positive and growing atmosphere in to a dragging and terror filled one. Ruining the future that everyone had been hoping so desperately for.

The sudden large actions and spinning movements made Walker harder to his. Especially since Walker had started to add heat through the eternal codex scythe form. He wasn't trying to burn her or add the flames to the attacks. Instead, he was using it to keep the frost that was just getting stronger from building up on his body.

He had noticed that the water mana was being drawn in and condensed more and more. As if the ice blossom saber was making it clear she was just going to get harder to fight the longer that this battle went on.

In the next moment, he noticed that she had suddenly changed to a piercing attack and forced him to alter his eternal codex again. "You were watching my movements to make sure that you could counter me." He knew she was talented and had a lot of experience but this was even more than what he had received.

The sharp piercing attacks came with the alteration to the saber in her hand itself. She had condensed some of that water and used it on the blade to make the saber more like a rapier. A perfect way to force Walker to back away. Especially since every piercing attack also shot out a sharp ice needle, almost an ice spear within itself with how dense the ice was.

But even this was something that Walker could counter. He knew he had to dodge these piercing attacks which forced him behind, so why not take a note from Gil's book and use that?

While archery was not something that Walker used often, he knew how to use a bow and arrow. Gil was always more than happy to share what he could do and he had trained with Walker. Even offering tips since Gil had a massive amount of knowledge when it came to archery in a purer form than most others.

As the eternal codex changed and Walker took a large leap out of range of the piercing ice attack, an arrow made of flames appeared and he shot it. The eternal codex bow form easily helped channel the fire in to actual arrows this time. The goal to attack instead.

What Walker did not expect was that the moment he fired the first arrow, a massive amount of ice began to crackle and shatter around him.

"Bloom, my garden of ice and sabers."

The simple phrase was not a proper mastery skill. It was close though. Walker knew that it was very close actually.

For those who had delved in to a mastery skill, it was often followed with a larger chant that proved just how dedicated and powerful the skill was. A safeguard for the risks and power that came with it in a way. Almost like the world and existence making sure that it was not used in vain.

However, Walker heard the smaller chant and realized that this was because the ice blossom saber was too weak and not strong enough to use the mastery skill. She had only been able to achieve a small part of that power after being freed from the servitude of an evil vampire.

What shocked him, was the potent ice that began to form.

Every single shard of ice grew and pulled that condensed water mana in to shape and form. Grass and flowers of ice began to form all around Walker. But they weren't some pretty display of beauty and ice. No, it was a sharp and vicious attack making the entire terrain around Walker in to something he couldn't even touch.

"Now you must remain within my world." This was the first proper response that the ice blossom saber had spoken as she reached out to grab a second saber growing from the ice on

the ground.

The unfortunate part though, was when her fingers touched it and the ice began to fall apart and she couldn't wield a second saber or even form it properly. "So that's the line that you are stuck at while you try and heal yourself properly. You can't manipulate your mastery skill because you are unable to finish it without mana and the proper mana flow in your body. But you aren't incapable."

Walker stepped ahead and gave some mana to her. He was right next to the ice blossom saber in just a few blinks of her eyes. She would have barely been able to keep up if she was in peak form. But right now, she could only feel that he was examining the flow of her mana and sharing mana perfectly balanced with her.

The sudden feeling was familiar. It showed her that the damage done was just that, healing. It was damaged from the past. It was waiting. It was part of her that was sore and tired and just needed more time to be brought back.

With an open hand she drew the ice again, but this time ten sabers of ice formed and rose up ready to meet her. She could even grasp one while her face finally softened and her eyes seemed slightly more accepting.

"I wanted to see how the strongest of the vampires who would be coming on this expedition to reclaim some ancient knowledge in your ruined city fought. But it's clear to me that you are all on the mend and will be able to fight just as well as any other. So take this as a little show of thankfulness. I can't heal you or put you back to where you were. I can help you remember the feeling and smooth out the princess."

Walker took a few steps back and started wandering toward the crowd of vampires. A few of them were either fighters who would be guarding the excavation as well. He would be testing them just the same to see if they could keep up. It was part of his duty right now.

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Chapter 2426: Too Fast

"You are leaving ahead of them?" Su was meeting with Midnight to show off the dragon breath skills she had been working on. Mostly because she wanted to compare them with Midnights.

Since Midnight could use the same dragon breath skills and alter the manas to mix now, Su knew that Midnight might be able to show her where the lacking aspects of her own mana mixing could be. In the end though, they had both ended up working on combining their own dragon breath skills.

A nice trick to have a larger area of effect attack when they were fighting together. Su could defend while Midnight attacked. And if they were ever surrounded, they could release dragon breath together that worked to enhance one another's attacks along with covering the area.

"I will help." Midnight had felt like she didn't do enough. Two of the undead shifting slimes she had gone after had been defeated before she had gotten to them. Then there was the one that escaped which she had first attacked.

While she had managed to attack and defeat one with the few guards that reached it first, she felt like she had lost. Not only lost the respect of those that she had the duty of protecting, but that she had lost faith within herself.

As much as Su could sense this and wanted to stop Midnight from venturing to the vampire ruined city of fields where the demi-human kingdom had already sent some to begin the excavation, she knew that it was better to let this event run its course.

"Then make sure you are careful. I know you managed to learn a little about wind mana recently to fly faster, but you also crashed harder the last time you practiced it. Just because Ventus and her children use it all the time does not mean you are ready either." Su fully understood what midnight would do.

The training group of people would be leaving the city to get to the city of fields that would be excavated from the earth. While it would be a slightly longer journey for those who had to walk since the area was still somewhat out of the main demi-human territories, Midnight and others could fly.

The vampires would fly with Walker for the most part. Those of the vampires and others going without wings or without the ability to fly would be carried by Walker's wind mana manipulation. He was using that every time now that he could since he would speed up the travel time. Not that he really needed to, the strength of the expedition teams meant that even running, people could keep up without entirely exhausting themselves.

Regardless, Midnight was already flapping her wings and making it in to the air to leave Su behind. Su just shook her head slightly while hoping that Midnight did not crash head on in to a rough rock wall. The last time she tried the dragon speed wind elemental buff on her body, she had lost control and moved too quickly. The result was a farmer's stone wall being broken. She had seen Ventus use the skill casually while also seeing one of her children use it. The speed they flew was much faster for more than the fact that they were just wind dragons. It was also because they had the ability to shape that wind and increase the speed at which they could fly. While others with wings and wind affinity could learn similar skills, the dragon speed skill was using wind mana with a more potent effect that the dragons could resist due to the strength of their bodies.

In the air, Midnight took her full dragon form and spread her wings picking up speed with every flap. She knew the distance was shorter than the longest she had flown, but she still began to pull the wind mana around her.

Every flap of her wings the wind kicked up and her speed grew. Midnight loved the feeling too. The amount of mana was higher in cost but she could move quickly and make it as if she were the queen of the skies.

That was until she realized she had covered the distance in half the time she expected and had to land...

The sudden thud and spray of earth and Midnight brought the entire encampment of demi-human guards at the sight known to be the ruins of the city of fields was enough chaos to make it clear she had not landed properly. Then again, so was the fact that she had covered herself in ice and the skeletal armor skill.

The guards rushed to see what it was, their minds went to what might be within the ruins after all these years. The vampires had made it clear that the city had fallen in a battle but that monsters or even undead of the monsters which were bred there might have become undead. Therefore, they believed this some strange undead attack.

Instead, they found Midnight digging herself out of a crater and shaking her head before returning to a much dirtier dragonkin form. Naturally, they recognized her, everyone would recognize the heroic party of Genesis. But, they did wonder what this was about. Midnight, on the other hand, was doing her best not to look shaken, she knew she would have some bruises that needed healing but was thankful she had the wit to protect herself when she did this.

She also internally cursed herself a little since Su had even wanted her. But luckily, she could hide it from Su and knew she could distract Su with something sweet from the food stalls if Su tried to reprimand her.

"Report on the excavation." She spoke promptly and all the guards who had come running with the mentality they would be fighting had an internal battle. But one was quick enough to reply with an affirmation and ran for their superior.

In just a moment, a demi-human with mole like traits was brought forward and Midnight met with him. In just a few minutes she was hearing about how a team of earth affinity demi- humans had brought some mages that were training nearby in earth magic to even confirm that the ruins were buried here.

There had been a lot of debate about whether the ruins would still be in the same place due to the ways that the world has changed, however, it was quickly proven by earth magic that the ruins were where on the edges of the demi-human farm lands and fields. From there, they had managed to get a rough idea of the ruins themselves.

"They were vampires so it makes sense that without places to hide during the day they made their city under the ground. Over the years the fields changed and the city was entirely covered. Whether it's safe to cut down in to the ruins since they seemed to be made from dense stone made using magic, that is, we will try to open the entrance."

Knowing that the ruins were covered by a lot of soil, Midnight recalled the dwarves when they had spoken about collapses. "Do not break in. Entrance only. Might collapse." While Midnight could have thought in depth about why the demi-humans were moving ahead without all of Genesis here. She didn't

Simply put, she had rushed ahead too, and knew that she would have been digging for the entrance too. She wanted to show her strength and skills here. So that was that. No arguing over the requirements or what she should do in procedure. The demi-humans had just made it easier and they knew her strength so they respected what she said.

With this, the guards had been ordered back and Midnight was brought to the mages who were now all benign brought toward the main entrance area they thought had been covered in dirt and broken stones over the years.

While Midnight could not see much yet, she knew that the demi-humans with earth related skills had done a lot. The large piles of soil and broken stones proved that this was a collapsed entrance to something underground. But the fact that they had already found some remains of monster bones worried her.

Why would the monster bones be by the entrance? That was what Midnight was asking herself. She did not communicate much out loud, but she could question the validity and reasoning behind what she was seeing.

If the insides of this entrance had collapsed, it might have for good reason. This place had been around during ancient times. Naturally, it would have one subject to ancient monsters attacking it. And if they had gotten in and been dangerous... Well, it might not have just been the wars between races that had made this city of ancient vampires become nothing but ruins.

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#### Chapter 2427: Lead The Exploration

Having someone pushing them to move faster made the earth mages, and demi-humans with earth monster traits move much faster. It was almost as terrifying when the commanding guards or officers of the demi-human armies would order them. But they felt an entirely new pressure from Midnight.

If they only knew that it was all because she was just focused on making this a good and proper experience for herself to show that she had the skills and abilities, they would have understood she was not glaring at them. Nor was she getting angry that they were not working hard.

"Good workers." Midnight had said this a few times watching everything. Especially since she could see the speed which the reinforcements were being put up to ensure that the tunnel being remade would not collapse.

Just the adjustments made by the heart mages brought over were becoming a much more developed aspect that was not there before. The ancient vampires were smart and had magical might. They were definitely able to create a city that survived under the ground without much worry. However, they were not able to make it last without their upkeep.

The passageway that made their entrance an actual entrance was the weakest part which had collapsed even more as time had gone on. Regardless of what else Midnight believed might be there due to the bones of monsters they had also found while excavating the passageway.

She examined them herself and even smelled them to make sure that she didn't feel that they were fresh bones. While that would seem odd to some people, knowing the difference between older bones and bones that had recently been hunted could change how she proceeded or how she warned the others who were on their way.

The moment a small burst of air escaped when a large portion of stone and earth fell, Midnight smelled the scent of mildew and decay. Not only that, she could smell something a little more than that. It felt familiar, the same that was in the undead city. However, it wasn't the same in that way. It was similar to the vampires who had been trapped in their own city for a very long time.

While this was the case, Midnight did not pursue the exploration right away. Just because the entrance was open didn't mean that they had to push inside. Instead, she helped herself back and watched as the entrance was made safe for everyone to enter.

This also went with the fact that she sensed Walker was near. It wasn't that everyone left so far behind her, just that she sped up to get and make sure that she started the project. She had felt through her connection that Walker was getting closer and closer by the moment.

In a few minutes she looked up and saw Walker landing along with many of the vampires and demons behind him. The demi-human guards all froze and were ordered to get in to formations. They had been prepared to start exploring and found it extremely odd that Midnight had stopped focusing on the entrance. Now they understood.

"Midnight, you went ahead and got a lot done." Walker was sure he could feel that Midnight was upset with herself. He knew she would be because he had heard from everyone what had happened. He also knew that no amount of talking would change that.

She was a dragon too. Not just part of his family. She had the pride that every dragon had and being unable to handle a threat to Genesis had hit her hard. So, if he let her take the lead, then it made a lot more sense with how repairing her mentality would go.

Midnight moved to let the demi-human captains of each squad speak to Walker but he grabbed her shoulder and stopped her.

"This is the ice bloom saber, she is one of the vampire race's frost swords. She is in command of the vampires who came here. She is also currently commanding the demons who came here. Otherwise, I am in command of the base camp staff who are here to examine what is brought out from the ruins. What are your orders?"

There was a glint in Midnight's eyes. Just this show of respect and trust was enough to make her feel that Walker was ready to support her in anything she needed right now.

"We will move slowly. Groups of five. Explore and call for help when we need it. The vampires will split up, they have knowledge. If we find enemies, we will lure out to the light or we will defeat them immediately. Ruins can collapse, they need reinforcements first." Walker was slightly shocked with how much Midnight had just said.

She always kept quiet and didn't like directly talking out loud no matter how much she needed to. She much preferred when Onyx would speak with her using his mental skills. Then again, she also enjoyed showing her emotions and thoughts rather than speaking to them. When she was hungry she would go get food. When she wanted to show love she would nudge them or lean on them. And when she was angry... well she could easily break a few pieces of armor.

"Understood. I will have the base camp built a distance away to free space for fighting if needed. Otherwise, I will follow you in to the ruins to assist." Walker began ordering the members who had proper skills to examine the ruins to move back from the entrance. The space that might be needed for a fight could be larger than just the small area already here.

The ice blossom saber also started to split up the vampires to be able to work with all the groups. The demons followed the vampires they were assigned to so that they could assist where was needed.

Since the demons had trained with the vampires, they would have better understanding and teamwork when it came to fighting alongside them. But as they moved near the demi-human fighters, it was clear that the demi-humans were beginning to grasp how strong they all

were.

Not the demi-humans themselves, but the soldiers coming from Gneiss. Since they all had the instincts refined from arena battles and constant training, they quickly felt the pressure coming from every single soldier from Genesis. What they didn't know was that the vampires were still weaker in comparison to what they could have been and used to be.

Meaning that in more time, the depravity in strength would only change. "Trust your allies and stand beside them. You will be safe." Midnight spoke out and nodded to Walker along with the ice blossom saber. She wanted them next to her while she was leading everyone inside.

Walker quickly used the light orb skill and began to leave balls of light along the passageways while a few of the experts made sure to mark places that needed reinforcements. Walker was curious and made a note of the bones on the ground and cracked pieces of stone. He too understood that something strange had happened here.

Midnight was sharp eyed and also pointed out damaged areas. They were claw marks from monsters trying to escape. "I believe that the breeding monsters here tried to escape the city when they found it wasn't safe any longer. They even clawed at the entrances they knew used to be here." The wolf bones were clear.

These were bones from the shadow wind wolves that had once been bred by the vampires. Then again, there were also bat bones. Neither had fought but both had run to this exit they

knew of.

Since Walker didn't want to get in the way, he let Midnight make the lead her business. He could also feel her actions though. She was not just walking with the purpose to be ahead she was walking with the damage of the area in kind.

She also kept looking at the ceiling and smelling the air. She was keeping track of every potential danger that could appear here causing them issues.

It was even clear she was prepared when they eventually reached a large flat area. Walker's usage of light orbs he sent out in to the distance proved she wasn't even fazed seeing the damaged city below the earth. Not that it was a first.

However, when she used her wings to get some distance from the ground, Walker saw her eyes focus and her tensing muscles. "Not just ruined by time. Monster attack."

That was what she said to them when she came back down. Walker easily stepped in to the air and saw the same things. A path of broken buildings and a series of large holes. Something had dug through the city like it was nothing.

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#### Chapter 2428: Broken Ruins

"Have there been any recent reports of earthquakes or other strange earth related events near here." Walker Made it clear that the demi-human soldiers behind him had to answer him if there was even a smaller event that they knew of.

Whoever, after a moment, none of them had moved and he saw that they had no idea what might have happened nearby. "That makes sense, the patrols changed when the wilderness became more dangerous. None of you would have even patrolled this area recently enough to know."

Midnight watches Walker and so did the ice blossom saber. Both knew that he was not just asking because he was curious. Especially if he was looking at the same damage that Midnight had just seen to be from a monster.

"I don't know if there is a monster around here right now. You can smell that there might not be anything recent..." Walker looked to Midnight shook her head. She had been very focused on her senses and knew that there was nothing but stagnant air and the ancient smell of rot. Nothing that stood out to her just yet.

"We move ahead." Midnight pushed for them to move in to the ruined area. With the high number of light orbs that Walker had sent out, most of the city had a dim lighting now. This allowed for Midnight to help a few people in to the sky and make a rough map which the groups began to take. It would also be useful for those that were excavating materials and other information from the ruins.

The vampires seemed to have gained a lot more seriousness. Before they had just been focused on the strength that they would be regaining through training. Walker had felt their desires when he had tested them.

The change he felt now through, was one full of melancholy. They wished to see the day that this city of fields hidden in an area that many heard steroid of being foolish to be flourishing. However, they did not wish to change where they were now.

Whether or not they had strength, they were in a position to see their very race grow ten times as impressive as it had ever been. And even better, they wouldn't have to be at war with other races and every monster that existed. The ancient monsters which had stomped entire cities flat as if it was nothing didn't exist any longer.

"I would think that the holes and the destruction would connect to a cavern or series of caves. Then the air wouldn't be so stagnant." the comment came from the ice blossom saber, she had noticed that the air was also stale. Walker noticed as well, but he was trying not to theorize what might have caused this isolation.

"I was going to leave that to later exploration. The large holes through the city and in the ground of the city seem to be like a rampaging underground monster. I would match it to some of the worm species of monster I have seen. If that's the case, then it is much larger than any I have seen in this day and age." Since midnight was so alert and the ruined homes were not the focus on their groups' exploration, Walker entertained the ice blossom saber's ideas.

"I was too young back then to be considered strong enough to come here or to even survive the journey. I do not know enough of this land and these vampires. I do know that their hiding and flight superiority was immense and that they put the vampires from the eternal night forest to shame in competition even though that forest is so nearby."

Just knowing of this was enough to allow Walker to understand the vampire's interests in the eternal night forest which was a newer wilderness area. Exploring that had come up a few times, but if it was an area of forest that had disappeared in ancient times or had slowly disappeared, then it made sense that it was back.

"I think that we will be able to find what you all need, but you mentioned we would be looking for a building with four floors and a larger amount of area. There would also be wolves and bats carved on

each pillar in the corner..." Walker trailed off as Midnight growled slightly while the ice blossom saber looked ahead of them.

They were looking at half of the building which had been described as the breeding area which they would find the important knowledge and potentially even some dormant eggs for the monsters they wished to breed.

"Broken by monsters." Just the disappointment in her voice proved that the ice blossom saber wanted to see a better anything than what she was looking at right now. "We will need to follow through where it collapsed. Any journals we can find of how the shadow wind wolves were bred can be the key to bringing back the species and expanding the familiars which we possess in the future."

It was clear without these journals that the key information could take generations for the vampires to understand again. And by generations, that means potentially hundreds of years since the vampires lived for much longer than some other races. It would be the same as saying it would take a hatchling dragon to grow in to an elder dragon to understand it again. Something that should take too many years to be useful just yet.

"Then we will." Midnight hopped over the edge of crumbled stone and Walker shook his head while creating light orbs. He knew that this would happen as soon as it was said. Midnight had a goal and she was stubborn. She couldn't just stick above the cut open earth tunnels from whatever monster had created it. Instead, she had to solve the problem.

The ice blossom saber didn't flinch away and followed as well. She smiled slightly seeing that Walker and Midnight were dedicated in so much of their time and effort to solve this. She also made sure that the others behind them took up guarding positions and did not follow them. If they did they could be at risk.

This wasn't the city any longer, they were traveling the path an ancient monster had taken when it ruined everything. There might be risks that she couldn't understand and even Walker or Midnight, as powerful as they were, might not make it.

The downward hole eventually even out in to something they could Walker. Midnight noticed that the earth smell and the heart mana were stronger but the flow of air was still nonexistent. Meaning that even with all the tunnels seemingly attached together and crossing through one another, they were not open anywhere else.

Walker had used light orbs to brighten the space and he was also tapping the walls letting earth mana tell him the way. He easily maneuvered them through various twists and branching paths where the same monster had moved through.

Doing so, he had noticed that the paths cut open and dug through were not smooth. They were rough and even after many years seemed to be hastily made. "I think that the monster which made these was not just attacking. I think that it was fleeing." he could see that the earth magic or mana used that allowed the walls of earth to remain solid were not broken. It was a forced and excessive usage of mana which caused the walls to be like this.

"So an injured ancient monster came to this place and attacked in pain... that does not make me feel better." As much as the ice blossom saber wished for this to make her feel better, she just thought of how many vampires had lived here in ancient times.

"No, it shouldn't make you feel better but-"

"Brother!" Midnight cut through what Walker was saying and made him look ahead at the next path. A place where many paths interconnected and a monster seemed to have cut through enough was too dark to see through. This made Walker wave his hands and create a lot more light orbs shining with more mana to show off the area.

In a few blinks, they noticed what could only be described as a monster made stone. The petrified creature they could see was curled in on itself in twisting knots. Cuts and cracks frozen in stone that proved exactly what Walker had just said.

Yet, he also wondered how it could have become this way. How such a large monster like this had died, or had turned to stone? His mind raced and he began using the all around appraisal skill constantly to see if he could get more information. He needed to know if there was something here that could harm the three of them before they proceeded to search for more ruins that were dragged in to these tunnels.

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Chapter 2429: Surprisingly Intact

'Dragon earth worm

This is an ancient monster's husk, when they perish, they solidify their skin using all of the earth mana within their body to protect the eggs within their body. While this may seem dangerous, it takes a hundred years for their eggs to be able to hatch if the conditions are correct.

Their powerful heart mana manipulation allowed them to travel and condense their tunnels under the ground. This allowed them safe passage and some monsters often used these passages for many years afterwards due to the strength and safety from other monsters within them.

These dragon earth worms are often very small until they can get a single piece of dragon scale or dragon material in general. Afterwards, their bloodlines will awaken and they will grow rapidly over the years to become extremely larger. From there they will specifically chase and hunt other monsters with earth dragon bloodlines.

While they were usually peaceful monsters, they unintentionally would cause destruction to large cave systems as they tunneled looking for food. They would also often eat through large amounts of earth mana crystals and earth affinity herbs which they would sense while traveling.

Their body parts will normally be unusable when they die and condense them in to solid stone, however, some monsters would target them to earth through that and consume the dense earth mana within them. They would also become unique habitats for these monsters because of the strength of the outer skin left behind by the dragon earth worms.

While they would never hunt down other monsters, if they were threatened and harmed they might rage causing destruction all around them, due to this, they were considered massive threats to the ancient dwarven civilizations who would accidentally...'

Walker wasn't sure if this was just the accident of an ancient monster or something else. He knew that the city had been destroyed but it seemed like a lot for something to be accidental. Especially since there was clear evidence that the outer skin of the dragon earth worm had been harmed before it had turned to stone.

The evidence in its large round scales was frozen in stone now. Not even usable as material because of the way the dense earth mana condensed it. "There are eggs within that?" The ice blossom saber thought that she would be seeing something much worse if they did not handle the eggs of a creature like this.

Walker had mentioned this from the appraisal. If there was a single egg inside then the vampires could accidentally release a dragon eating ancient monster causing the death of earth dragons. This would also make the vampires the worst of the worst when it came to their relationships with the dragons in general.

"Break it." Midnight gave a single look at Walker because she knew very well that he would be able to use earth mana manipulation to break the stone open. It wasn't a monster body any longer. It had condensed entirely in to stone. Meaning that it could be changed and altered like any other stone.

"If we are to open it up and find an egg. We should seal the egg and not destroy it. While we want there to be safety for the heart dragons, we will have to consider the fact that these worms might be a species important to the world as time goes on. We also have to consider what the dragons will think and other monsters with dragon blood which live in the Sigil continent more freely than around Genesis."

While Midnight and the ice blossom saber wanted to voice more of their thoughts, Walker would not budge. He wouldn't let the vampires be the reason an entire monster species that might be important to the world remained extinct, but he also would not let Midnight take the fall for such a thing since she was the leader here. It was important to consider more and he was making sure that this was done properly.

As he used the earth mana manipulation, the stone of the dragon earth worm cracked away revealing the much larger insides. While a lot of twisted stone remained, so did everything within its body.

A rough skeletal structure turned to stone, but the insides otherwise had all dried or fallen in to thin and dusty pieces of stone. Everything about it had turned to stone. Leaving behind rubble from buildings that still had carvings. Nothing had been digested because the earth mana had unintentionally protected it.

Including a few books.

Walker saw the ice blade saber grab at them and smiled before realizing one was a children's story book and the other two were related to store keeping. But she had proof that more would be there along with anything else the massive earth dragon work had eaten before its death.

What was more shocking was the fact that Walker could tell that some of what had been swallowed whole were remains of herbs and foods that were still somehow decent. He could see that an herb was still partially intact and dried out without rotting away to dust as well. All because it was isolated and not eaten away by the worm before it had died. This meant he could bring it back to Remy and it would be examined and potentially used for seeds if

possible.

A good thing, but he had more work to do. He began opening up more of the body and exposing larger pieces of rubble and even more documents and records. All that he was made to store away since there would not be a team brought down here so

As he moved another piece of rubble, he saw the first bones. They were from a smaller shadow wind wolf, but they were more intact. Only a few broken pieces. But more proof that the familiars of the age had protected things for the vampires. Yet, this still didn't prove why the worm had rampaged so much. No evidence of larger injuries was seen. And the other monsters trained by the vampires had also run away toward the exit which was also caved in.

The dragon earth worm had not headed to the entrance. So that begged the question, what had closed the city off?

"This is an egg, right?" Midnight held up a small sphere. It was black with strange striations on it. Clearly, she was more excited since she had smelled it and tried to figure it out from the pile of broken carved stone. While she hadn't known what she smelled, she knew that different could give her answers.

"That is a shadow wind wolf egg. This one in particular is still alive because it was entirely cut off from any dark and wind mana it would need to hatch. It was literally forced to go dormant and kept from breaking down in the stomach of this worm because the worm turned to stone. But, look at it, there are scratches on it that definitely came from..."

Walker trailed off and moved a larger piece of stone along with opening a path deeper in to the worm. He had an idea that there was something else. He could have been happy to find the egg of a monster they knew they wanted to learn about. He knew that the ice blossom saber would be overjoyed. But he also had a bad feeling seeing that something had made marks on

the eggs.

The moment he opened the central entrainment that the dragon earth worm had made to seemingly protect its eggs, he understood that this was not the case at all.

"It was never protecting an egg at all. It was fighting a monster that was feeding on its blood." Walker pointed at the dried skin and damaged body of a thin and weak looking

monster.

There was a small gasp from the ice blossomed saber. Her face was ashen while she stepped

back clearly understanding what this was.

"It's a monster that used to be a vampire, s

Isn't it?" Even though he hadn't used the all around appraisal, Walker could tell.

Just from the fact that Some vampire had taken over their society and made other vampires slaves by becoming a monster, he felt that this thing was the monster that caused all the

problems.

"Bloody glutton, a berserk vampire who gave in to their urge to consume more blood and use their blood magic as power. They lose everything that makes them a vampire and consumes strong blood at any cost. Their mana, their body, everything around them is food. Even their family. It ends entire great families."

Her words shook while looking at it. A gruesome monster rarely seen. An unmistakable taboo that should not exist. This thing caused the downfall of a proud vampire city and even tried to consume earth dragon worm blood because of the strength in that blood.

A reason others would flee but the vampires would seal the city to protect others outside.

#### Chapter 2430: Ancient, and Not A Problem

While the name didn't mean much to Walker, he knew that the ice blossom saber was not just making things up. The distinct look of fear was something that was instinctual as well.

Just because he had only seen one kind of monster made from vampires and it was focused on enslaving its own people, did not mean that another couldn't exist. This was the case for demons who had many different kinds of monsters related to their race falling from intelligence, so why couldn't it happen with other races?

'Bloody glutton

When a vampire loses their mind to the desire for blood and violence in its entirety, their own mana affinity for blood turns against them. This increases their body and the strength it has, requiring them to be unable to feed on anything that is not blood.

Their senses will change and attract them only to larger and more powerful kinds of blood. Specifically those with stronger affinity for mana or vitality. In general, they will appear weaker because their bodies will degrade in ways that are constant with always needing to consume rather than to store nutrients.

It is nearly impossible to fight hand to hand with them since they will use their blood affinity and their own blood to make claws that can slice through some magical skills themselves. They will also act more like an undead that does not fear physical damage since they have a high rate of healing when they have enough blood.

While this and changed their body. Their bones become tougher so that they can go dormant when they are unable to get nutrients. They are easily known for bringing the vampire's trait to go in to slumber for long periods of time to its maximum extreme.

They can hibernate for hundreds of years and if they are given blood they can properly awaken. This is because their mana and their own blood will become trapped within their bones and await to be released. This also makes them even more dangerous.

If given too much blood, they will begin using physical attacks mixed with that blood causing large scale destruction to an entire areas. The skill, bloody lake, is a naturally acquired skill by them where all the blood they cause to fall from their prey gathers beneath their feet and increases their strength to the extreme.

Killing them requires potent light and fire mana being mixed together with destroying their bones and heart. However, their bones can be saved as materials for creating insensibly powerful blood affinity items if the mana from within them is removed and perfectly replaced with another person's who possesses strong blood affinity...'

Walker didn't need to share any more. It was even clearer now that the ice blossom saber was seeing a gruesome horror from the stories she had heard. Every single thing had been true and the reason that this thing had managed to antagonize a monster that might have been calmly living in the vast fields causing the destruction of the city was the simple desire for blood...

It wanted strength and power and could not be satiated. Easily being called a berserk monster that had no future. That would instead, steal the future from every single living thing around it. Even its own kind. It could care less about where it came from when it gave in to the madness associated with blood mana affinity's risks.

"You should know, the dragon earth worm was a tamed monster too. Now that we are inside it, the all around appraisal is somewhat more detailed. I am seeing more parts of it that aren't stone worn away by time and instead were left softer and undamaged. It was protecting the city and also caused the collapse we saw. It made sure this thing didn't get out and terrorize the world."

Just reading the alla round appraisal, Walker could see the term, tamed earth dragon worm Grand. It had a name and was considered the hidden protector of the vampire city of fields. Specifically, he guarded the slumbering chambers that the vampires would flee to in the case of destruction.

"We should kill it." Midnight looked at the piles of rubble around and focused her mana in her stomach. If what Walker said from the appraisal was true, this monster had been forced in to slumber and her dragon fire would burn away its dried and dormant body. She didn't care about materials and released a potent controlled dragon fire with light and fire mana melded within.

As soon as she did, Walker mentally praised her while nudging the ice blossom saber, "We need to look for a place called the slumbering chambers. I know it's been too many years to even count properly, but maybe a few vampires have managed to remain sleeping for this whole time. Some of your fellow

vampires managed that. And even though I can store all that rubble away and we might find something..."

"We might not find anything. I understand. Midnight has made the right decision to ignore materials and prevent the danger from reemerging. A foolish person could have returned a truly evil monster to the world. Now, we will either put to rest those who perished while waiting for help or we will awaken them."

The ironclad decision was enough to show Midnight and Walker the strength that the ice blossom saber had. It also showed that she was ready to face either option. Whether they found vampire bodies or they found those who were clinging to life in some form, that was fine. Both were acceptable and needed to be found and respected.

Upon storing away a lot of rubble, remains of books, and even a few odd bones Walker looked at the smoldering bones of the bloody glutton. He wanted to feel bad about it but he knew that the monster could be dormant for years and years on top of even more years. A monster fueled by violence no matter what.

Something he would take note of and ensure would be prevented with any vampire studying their own blood affinity. Even those who were not vampires had a similar fate in them if they lost their will.

Leaving the body of the dragon earth worm, Walker felt that it was a lot more respectable than before. It wasn't a random monster, it had actually been a defender of this city. He left with a nod and didn't feel too bad.

The fight it had destroyed parts of the vampire city, but it had allowed the bloody glutton to attach to it and be trapped. The entrances had also been blocked so even if it failed, the monster would not be allowed to escape.

As such, the vampires had time to get to their resting area to sleep away for a safer time. A state that they would not be attacked in since they would not radiate powerful blood to feast

on.

The shape and appearances of a slumbering chamber was easy for the ice blossom saber to pick out. She and all vampires made them as a refuge against the attacks of large monsters. Or it was also a place their oldest vampires would rest.

Just a few minutes later she had directed the three of them in the right direction and to the right ornately carved stone building. Midnight carefully sniffed and found nothing, not even the other exploration teams had gotten here yet.

The dense stones and damaged then markings proved that this place had remained safe the entire time. Hundreds of years and it had managed to stand. A good chance for some surviving

ancient vampires.

Touching the large stone door, the ice blossoms saber whispered words that Walker understood as a magical key so to speak. A way for remaining runes to open the door. But the door remained closed forcing Walker to open it.

His earth mana pushed it open carefully showing some cracks and worm stone, Walker reinforced some of the building. The weight of the stones had been enough to cause more cracks and reinforcements were important to prevent the worst.

"This is a slumbering chamber. A sacred place of safety and rest. Please keep that in mind." Midnight bowed her head slightly out of respect while copying the way that the ice blossom saber acted. She understood how to show respect to other races much more than many others

would.

It only added to the pride Walker had while he stepped in and vaguely felt the mana of another. Not hundreds or tens... but one. The smallest flicker of mana. He didn't want to say

anything though.

There was hope here and he wanted the vampire who was with them to discover it. After a moment, Midnight also felt it and understood what Walker was thinking. She followed suit.